COB - NYC 2018
7-22 PM SUNDAY Worship

Joyful Noise
   Blessed for the Journey
   Som’landela
   God, Make Us Your Family
   Fluye, Espiritu Fluye
   Burn Like a Star

Promo Spot
   Video - Outdoor Ministries Association

Live Announcements

Speaker Introduction

Songs
   Will You Let Me Be Your Servant
   Bound Together, Clothed In Christ

Call to Worship
   One: We gather tonight in love.
      All: In God’s love.
   One: In our love for each other.
      All: In love for the world.
   One: The book of Colossians says, “Whatever else you put on, wear love.”
      All: Wear it extravagantly!
   One: Never be without it.
Opening Prayer
Please pray with me:

Gather us in your love, God. Teach us to live and move and walk in it. Show us how to share it. Speak to us in story, song, scripture. Help us to hear you in offerings, preaching, and silence.

(Pause for silence)

We trust that you are here, Jesus, bringing us together, binding us together, loving us as we learn to love more fully. Amen.

Scripture
Luke 10:25-29

Core Value Expression
David: [Luke 10:25-29] “Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he said, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’

[Jesus] said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What do you read there?’

[The Lawyer] answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.’

And [Jesus] said to him, ‘You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.’

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

A. Mack: [not really noticing his surroundings, or even David] “Who is my neighbor...?” [pondering] Hmmm....

David: Hey, it’s Alexander Mack everybody. He was the leader of the first eight adults baptized in the Eder River in Germany over 300 years ago, an act which launched the Brethren movement! Welcome to National Youth Conference, A. Mack. [perhaps applause or cheering]
A. Mack: Thank you, Brother David. I love being with the young people of the Church of the Brethren. And I am glad you are here too. [to the crowd] This is David Steele, General Secretary for the Church of the Brethren. That means he is a really important dude.

David: I wouldn’t miss this. The Church is very, very, alive here!


David: So do you have an answer to that question: “Who is my neighbor?”

Mack: Jesus never gets the easy questions, does he? [thoughtfully] We early Brethren tried not to over-think it. We much preferred to live out our answers.

David: What did that look like for you?

A. Mack: Well, we’re not much for “tooting our own horn”. I think that’s the phrase. [chuckling] Let me tell you what the daughter of the ruling count in our area had to say about us: [the Brethren] “spend their time in Bible study, in prayer, and in deeds of kindness and charity.” We tried to look out for one another and everyone who lived nearby. Action answers the question.

David: I like that. It reminds me of the ongoing Church of the Brethren response to the crisis faced by our Nigerian Brethren sisters and brothers. For over five years they have bravely and nonviolently responded to an armed insurgent group that has killed and kidnapped many church members and their neighbors, and destroyed thousands of homes and dozens of church buildings. Brethren in the United States have sought to support their rebuilding and peacemaking efforts with our prayers, with our people and an outpouring of financial resources. I guess action — especially non-violent action — is the answer.

A. Mack: I like that also. I am reminded of the Brethren response to the Armenian genocide in the Ottoman Empire one hundred years ago.

David: For a small denomination like ours, that response was tremendous. The Brethren are still remembered by the Armenian people for their sustained support and relief efforts. It was the Church of the Brethren’s first real efforts at disaster relief.

A. Mack: Ah yes. I remember that well. [wistfully smiling in remembrance]

David: [incredulously] You do?!? That was a hundred years ago!

A. Mack: I have been around for over 300 years....

[David shrugs and nods in agreement]
I remember well our first neighbors in Schwarzenau, in Germany. These neighbors we assisted even as we, ourselves, struggled as a new movement, a new community within the community. I remember the Brethren who risked their own lives for the wounded on both sides of the Civil War, like John Kline. I remember that first full scale disaster relief effort on behalf of the Armenian people. I remember the cows shipped and delivered to the people of Europe by the Church of the Brethren following World War II, which was inspired by Dan West. I have seen so many times as young people across this denomination have chosen to participate in workcamps and Brethren Volunteer Service all around this country and the world. And I have seen it dozens and dozens of times, as the Brethren have responded to disasters around the world, in the United States, and even not so long ago here in Colorado.

[play ABC news clip that describes the Colorado floods...3:35]

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=XwbdAJGvj_o

David: [after the video, turning to the crowd] “Who is our neighbor?” There are so many in our world. You have had the opportunity to respond to the question Jesus faced by bringing items for cleaning bucket kits which have been collected before Worship, and our now before us. You have answered the question, “Who is my neighbor?” with action. In case you missed it, here are how those cleaning buckets are put into action...

[play CWS video...1:38]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjkG60rh0wY&app=desktop

Prayer of Thanksgiving/Blessing

A. Mack: Let us bless what you have done, how you have taken Jesus seriously through this offering. Let us pray:

Gracious and Loving God,

We praise you for this world you have created and set into motion. We give thanks for opportunities to freely gather as your children in places like National Youth Conference. We are thankful for the offering of bucket supplies who will touch the lives of so many during times of crisis.

David: May we now call on our rich heritage to learn again about the faithfulness of those who have come before us. May we have the patience to wait on the
Spirit’s voice nudging us to action. Grant us the courage to not be afraid, whenever a Good Samaritan moment presents itself.

A. Mack: Bless these offerings before us, as symbols of our commitment to be your hands and feet in the world. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Song
Teresa's Prayer

Scripture Reading
Luke 10:30-37

Message
Christena Cleveland

Song Response
Open Up

Sending