



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH  
of Champaign-Urbana

*Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.*



# Celebration *of* Worship

April 6, 2025

*Lent 5*

## Centering chimes

### Prelude

*Abre Mis Ojos*

### \*Call to worship

Leader: As we worship, Christ expands our understanding.

**Congregation: We want to know you and follow you, O Christ.**

Leader: Will you cry to God? Will you climb a tree?

**Congregation: We will journey, scanning the horizon for signs of the kingdom.**

**So much is hidden, and at times we do not grasp what God is saying.**

Leader: Jesus, show us mercy.

**Congregation: Seek and save us.**

**ALL: Jesus, show us mercy.**

### \*Gathering Hymn #11

“Mountain of God”

### Welcome & prayer

### \*Hymn #732

“Open My Eyes (Abre mis Ojos)”

### Children’s story and offering for Immigrant Services of CU

Congregation sings as children come forward (Voices Together #512)

### Scripture

Luke 18:31-19:10

### Confession

**ALL: Loving and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you.**

One: We have not loved you with all our thoughts, words, and actions.

**Many: We have sinned through what we have chosen to do and what we have chosen to neglect.**

One: We have not fully accepted your love for us. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

**Many: We walk through our days without seeing the whole picture, unable to understand clearly.**

**ALL: We repent before each other and before you, our loving God. Please help us open our hearts to your love. Help us to walk with open eyes and hearts so we may better share your peace in your world, rejoicing in your name. Amen.**

## Assurance

Leader: Now hear these words of assurance: God tells us that we are created in God’s image. God created us for relationship with God and each other. In this, we know that God will never break our relationship. God’s steadfast love endures forever.

## Sermon

### \*Response Hymn #540

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

**Prayer & Offertory** (Ushers will pass the offering plates down the rows)

**Congregational sharing and prayer** (use a mic or *text/email prayers to Pastor Deb*)

### Introduction of visitors

### Work of the church

### \*Sending Hymn #514

“I Saw a Tree by the Riverside”

### \*Benediction

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*\*Stand in body or in spirit. Children are invited to wave the worship ribbons during the hymns.*

*Thank you to Rev. Brian Sauder for sharing today’s message. Brian is a member of First Mennonite Church and is the President & CEO of Faith in Place, a faith-based environmental justice organization supporting communities in IL, IN and WI.*

*Visuals: The artwork hanging at the front of the sanctuary was created by Donna Evans.*

*The wooden cross on the communion table was made by Perry Biddle.*

We welcome, without exclusion, all who seek God’s love and grace...

You are welcome here, inclusive of gender, race, country of origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sexual identity, socioeconomic status, family status, past imprisonment, education, citizenship status and physical or mental abilities. We encourage you to share in the rituals, fellowship and ministry of this congregation.

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Hearing devices (T-coil and over-ear) and large print hymnals are available from the greeters.

Childcare (birth – preschool) is provided in the nursery downstairs.