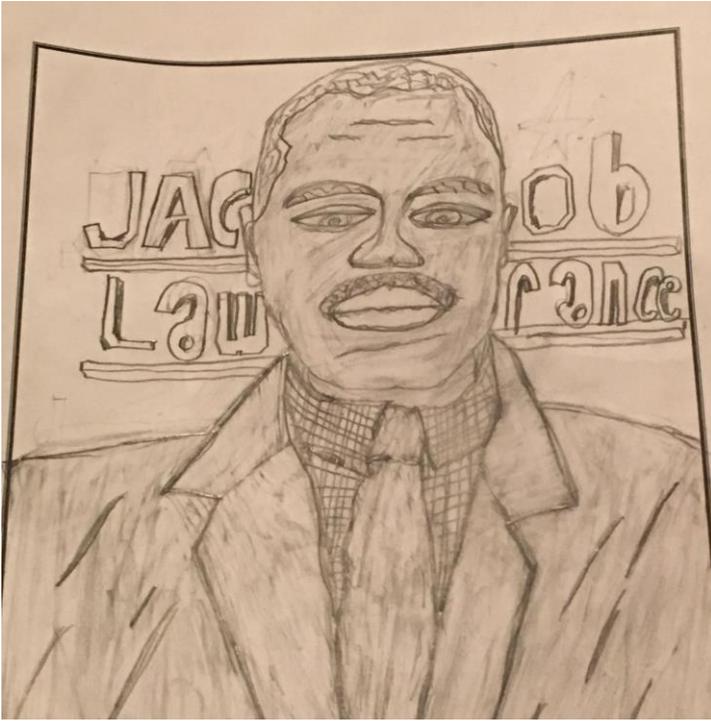


MANHATTAN MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

2.10.19

www.manhattanmennonite.org



SEEKING THE PEACE OF THE CITY!

WELCOME *introductions & announcements*

GATHERING

Whoever you are, you are welcome.

This is the good news!

Bring your gifts, song, stories to praise God.

Joy and purpose and peace are ours to share.

Let us worship God with joy and spirit.

SONG

SHARING PEACE

¹ Jacob Lawrence, painter. Charcoal on paper by Elgin Storbakken (2019)

BLACK HISTORY

Did you know?

SCRIPTURE READING

Esther 4:1-14

MESSAGE

Solidarity: For Such A Time As This

(Silent reflection)

OFFERING & SONG

JOYS & CONCERNS

COMMON PRAYER

Holy One: Your kin-dom come. Your will be done. On earth as it is in heaven. Nourish us with bread that sustains body and soul. Transform us into a forgiven and forgiving people, a loving and beloved community; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, both personal and systemic. For yours is the kin-dom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

SENDING SONG

BLESSING

We have been called and anointed.

We have been strengthened and enlightened.

We have become one body in Christ.

Now go to spread joy and liberation in word and in deed to all the world.

Our Rhythm

Here are a few notes from our current rhythm:

- Sat., 2/16 at 9 AM - NYC Council of Mennonite Church
- Sun., 2/17 at 4 PM - Upside Down Round Table
- Sun., 3/10 at 5 PM - Candace Simpson, guest preacher

Esther 4:1-14 (NRSV)

When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went through the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; he went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. In every province, wherever the king's command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.

When Esther's maids and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed; she sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth; but he would not accept them. Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what was happening and why. Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and entreat him for her people.

Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying, "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—all alike are to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days." When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this."

Scott Sprunger, our guest preacher, in his own words...

I was born to kind and loving parents in **Lancaster City, Pennsylvania**. The eldest of three brothers, it was through my family that I first learned the meaning of God's unconditional love. But it was in the church that I grew to love Jesus. There, leaders and mentors encouraged me to use my gifts for preaching and ministry.

In 2012 I graduated from high school and moved to Philadelphia where I studied philosophy at the **University of Pennsylvania**. For four years I also worked for **World Cafe**, a nationally syndicated **NPR** show, highlighting upcoming and independent musicians.

But I began to wrestle with a call from God to enter ministry. I knew God was calling me to serve the Mennonite church, which had raised me and nurtured my gifts. But I was hesitant to devote my life to a denomination that actively prohibited the ordination of **LGBTQ** people.

Ultimately, I chose to trust in God's plan for my life. In the Fall of that year, I embarked on a Master of Divinity program at **Union Theological Seminary** in New York City. It was there that I began to combine my passion for ministry and community building with God's vision for a more just, peaceful, and loving world.

I will graduate from Union Theological Seminary in **May of 2019**.