

**Illinois Mennonite Conference / Annual Assembly**  
Evening Worship / March 6th, 2026  
***“Beauty Will Save the World”***



**Prelude**

**Welcome / Call to Worship**

**Opening Prayer**

**Gathering Song**

Be Thou My Vision / VT549

**Scripture Reading**

John 3:16-21 (NRSV)

<sup>16</sup> ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’

**Musical Offering / The Mennonite Concerto (excerpt) by Victor Davies**

Performed by Karin Redekopp Edwards, professor emerita of music at Wheaton College and long-term member of Lombard Mennonite Church (the LMC member could be omitted)

The excerpt to be performed is based on the hymn, “In the Rifted Rock I’m Resting.” (VT 619)

The concerto was commissioned by a Mennonite foundation to preserve Mennonite hymns in a contemporary setting.

**Confession & Renewal**

Leader: Jesus calls us blessed when we are meek.

**People: But we confess we often prefer to be strong.**

Leader: Jesus blesses peacemakers.

**People: But we are sometimes drawn to conflict.**

Leader: Jesus tells us to love our enemies.

**People: But we cling to resentment.**

Leader: Lord, have mercy. *(Silent confession)*

**Assurance**

Hear the good news: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.  
In Christ, we are forgiven and being made new.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Offering / Prayer**

\*an offering can be made at the box next to the sanctuary entrance or thru the QR code located on the screen or at the end of the bulletin (10% of our offering will be given to Mennonite Action initiatives)

**Song of Preparation**

Visions of Your Love

**Sermon**

Beauty Will Change the World / Brian Zahnd

**Musical Reflection****Prayers of the People****Benediction****Sending Song**

Go Ye Now in Peace, VT #839



Music: Sarah Mayo  
Sermon: Brian Zahnd  
Tech Booth: CJ Yoder  
Liturgy: the work of the people

QR code for offering



Special thank you to Lombard Mennonite Church  
for their welcoming and hospitality for this  
Illinois Mennonite Conference Annual Assembly!