



# Shalom Mennonite Congregation

July 24, 2022

Poetry Sunday - Anabaptist Stories: Believer's Baptism

---

Sometimes I wonder, in most of our celebrations of baptism, if we reduce the waters of baptism to a mere sprinkle, and cover it up with rosebuds and lace and talk about cute babies and "God loves you and we love you" because we dare not speak about the strange and wonderful work which is beginning in this child on this day. You know how we always try to avoid *death*.

Baptism is death which leads to life.

William H. Willimon

## **GATHERING**

**Gathering Song**      *As I Went Down to the River to Pray*      VT 453

**Centering Bell**

**Welcome**

*Contemplation on Rain and Religion by Jeff Gundy*

**Call to Worship** (from VT 447)

While everyone was being baptized,

Jesus was also baptized.

While he was praying,

heaven was opened

and the Holy Spirit came down on him

in bodily form like a dove.

And there was a voice from heaven:

**“You are my Son,  
the Beloved.”**

**Hymn**

*Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*      VT 283

## **HEARING THE WORD**

**Children’s Time**      *The Negro Speaks of Rivers* by Langston Hughes

**Hymn**

*Wade in the Water*      VT 454

**Readings**

*Maria of Monjou*, by Barbara Nickel

*Toil and Grace*, by Cheryl Denise

*Threatened with Resurrection*, by Julia Esquivel

**Hymn**

*From the Waters I Will Rise* 442

**Readings**

*Ted Thomas’ Baptism*, by Ted Thomas Jr.

*Refusing to baptize a son*, by Rodney Jones

*Living at the end of Time*, by Robert Bly

**Hymn**

*Spirit of Life* 368

**Reflection**

**Visual Poem** *The Baptism (Of the Sharecropper’s Son & the Boy from Boonville)*, part 3, by Carl Hancock Rux

**Response Hymn**

*There is More Love*

VT 804

**RESPONDING**

**Prayers of the People**

**Offering**

**Offering Hymn**

*God Calls You Good*

VT 172

**SENDING**

**Introductions, Announcements**

**Benediction**

*Beginning with Beloved* by Jan Richardson

*Kirsten Beachy, Worship Leader*

*Melody Mast, Music Leader*

*Ross Erb, Children's Time*

*Bethany Chupp, Bethany Vershuis*

*Fairfield, Daniel Zimmerman, Irene*

*Alderfer, Katie Mansfield, Phil Easley,*

*Tom Russell, Readers*

*Georgia Metz, Prayers of the People*

*Phil Easley, Anthony Zook, Carrie*

*Yoder, Tech Support*

*Sarah Myers, Visuals Coordinator*

**Announcements**

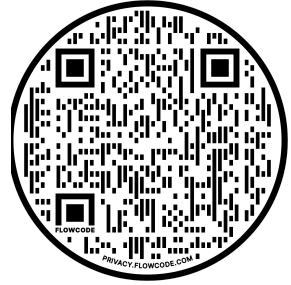
**Women's Lectionary Bible Study meets every Wednesday night at 7 pm** via Zoom OR every Thursday morning at 10:30 am in person at Community Mennonite Church, Room 109. Look for the Zoom link in your Thursday email newsletter. All genders welcome and you don't need any prior knowledge or reading before attending. Each week will be a different reading and a different group of people so come as you are, come when you can!

**Budget Report | July 17, 2022**

<b>ACTUAL</b>		<b>BUDGETED</b>	
Weekly Offering	\$1,242.27	Weekly Offering	\$5,083.96
July	\$10,491.36	Avg. Monthly	\$22,030.50
YTD	\$116,730.05	YTD	\$147,434.88

*Regular offering, as well as donations to other funds can all be made online at <https://shalommc.breezechms.com/give/online> as well as mailed into 1086A Smith Ave, Harrisonburg VA 22802.*

*Visitors: Welcome to Shalom! If you would like to be on our mailing list or be contacted by someone on pastoral team, please send your name and email to [office@shalommc.org](mailto:office@shalommc.org). You can also scan the QR code to fill out a survey about yourself!*



---

Shalom Mennonite Congregation is a welcoming and inclusive community rooted in Jesus'

radical call to love, justice, and peace.

We seek to grow our welcome and inclusion as we deepen our spirituality, build meaningful relationships, work for peace and social justice, and cultivate diverse community connections.

Visit our website at [shalommc.org/vision](http://shalommc.org/vision) to find out more about who we are, what we do, and what we strive for. You can also read there about our commitment statements regarding inclusion of Many who identify as LGBTQIA+, and our policy and practices around maintaining an environment that protects children from abuse.

---

### **Office and Mailing Address**

1086A Smith Ave, Harrisonburg VA 22802

**Phone**            540-432-1659

### **Staff**

Pastors: Brian Bolton, Georgia Metz, Krista Showalter Ehst;  
Communications Specialist: Carrie Yoder; Bookkeeper: Jooyeon Kim;  
Facilities Setup Coordinator: Norys Robles. Nursery & Safe Congregations Administrator: Ellen Miller.:

### **Congregational Chair:** Donna Schminkey

Please contact any member of the Safe Congregation Team if you have questions or concerns regarding inappropriate sexual conduct, violence, intimidation, or physical abuse by child-care workers, teachers, or others in the congregation: Donna Schminkey, 540-478-6576, Georgia Metz, 540-830-8490, Ross Erb, 435-0350; Brian Bolton, 830-8381.

**excerpt from THE BAPTISM  
(of THE SHARECROPPER'S SON & THE BOY FROM BOONVILLE), part 3**

This short film and visual poem is a tribute to Civil Rights giants John Lewis and C. T. Vivian who died on the same day in 2020, and to the power of movements.

Written and Performed by Carl Hancock Rux. Directed by Carrie Mae Weems. Commissioned by the Lincoln Center

This is the nature of baptism. A thank you of water in company with the web of Reason, entangled to it. Nothing can be wasted. Artistic, cultural and personal relationships to urbanity and regenerative architecture fosters intellectual, human, and financial capital in restoring and replenishing resources of a historical past, a sustainable present and a wellspring of future opportunities. They are two men as a building. No building is wasted. Regenerative design thinking ahead, where architects must design the future, reverse the damage and create a net-positive impact on the environment at the macro scale of sight. Let the storm water run off the roof of your house, and make your house stand beneath this ceiling of our responsibility. A place for permanent dreamers. A crop field for tenant farmers, tenants of their own land and winds. Remember them well. They are over and over, and never die. Almost clear now. Storm resolving its fury. Sheer stocking of light coming over, coming through the floodgates. Two strokes of copper arching over dayspring. Almost clear now. Keep on! Keep on! Clouds braiding over the moss basin, shaking the valley, glistening its illusions. Everything washed clean soon, even the soot-stained air. Keep on keep on.

View the full 11-minute poem at <https://thebaptismpoem.org/>

***Beginning with Beloved***

by Jan Richardson

***A Blessing***

Begin here:

***Beloved.***

Is there any other word  
needs saying,  
any other blessing  
could compare  
with this name,  
this knowing?

***Beloved.***

Comes like a mercy  
to the ear that has never  
heard it.  
Comes like a river  
to the body that has never  
seen such grace.

***Beloved.***

Comes holy  
to the heart  
aching to be new.  
Comes healing  
to the soul  
wanting to begin  
again.

***Beloved.***

Keep saying it  
and though it may  
sound strange at first,  
watch how it becomes  
part of you,  
how it becomes you,  
as if you never  
could have known  
yourself  
anything else,  
as if you could ever  
have been other  
than this:

***Beloved.***