



buzz

A Beatitude Devotional

By Arnold C. Roth, February 2021

This devotional was prepared by Waterford's own Arnold Roth for a meeting of the Mission and Service Ministry Team, on which he serves. It was shared around the time of his 89th birthday. Thank you, Arnold, for continuing to share your many gifts with the church!

Blessed are the poor in Spirit . . .

God's Spirit teaches me that I am not self-sufficient, secure in myself, self-righteous; God's Spirit helps me to stand before God and other people without these pretenses.

Blessed are those who mourn . . .

Not only have I lost loved ones to death; I long for God's Kingdom to be more lively and robust. God's Spirit gives me empathy for others who mourn.

Blessed are the meek . . .

I give up the proud and violent ways of those with power; God's Spirit tells me that with Jesus I can be humble and gentle, trusting in God.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness . . .

I give up my quest to find my own satisfactions; God's Spirit says God will satisfy my needs with the righteousness found only in right relationship with God.

Blessed are the merciful . . .

We all have urges wanting others to get what's coming to them; God's Spirit helps me recognize that it is only because of God's mercy that I can stand and, as I recognize this, I want to extend that same mercy to others.

Blessed are the pure in heart . . .

We are all tempted to manipulate things for our benefit

and higher standing; God's Spirit wants us to trust God's mercy and forgiveness which makes us willing and able to stand simply and genuinely as we are.

Blessed are the peacemakers . . .

Can't we just let troublemakers and those we disagree with go their way? Must we try to understand and find ways to make them friends? God's Spirit reminds me that Jesus worked for God's justice and peace, shalom!

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake . . .

Must God's righteousness show? Can't I be quiet and avoid persecution? God's Spirit wants me to let the light shine in the darkness and trust God.

Endowment Fund Fall Report

The Endowment Fund committee met in October via Zoom to review the applications received this fall. The committee awarded the following amounts:

1. \$1,500 to Adult Ministry Nurture Team for Enneagram Project
2. \$1,375 to Seekers Class for WMC and AMBS Indigenous People Acknowledgement Portraits
3. \$1,125 to Habitat for Humanity House build in Goshen – contact Becky Bateman

Please feel free to contact one of the Endowment Fund Committee members to learn more about these exciting projects.

We are grateful for the opportunity to share resources with others to help build the Kingdom of God.

—WMC Endowment Committee: Neil Amstutz, Douglas Graber, Ruby Hochstedler, Jeff Miller, Rachel Stoltzfus, Lyz Zimmerman



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Holy Week and Easter Events

In this transitional time with both an ongoing pandemic and more opening up of activities, our services and events in Holy Week will have varied formats. Look for a mix of pre-recorded video, Zoom gathering, and some exciting outdoor options!

Maundy Thursday: A video service drawing us into the experience of Jesus and his disciples the night before his death will be available in advance for individuals and families to follow along at home. This can be downloaded for your participation as it suits your schedule, which may or may not be on April 1.

Good Friday live outdoor service, 7:00-7:40 p.m. Join us as we go deeper with Jesus on his journey toward crucifixion. Bring a lawn chair, a mask, and come gather around the fire pit for a simple service of prayer, scripture and song. Pastor Katie will lead us and plans for the service to be meaningful for people of all ages.

Easter Sunday:

- Kick off your Easter bright and early with a gathered outdoor sunrise service, 7:00 a.m. at Jackson Cemetery (southeast of Goshen on CR 44, between CR 127 and CR 31). We'll sing (masked) and celebrate Christ's resurrection as we witness the sun coming up!
- Easter worship service will be as with our COVID routine: 9:30 a.m. on video through church website and private Facebook group (and available on Monday evening on Greencroft's own channel).
- Instead of regular nurture hour gatherings, we invite you to come experience outdoor "resurrection stations" on the church property, 11:00 a.m. to noon. These are come-and-go activities which you can go to in any order, but please wear your mask.

Flowering the cross: Please bring real flowers from home to attach to the wooden cross which is now on the lawn near SR 15. This will take place in the Remembering LIFE Garden.

The Lord's Supper: As people arrive, pastors will offer communion in distanced groups on the lawn near the playground. Elements will be individually sealed with no commonly touched objects. As we do inside, adults and children are welcome to receive communion and/or a special blessing.

Wetlands resurrection prayer walk: Take a walk at your own pace on our church's wetlands trail starting from the pond. This will be self-guided, with information on location for prayer and reflection.

Singing Station: Find a chair, grab a hymnal and join others in singing Easter hymns outside. JD will lead masked hymn-singing sessions in the north parking lot.

Zoom alternative: If you won't be coming in person, you can still connect with other church people by Zoom. More details about this to come later.

Endowment Fund Reminder

Applications for the Waterford Mennonite Church Endowment Fund will be accepted until April 18, 2021. As a reminder, the fund exists to further the ongoing mission of the church by providing a vehicle for above budget gifts to be invested for the church's work. A complete copy of the Endowment Fund Guidelines can be found under the big bulletin board or under the resources tab at www.waterfordchurch.org. Please feel free to talk to one of the committee members if you have any questions and submit the applications to Jeff Miller.

—Lyz Zimmerman, for the
Endowment Fund Committee