



**Mennonite  
Church**  
Canada

**Mennonite  
Church**  
USA

**Prayers from the worship for  
Joint Mennonite Church Canada and  
Mennonite Church USA Summit  
July 7-9, 2008  
Prepared by Lois Siemens**

Tuesday Evening

Each time I say the phrase: "Let God's people say"  
Your response as a congregation will be  
"His steadfast love endures forever."

O give thanks to the Lord for he is good  
His steadfast love endures forever. (Psalm 118)  
Let Israel say  
His steadfast love endures forever  
Let God's people say  
People: *His steadfast love endures forever*

When Israel stood in the wilderness  
Eyes set on the promised land  
Let God's people say  
*His steadfast love endures forever*

When they wandered in confusion  
You set them on the path of understanding  
Let God's people say  
*His steadfast love endures forever*

When our ancestors stood before their persecutors  
and gave voice to their faith  
Let God's people say  
*His steadfast love endures forever*

When we stand shoulder to shoulder speaking hope into  
in a confusing and broken world  
Let God's people say  
*His steadfast love endures forever*

When we stop at the crossroads  
To remember your abundant provision of daily bread  
Let God's people say  
*His steadfast love endures forever.*

When we pray and seek the ancient paths  
where the good way lies  
Let God's people say  
*His steadfast love endures forever*

Let God's people say  
*His steadfast love endures forever.*  
And all the people said  
*Amen.*

Wednesday evening

Prayer of response/Invite you to open your hands

This prayer is divided into sections and at the end of each section are two lines. The first is a call to Jesus to walk with us, the second line asks for Jesus to teach us. It is the second line I would like you to repeat after me.

I will say:

Teach us how to find you, the center.

Please repeat

*Teach us how to find you, the center.*

Centering God

Who, through Christ holds all things together

We confess that we often feel

like we are spinning out of control

Pulled into somebody else's plans for our day or our life

Pulled into work we didn't expect

Pulled into places of mission and liberation and building the church

Jesus, walk with me in the flurry of my life

Teach us how to find you, the center.

*Teach us how to find you, the center.*

Creating God

Who, through Jesus, brings unlikely things together

We confess that we often feel bombarded

with way too much information

Bewildered by the amount of good things to care for

Bewildered by the pace of new technology

Bewildered by how to choose among all the choices

Jesus, walk with me in the choices of my life

Teach us how to find you, the center.

*Teach us how to find you, the center.*

Surprising God

Who, through Christ calls all things together  
We believe you are constantly summoning us  
to pay attention  
Calling us to set aside our agenda and listen  
Calling us to set aside our priorities and pray  
Calling us to set aside our itinerary and follow

Jesus, walk with us as we learn to live faithfully in the world  
Teach us how to find you, the center.  
*Teach us how to find you, the center.*

Waiting God

Who, through Christ fits all things together into community  
We believe you love us and call us to turn and follow you  
Even when we believe no one shares our values or vision  
Even when we believe our faith is not strong enough  
Even when we believe our only worth is in what we do

Jesus, may we turn and follow you  
Teach us how to find you, the center.  
*Teach us how to find you, the center.*  
In the name of Jesus, and through the power of the Holy Spirit  
we pray, amen.

-prepared by Lois Siemens and inspired by Walter Bruggemann  
"Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth" and April Yamasaki's idea of  
Jesus being the Real Center.

This prayer is a response to April Yamasaki's sermon.

Thursday Evening

Leader's Cue: Where you lead

Congregational response: we will follow

Holy God, strong creator of all things  
Merciful Jesus, teacher of the way of faithful living  
Holy Spirit, Energizing and building your church  
We come into your presence with boldness  
You have promised to hear our cries  
We do not always know how to listen back but  
With the Holy Spirit's help  
Where you lead  
we will follow

We stand at the crossroads and look  
holding onto your promise of presence  
aware of the peril of standing in this place but  
With the Holy Spirit's help  
Where you lead  
we will follow

We stand at the crossroads and ask for the ancient paths  
holding onto your promise of discernment  
aware of the peril of listening to temptations voices  
With the Holy Spirit's help  
Where you lead  
we will follow

We stand at the crossroads and look for where the good way lies  
holding onto your promise of guidance  
aware of the peril of following our flimsy dreams  
With the Holy Spirit's help  
Where you lead  
we will follow

We stand at the crossroads and choose a way to walk  
holding onto your promise of community  
aware of the peril of our weak will  
With the Holy Spirit's help  
Where you lead  
we will follow

We now stand at the crossroads and have taken a step forward  
holding onto all your good promises of mercy and justice,  
reconciliation and renewal, healing, compassion and shalom,  
finding rest for our souls  
aware of the peril of disobedience  
we have marked this moment with the weight of rocks  
Oh God help us remember what these stones mean  
And give us courage to step out in faithful obedience with our  
brothers and sisters and  
With the Holy Spirit's help  
We declare again  
Where you lead  
we will follow  
all the people said Amen.

-Prayer based on Jeremiah 6:16 and the theme: Standing at the  
crossroads: promise and peril.

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