

## Sustain the weary with a word

### Gathering

**Leader:** God gives us the tongues of teachers,  
to speak words that sustain the weary.

**People:** **God wakens our minds,  
to listen with eagerness to learn.  
God opens our ears to hear God's Word  
to obey and to not turn away.**

**Leader:** In the face of oppression and humiliation,  
we stand secure in God's love.

**People:** **God is our helper.  
We will not be disgraced nor ashamed.**

*All: Together we stand and affirm one another  
with words to encourage the weary.  
The Lord is our helper and our sustainer.*

### Praying

God, we come today in the midst of a new year of learning. Bless the students and teachers among us with open minds to learn, in school and church, and grant them patience and wisdom. We are mindful of you and the care with which you formed us with minds to think and mouths to speak. We pray that you ready our minds and hearts to learn; strengthen us with your words. May we encourage all we encounter to grow in love for you and for one another. For each person here we give you thanks. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### Sending

As we leave this place may we go with minds refreshed and strengthened for the week ahead. May God's wisdom surround us as we join one another in faith.

We go encouraged and strengthened to speak words to sustain the weary.

—*Krista Allen, Goshen, Indiana*

**Today is Christian Formation Sunday.** MennoMedia, Mennonite Church Canada, and Mennonite Education Agency equip the church to experience and share the gospel from an Anabaptist perspective. Krista Allen is the director of communications for Mennonite Education Agency.

**Bible readings for today:** Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38.

**Bible readings for next Sunday:** Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37.

