Osler Mennonite Church

A Welcoming Community for Peace Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

December 3, 2023

First Advent Sunday and Hanging of the Greens

Prelude

Welcome/Land Acknowledgement/Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: O God, tear open the heavens and come down so that the mountains would quake at your presence!

Women: No one has heard, Men: no ear has perceived,

All: no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for you.

Leader: No one knows when the time will come.

All: How long must we wait? (pause)

All: Together we wait.

Prayer of Invocation

Gathering Hymns: VT #218 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 2:2-5

One: In the days to come the mountain of God's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hill; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many people shall come and say:

Many: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us God's ways and that we may walk in God's paths."

One: "For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,

and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into ploughshares.

and their spears into pruning-hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more

Many: "O house of Jacob, people of OMC, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!"

Hymn: VT #217 Hark! The Glad Sound

One: How shall we prepare this house for the birth of Jesus?

Many: With branches of cedar,

the tree of excellence and strength.

One: How shall we prepare this house for the eternal Christ?

Many: With garlands of pine and fir,

whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

One: How shall we prepare this house for the prophet of Galilee?

Many: With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death and resurrection.

One: How shall we prepare our hearts for this revelation of God?

Many: By hearing again the words of the prophets and the promises of God.

One: In acts of hanging greens

and listening to the words of prophets and seers,

let us make our hearts and this space,

a place of inward and outward preparation for Jesus,

Emmanuel, God With Us, the One who comes

to give us second birth.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Children's Gathering Song & Lighting of Advent Candle

VT #211 Hope Is a Candle vs 1

Hanging of the Greens: Adeline/Lynette

Offering / Offering prayer / Choir

Sharing of Joys and Concerns / Prayer of the Church

Prayers –thanksgiving for cease-fire in Gaza and hostage release –inner and world peace this Advent season

Hymn VT #225 Love Came Down at Christmas

Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-37

"But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,

and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

"Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Scripture Response:

Leader: For the Word of God in Scripture,

For the Word of God among us, For the Word of God within us,

People: Thanks be to God!

Hymn: VT #225 We Come

Sermon: Hope in Jesus

Hymn: VT #220 Prepare the Way! The Prophet Called

Benediction: No one knows when the time will come. So go! Keep alert, strengthened by God's faithfulness to you.

*Offerings can be done via e-transfer to <u>osler.mc.treasurer@gmail.com</u>

TODAY'S WORSHIP December 3 *First Advent Sunday*

Speaker: Luke Bushman Worship Leader: Adeline
Song Leader: Loretta Accompanist: Melanie
Story Time: Adeline Sound: Doug Ushers: Bill/Anna

Office Hours: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm Wednesday and Friday

Patty's Week: Tues. sermon; Weds. office; Fri. Office

Luke's Week: Mon. Exec mtg; Wed MCSK mtg; Thurs. KCC; Fri.

Office; Sun. NPMC

Birthdays: 3 – Theresa Loewen; 4 – Rachel Clark; 6 – Braden Martens-

Funk

Friday: coffee is on every Friday in the church office -10:00 a.m.

Gathering Room Coffee Schedule: Dec 3 – Patty

10 – George

17 - Julie

NEXT SUNDAY December 10 Second Advent Sunday

Speaker: Patty Friesen Worship Leader: Henry Funk Song Leaders: Ben, Dayna Accompanist: Naomi

Story Time: Lynette Sound: Matthew Ushers: Lloyd/Harold

CALENDAR

Dec 3 10:00 am Luke Bushman speaking First Sunday of Advent

Dec 10 10:00 am Patty Friesen speaking Second Sunday of Advent

Dec 17 10:00 am Christmas Program

Dec 24 No 10:00 am Service

7:00 pm Candlelight Service

Dec 31 10:00 am Patty Friesen speaking Communion

11:00 am Borscht & New Year's Cookies followed by games

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY: Warman Community Band Concert at 2:30 at the Warman Home Centre Communiplex. Admission by donation. *There are members of our congregation playing in this band.*

December 3: Forest Church @ Shekinah 3pm. Join Amy Peters around the fire to begin the Advent season in outdoor worship. All are welcome!

You are invited to join a Sunday morning choir that will sing during Advent. "Impromptu" rehearsals start at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday, December 3rd to 24th, to sing one (maybe two) songs each Sunday morning to celebrate the season.

Please sign a card for Jacob Friesen who will be celebrating his 100th birthday on December 22nd. Jacob was commissioned as a missionary to Japan where he met and married Junko. They now live in Kelowna. Jacob appreciates the monthly Newsletter and maintains a connection to Osler Mennonite Church.

Obit notice – Rev David Friesen who served this congregation in the 80s' passed away November 21 in Winnipeg. His full obit is posted on the bulletin board

Pickle ball Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

Forever in Motion - free drop-in classes every Tuesday and Friday 10:00 am at the Community Hall

Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 31 10:00 a.m. Communion Service: Jesus Born into Community

11:00 a.m. Borscht and New Year's cookies

Bring crokinole and other board games.

Centering Prayer will resume Sun. Jan. 7, 9:15 Room 3

Sunday, January 21, 10:00 Reimagining Anabaptism by Patty Friesen 11:00 a.m. SS Forum: The White Mosque:

Mennonites and Muslims in Central Asia by Audrey Kampen

Need some Christmas Music in your Life? – here's some ideas: **December 10**, Sunday, 2:30 p.m. Saskatoon Men's Chorus at Knox United Church (Doug McKinnell)

December 17, Sunday, 2:00 p.m. Chamber Singers at Knox United Church (Michelle McKinnell

December 15, Friday, 7:30 p.m. Handel's Messiah at Knox United Church (Kathryn, & Lynette Janzen)

MCC Connects: Consider giving the gifts of comfort and joy this Christmas season. You can help meet the basic needs of people around the world by choosing from unique gifts such as goats, gardens, wells, and more. Visit MCC's Christmas Giving page to learn more: mcc.org/Christmas

MC Sask Update:

December 3 & 4: Bethany Chorus, under the direction of Duff Warkentin and accompanied by Verna Olfert, invites you to our concert, "*Christmas Notes of Celebration*" with special guest Wes Froese, on Sunday, December 3 at 2:00 and on Monday, December 4 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall at Bethany Manor, 110 La Ronge Road, Saskatoon. Entrance is by honorarium at the door. Come enjoy Christmas music and sing some favourite carols. (**New**)

Join Micah Mission at Wanuskewin on December 4 for our learning series, Conversations in the Spirit of Truth & Reconciliation, as we dive into the theme of Justice. Cost: \$30.00. Contact info@themicahmission.org for more information and to buy tickets. (new)

Tuesday, December 5 from 5:00-7:00 pm, the Youth Farm Bible Camp will be hosting their annual Christmas Fundraising Supper. Menu is Slow Roasted Beef and Turkey, Stuffing, Potatoes, Salad and all the fixings! Admission is by donation. Come support the camp and learn about the ministry.

Dec. 9 – Mega Menno Christmas with MCC! Join us at the MCC Centre in Saskatoon at 7:00pm for a night of making upcycled Christmas decorations, Christmas goodies, and considering how we can foster generosity this season. Pick-up is at 9:00pm, contact Kirsten for more information – youthminister@mcsask.ca. (New)

A Very Shekinah Christmas December 10 3 pm with North Sky Chorale conducted by Richard Janzen. There will be a formal farewell for Ron and Sue. Goodies to follow. Admission by donation.

December 19 Tuesday, 7:00pm **RJC** Christmas Concert | Join us in celebrating the Christmas season with the RJC Christmas Concert. In the RJC Auditorium. Admission by donation. Live-stream option will be available.

The Osler Mennonite Church, Box 129, Osler, Saskatchewan S0K 3A0 Vol. LXV December 3, 2023 No. 48

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We gather on Treaty Six Lands, Nehiyaw Territory, and the Homeland of the Métis