



Osler Mennonite Church

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

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent ***“Dare to imagine God’s embrace!”***

Focus statement: Imagine the wideness of God’s embrace of all creatures and creation! It will widen our hearts to do the things that make for peace.

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Call to Worship: In the quietness of our winter season, God breathes. God comes close, open-armed. We are held: tightly, gently, tenderly.

God’s embrace is wide. A voice cries in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord,” and God pulls the cries close. God is already here.

Advent Candle Litany

Leader: We light a candle of peace. And we imagine:

People: God’s tender mercy, God’s compassion.

Leader: We light the candle of peace to feel God’s embrace, God’s nearness, God’s breath.

People: Imagine that . . . we are God’s wonders, blessed wonders.

Confession: In humility, we willingly bend our hearts, silence our many thoughts, and bow our heads, as we bring ourselves into the forgiving embrace of God’s presence. *(silence)*

God, we begin these moments of confession by imagining your beauty and goodness. In silence, we ask you to hold us in peace. *(silence)*

Held in your strength, we give to you the noise, the conflict, and the irritations that occupy and zap us of energy we need for other thoughts and tasks. *(silence)*

Confident because your arms hold us close, we dare to imagine freedom from sin. We are ready to step into the crooked and uneven world in which we live, knowing your hand will guide us. *(silence)*

Assurance: I invite you now to imagine the support of God’s hands as you rise in spirit. Hear now God’s words of assurance and peace: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. *(Luke 1:78-79)*

Hymn: VT #223 “Bless’d Be the God of Israel”

Bless'd Be the God of Israel 223

WEBB 7.6.7.6 D

Capo 1: (A)
Bb(D)
Eb(A)
Bb(E)
F

1 Bless'd be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,
2 Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace is giv'n,
3 On all by death im - pris - oned the sun be - gins to rise,

(A)
Bb(D)
Eb(A)
Bb(E7)
F7(A)
Bb

who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty!
a Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heav'n.
the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,

(E)
F(A)
Bb(D)
Eb(A/E) (E)
Bb/F F

The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease,
Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.

(A)
Bb(D)
Eb(A)
Bb(E7)
F7(A)
Bb

God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.
the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
Oh, bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

Children's Gathering Song: VT #282 "Come and See"

"Come and see, come and see,

I am the way and the truth," said he.

"Follow me, follow me, come as a child, O come and see."

Children's Time with Vanessa Stefaniuk

Offering Prayer/Offertory

Thanksgiving for OMC kids and their vaccines

-prayers for MC SK staff transitions

-safety on slippery roads & sidewalks

Sharing Joys and Concerns/Prayer of the Church

Hymn: VT #715 "Longing for Light"

Verses 1,2,4,5

Longing for Light 715

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT 9.8.9.6 with refrain

Em Am7 Bm7 Esus Em

1 Long-ing for light, — we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, — our world is troub-led. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, — man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, — man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

Am7 Bm7 Esus Em Am7

truth, — we turn to you. Make us your own, —
 hope, — man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone —
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread, —
 warmth, — man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

D G C Am7 Dsus D

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain G C/G G Em Bm Em Am7 D

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.

Christ, be our light! — Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark-ness.

G Dsus D Em Em7/D C Am7 G Am7/G G (Last time)

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to - day.

(Last time)



Gospel Reading: Luke 1:68-79

“Blessed are you, the Most High God of Israel - for you have visited and redeemed your people. You have raised up a mighty savior for us of the house of David, as you promised through the mouths of your holy ones, the prophets of ancient times: salvation from our enemies and from the hands of all our foes. You have shown mercy to our ancestors by remembering the holy Covenant you made with them, the oath you swore to Sarah and Abraham, granting that we, delivered from the hands of our enemies, might serve you without fear, in holiness and justice, in your presence all our days. And you, my child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you’ll go before our God to prepare the way for the Promised One, giving the people the knowledge of salvation through forgiveness of their sins. Such is the tender mercy of our God, who from on high will bring the Rising Sun to visit us, to give light to those who live in darkness and the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Response to the Scripture:

Leader: For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,

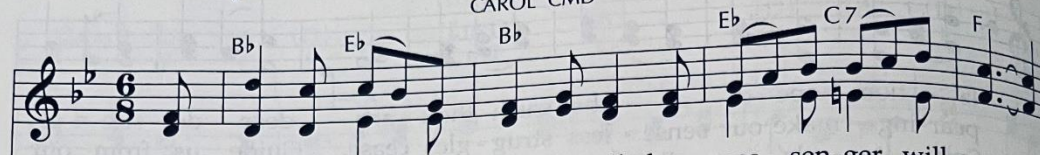
People: Thanks be to God!

Interlude by Dayna & Loretta **“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord”**

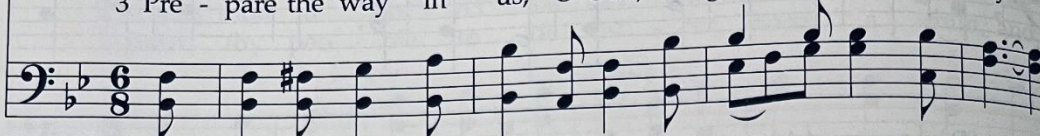
Hymn: VT #220 **“Prepare the Way! The Prophet Called”**

220 Prepare the Way! the Prophet Called

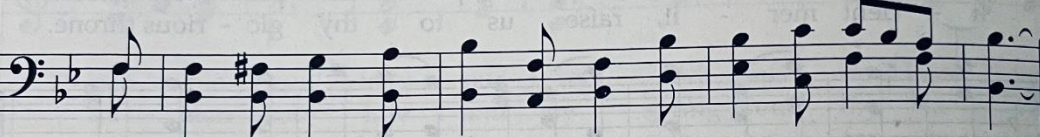
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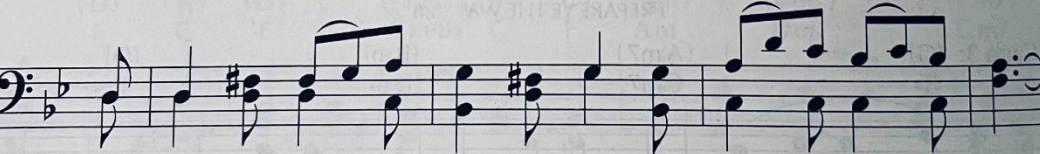
1 "Pre - pare the way!" the proph-et called; a mes - sen-ger will come
 2 "Pre - pare the way!" cried John to all be - side the Jor - dan stream.
 3 Pre - pare the way in us, O God, to greet that glo-rious day



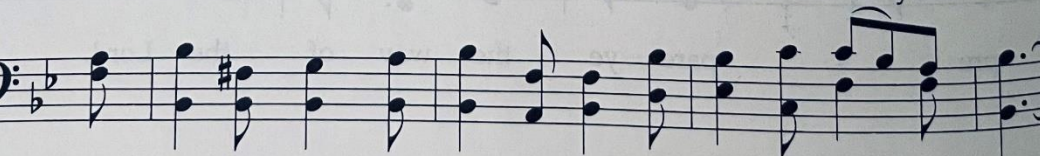
to re - af - firm God's cov - e - nant and lead the peo - ple home.
 All flesh will see God's sav - ing work, the proph-ets' an - cient dream.
 when right-eous-ness and peace will reign, and death will pass a - way.



The truth will shine like pur - est fire in that a - wait - ed hour.
 The val - leys and the moun-tain-tops will make a lev - el place.
 The ris - en one will come a - gain, de - scend - ing from a - bove.



Come, Je - sus Christ! You are the way; re - new us with your pow'r.
 Come, Je - sus Christ! You are the way; re - store us with your grace.
 Come, Je - sus Christ! You are the way; re - deem us with your love.



For capo chords, see #248.

Text: Edmund H. Sears (USA), *Christian Register*, 1849, alt.
 Music: Richard S. Willis (USA), *Church Carols and Choir Studies*, 1850

Sermon: Kirsten Hamm-Epp

Hymn: VT #218 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

112 TELLING GOD'S STORY: Advent

218 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7 D

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D)
F C F

(Em/D) (A) (D) (D) (A) (D)
Gm/F C F C F

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy
2 Come, thou u - ni - ver - sal Sav - ior; come, re - deem the
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and

(Em/G) (A) (D)
Gm/Bb C F

(A) (D)
C F

(Em/D) (A)
Gm/F C

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,
hu - man race. Life and joy spring from thy fa - vor;
yet a king; born to reign in us for - ev - er,

(D) (A) (D)
F C F

(Em/G) (A) (D) (F#m)
Gm/Bb C F Am

(Bm7)

(Em7)
Dm7 Gm7

let us find our rest in thee: Is - rael's strength and con - so -
cheer each soul in need of grace. Still we wait for thine ap -
now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal

Benediction: Stand up, raise your heads, reach toward the light, wait in growing hope. Dare to imagine the goodness of our God.

We warmly welcome Kirsten Hamm-Epp, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Regional Minister. Kirsten and her husband Ian live on the family farm in the Petrofka area, where they are enjoying life with their young son, Peter. Kirsten's work focuses on the Saskatchewan Mennonite Youth Organization (SMYO) program, the SMYO youth committee, Mega Menno events, and connecting with youth pastors, leaders, and groups around the province. She also works with church engagement.

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TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Speaker: Kirsten Hamm-Epp Worship Leader: Terry Stefaniuk
Song Leaders: Loretta, Dayna Accompanist: Melanie
Children's Time: Vanessa Sound: Doug Usher: Lloyd
Children's Sunday School: Christy, Wilf

Patty's Week: Tues using up vacation; Weds. office, visit; Thurs. MC SK; Fri. office.

Nora's Week: Working Sun, Wed, Thurs, Fri

Sunday School Giving Project this Advent season - we encourage everyone to contribute cash to help out the Al Nouri family.

TODAY

Adult Education after worship.

**Note the new zoom link*

Mosaic class in the **buffet room** (off the kitchen) and on Zoom.

Weekly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81283536408>

Meeting ID: 893 6482 7220

Jake's Bible class in Room 7

Dec 5, 3:00 pm, Forest Church at Shekinah. Storyteller Ric Driediger leads us this month. Dress warm and enjoy the beauty of a crisp winter's day and the warmth of community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friendship Inn Sign-Up on the bulletin board for the Third Saturday every other month 11:00 – 1:30.

Student Bursary: The Bursary fund was started by a donation from the Estate of Rev. Cornie Boldt for students who will be attending one of our church schools. Originally, it was a once in a lifetime bursary of \$500.00 per student. In 2016 the bursary was changed to be up to twice in a lifetime. One bursary is available for a student when attending a Mennonite high school and one bursary when attending a Mennonite college or university. The bursaries will be made available for as long as there is money in the fund. To qualify the applicant or its parents must be members of Osler Mennonite Church or must have been active in the church program for the past three years. **If you are interested in applying** for a bursary please complete the request form available from the Church Office and leave it in Doug McKinnell's mail box.

Blue Christmas Service, Friday, December 17th 7:00pm at OMC

A short, contemplative service to acknowledge that Christmas can be a time of grief, sadness and loss - in our own lives and in the world. We will join in scripture, music and prayer in an honest but hope-filled way to be present to the darkness that accompanies us in this season.

Nutana Park MC is hoping to offer a 3-4 week informational series on SIS (SK Income Support). If anyone in the Osler congregation has some expertise and/or experience on this topic please contact Edna Froese at ednafroese@gmail.com.

MCC Connects: Give gifts of comfort and joy! Delight your loved ones and share God's love with our global neighbours this Christmas. Choose from unique gifts such as goats, clean water, fruit trees, books and many more. Give at mcccanada.ca/christmas or call 306.665.2555.

MC Sask

Advent tidings! As MC Sask, we have seen many new and remarkable things this year as our congregations, camps, and schools have gone above and beyond during this unusual season. New technologies have been learned, and heroic efforts have been made to keep us connected with one another, and with the Peace of Christ. As we continue to support and uphold this good work, we invite you to consider MC Sask in your year-end giving. Visit www.mcsask.ca/donations.

Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) Canada is calling for volunteers to help with cleaning out homes in Princeton, B.C. following the catastrophic flood. **Around 20 volunteers are needed by December 6** to help people in that community clean out their flooded homes. Contact Kelsey Friesen at 204-261-1274, 1-866-261-1274, or kfriesen@mds.org for more information. Volunteers should be 16 years of age and older, and must be fully vaccinated. Accommodation and food will be provided.

Mennonite Nursing Home is pleased to announce that Dana Heinrichs has been appointed as the new CEO/Administrator. She comes to us with 30+ years of experience working with vulnerable populations. The last 11+ years she served as the Executive Director of Canadian Deafblind Association working in human services and residential care settings.

Canadian Mennonite is looking for youth sentiments and views on the climate crisis to appear in the pages of Cdn Menno mag in some form. If you are interested in being a part of this and between ages 12-25 more or less please contact Kirsten Hamm-Epp youthminister@mcsask.ca

Canadian Foodgrains Bank is inviting us to join their Facebook page on Monday December 6 @ 3:45 pm EST when they are going **live** to share some important information about their partnership with the government of Canada!

OMC CALENDAR

Dec 5 10:00 am Kirsten Hamm-Epp speaking *Second Advent*

11:00 am Deacons mtg

Dec 10 6:30 p.m. Youth Event

Dec 12 10:00 am Patty Friesen *Third Advent Sunday - Sing for Joy*

Dec 17 7:00 pm Blue Christmas Service *In-Person @ OMC*

Dec 19 10:00 am Fourth Sunday of Advent - *Children's Program*

Dec 24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – *In-person*

Dec 26 No Sunday Service

Jan 2 10:00 am Epiphany Sunday – *Communion*

Jan 7 6:30 pm OMC Youth Night

Jan 9 10:00 am Patty Friesen – *Voices Together Birthday*

NEXT SUNDAY WORSHIP TEAM: Dec 12 *Third Advent*

Speaker: Patty Friesen Worship Leader: George Janzen

Song Leaders: Ben, Kathryn Accompanist: Naomi

Children's Time: Kathy Sound: Matthew Usher: Anna

Advent Banner *created by Lois Siemens*

Dare to Imagine - This year's paper banner uses layered text, images created and found and an abundance of green to try to depict the theme. A Masters level project revealed that when people have to put a colour to God the majority chose green. Notice the words. The letters are made up of signs in and around Osler. See if you recognize them. I wanted to remind us that God was born into a place and time and moved out from there. Our work is to bring Jesus from the church building into Osler and the world and this takes daring and imagination.

Advent 1: God's goodness comes to us daily. Notice the sunrises and sunsets hanging alongside the banner. Each small watercolour starts with a tree, beginning with Spring and ending in the Winter of our lives. How has God's goodness come to you in the sunrises and sunsets of your life? At the end of Advent, don't be surprised if God's goodness follows you home. The Advent banner was created by Lois Siemens.

The Osler Mennonite Church, Box 129, Osler, Saskatchewan S0K 3A0

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No. 48

Church Office – 306-239-2133

oslermcoffice@sasktel.net

oslermcpastor@sasktel.net

oslermcpastor2@sasktel.net

website: <http://oslermennonitechurch.org>

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