



Osler Mennonite Church

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

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

January 7, 2024

Epiphany Sunday

Prelude

Welcome/Land Acknowledgement/Announcements

Call to Worship

L: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the lord has risen upon you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

C: Lift up your eyes and look around; they gather and come to you. You shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice and proclaim the praise of the Lord.

L: The mystery of Christ has been revealed by the Spirit. We have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise of Christ through the gospel.

C: We know this through faith in Christ. May our lights shine!

All: Together we carry the light.

Prayer of Invocation

Gathering Hymns: VT #273 Arise, Your Light Is Come!

VT #215 Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 72:1-7 (Inclusive Bible)

O God, give your Anointed One your judgement and your justice.

Teach your Chosen One to govern your people rightly and bring justice to the oppressed. The mountains will bring the people peace and the hills justice! Your Anointed will defend the oppressed among the people, save the children of the poor, and crush the oppressor. The reign of your Anointed will endure as long as the sun and moon – throughout all generations. The rule of the Chosen One will be like rain coming down

on the meadow, like showers watering the earth. Justice will flower through the days, and profound peace, until the moon will be no more.

Children's Gathering Song VT #211 Hope is a Candle vs 1-5
Story for All Ages: Becca

Offering / Offering prayer / Music for Meditation
Sharing of Joys and Concerns / Prayer of the Church

Prayers – for Linda Doell who is in hospital

- for snow

- for God's help in this year's congregational discernments

Thanks - to Wilf, Ruth and Louise for providing borscht and new year's cookies last Sunday.

- to choir members and everyone who helped lead Advent, Christmas program and Christmas Eve service.

- to all who donated to Friendship Inn and all our donors who keep our church boat afloat.

Hymn VT #275 **O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his

mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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 #277 As with Gladness

Sermon: Meeting Jesus

Hymn: VT #849 We, Your People, Sing Your Praises

Benediction: Now go, basking in the light of Christ! We have become God's heirs, members of one body and sharers of the promise. Amen!

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP January 7 Epiphany Sunday

Speaker: Luke Bushman Worship Leader: George Janzen
Song Leaders: Ben, Anna Accompanist: Lynette
Story: Becca Sound: Doug Ushers: Lanae/Carl

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

Patty's Week: (now 1/2 time) Jan. 9-16 holidays on Vancouver Island

Luke's Week: Tues. Ed mtg.; Wed. NPMC Youth; Thurs. KCC; Fri. OMC Youth; Sat. Prep Work

Pickle ball Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

Birthdays: 11- Candice Buhler

Gathering Room Coffee Schedule: Jan 7 Julie

14 Louise

21 Loretta

NEXT SUNDAY January 14

Speaker: Alex Tiessen Worship Leader: Henry Funk
Song Leaders: Loretta, Kathryn Accompanist: Naomi
Story: Wilf Sound: Matthew Ushers: Lanae/Carl

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We are back to Sunday School - for children after children's time and adults at 11:00 am.

In Preparation for our AGM scheduled for February 10th, Committee chairs are asked to email their reports for the AGM Booklet to Loretta by January 8th.

Faspa & Conversation for Wednesday, Jan 24 at 6:00 pm will be about Mennonites & Muslim in Central Asia. Audrey Kampen and Fasts (*from Spiritwood*) who were on the Mennonite Tour to Uzbekistan will be joining us. Please bring lots of extra potluck faspa to feed our guests.

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

MCC Connects: Check out the latest issue of A Common Place to learn about the work that is being done with partners in Ukraine and Nigeria to help people heal from trauma, and for an update on MCC's response in Gaza. An online version of these and more stories can be found here: <https://mcc.org/impact/publications/acp>

MC Sask Update:

January 7: Forest church @ Shekinah 3pm. Enjoy the beauty of the winter season and the warmth of good conversation around the fire. All are welcome. (New)

2024 MC Sask Youth Retreat, Jan. 19-21 at Shekinah Retreat Centre. Join us for a weekend of worship, community- building, and fun! This year we are really looking forward to hearing from speaker **Mackenzie Hildebrand**, Shekinah Program Director. Our retreat band (**Zac Schellenberg** and **Clay Buhler**) will once again be present, and this year we are also partnering with **Mennonite Church Alberta** and **RJC High School** to make this year's retreat even more memorable! Details at <https://mcsask.ca/event/11598>

Save the Date!

The MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions will be on March 8 & 9 at North Star Mennonite Church in Drake, SK. We will be exploring the theme of Rekindling Relationship. Details available soon! (New)

Prayer Requests from the Shekinah Board of Directors:

We give thanks that \$18 000 has already been donated to meet our \$40 000 CEBA loan payment. Meeting this loan commitment by mid-January greatly reduces our future financing costs. We have been promised another donation of \$10 000 if we are able to raise the remaining \$12 000.

We ask for your continued prayers as we continue to search for a permanent Executive Director. We are thankful that Amy Peters will continue as interim director until the end of January. Audrey Kampen will take on the interim role at that time.

MC Sask inCERT After a year of climate change driven weather extremes worldwide, and an international conference that made only slight progress towards cutting emissions or compensating victims, is there cause for hope? For a realistic but positive message, listen to Dr Katherine Hayhoe (atmospheric physicist, climate communicator, active Christian and wife of an evangelical pastor) on a webinar at <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/the-faith-voice-at-cop28/> - her presentation runs from 9:42 to 25:08m (**New**)

The 2024 **John and Margaret Friesen Lecture Series, “Revisiting the Mennonite Experience in Ukraine,”** featuring Dr. Nataliya Venger, Professor of History and Chair of the World History Department at the Dnipropetrovsk University of Ukraine, takes place on Thursday, January 18 at 11 AM and 7 PM CST. Visit cmu.ca/friesenlectures for more information and lecture locations. (**New**)

CommonWord virtual book launch of *Rudy Wiebe: Essays on His Works* – Join us via livestream on Thursday, January 25 at 7:30 PM CST for a panel discussion with editor Bianca Lakoseljac and contributors Margaret Atwood, Paul Doerksen, and others about the literary influence of Rudy Wiebe. Visit commonword.ca/go/3730 for livestream link. (**New**)

CommonWord virtual book launch of *Unburdened: A Lenton Journey Towards Forgiveness* – Join us on Zoom on Thursday, February 1 at 7:30 PM CST for a conversation with author Carol Penner as she prepares us for Lent and a journey of forgiveness and healing.

Visit commonword.ca/go/3610 to register for the Zoom link. (New)

Indigenous Relations

Can you join the cause to preserve sacred land in 2024? The Turtle Island Solidarity Network of Community Peacemaker Teams and The Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery are calling for a far reaching and international voice of conscience and support to save Oak Flat, an Apache sacred site being threatened by copper mining interests. Please consider signing here <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/i-support-oak-flat> (New)

CALENDAR

Jan 7 9:15 am **Centering Prayer** Room 3 with John, Julie & Patty

Jan 7 10:00 am Luke Bushman speaking

11:00 am Deacon meeting

Jan 10 7:30 pm CC mtg zoom

Jan 11 7:30 pm Worship mtg

Jan 12 7:00 pm Youth Party at the Buhler's

Jan 14 10:00 am Alex Tiessen speaking

Jan 15 6:00 pm Executive mtg

7:30 pm Council mtg

Jan 19-21 Youth Retreat at Shekinah

Jan 21 10:00 am Patty Friesen speaking

11:30 – 12:00 Hike to Boldt cabin for sausages

Jan 24 6:00 pm Faspa & Conversation with Audrey Kampen

Mennonites & Muslims in Central Asia

Jan 26 7:00 pm Youth Event

Jan 28 10:00 am Patty Friesen speaking

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No. 1

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