



# Osler Mennonite Church

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

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

*Together on the Journey: Opening Hearts*

## Prelude

### Welcome/Land Appreciation/Announcements/Focus Statement

God generously pours out the Holy Spirit on all who are humble and seek God's ways. By keeping our eyes on God as we journey, despite the turmoil around us, we open the door for the flowing of God's Spirit.

## Advent Candle Lighting

- 1: We know God to be merciful and compassionate,
- 2: patient and full of faithful love,
- 1: ready to forgive.
- 2: Created in God's image, we yearn to reflect these same attribute in our hearts and lives.

(two Advent candles lit)

*All: We open our hearts to receive the Spirit, to become more like our loving God.*

**Call to Worship:** Luke 1:67-80 Zechariah's Magnificat

L: Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

**C: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who has looked favourably on us and redeemed us, who has raised up a mighty Saviour for us as promised by holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.**

L: Thus God has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered the oath sworn to our ancestors Sarah and Abraham, that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve without fear, in holiness and justice in God's presence all our days.

**C: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way, to give us knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of our sins.**

*All: Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

## **Prayer of Invocation**

**Hymns of Praise: VT #241 O Come, All Ye Faithful**

**VT #237 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper**

**First Reading:** Luke 1:5-25 *The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold.*

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur." Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me in this time, when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

**Children's Gathering Song: Today Earth is Singing**  
**Story for All Ages: Patty**

**Offering Prayer/Choir** See Amid the Winter Snow  
**Sharing Joys and Concerns/Prayer of the Church**

**Prayers** -Doug Cox having hip replacement surgery on the 9<sup>th</sup>

- Harry Martens in hospital
- Keri's family at the death of her Uncle Rusty

**Thanksgiving** – for all bidders for Youth Auction - \$2,905 raised  
-for all bidders on the MCC blanket making - \$1,000 raised  
-for Chris and Kaytee's baby news

**Candle Prayers for inner and world peace**

**Hymn: VT #259 To Us a Child of Hope Is Born**

**Second Reading:** Luke 1:57-66 *The Birth of John the Baptist*

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For indeed the hand of the Lord was with him.

**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 #222      My Soul Proclaims with Wonder**

**Sermon:** Elizabeth and Zechariah: Pairings in the Gospel of Luke

**Hymn: VT #211      Hope Is a Candle**

**Benediction:** May we leave here like Elizabeth and Zechariah, renewed by the Holy Spirit, blessed by God to be a blessing, with an open heart for Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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

\*Our Services are all Streamed and Archived on-line.

**TODAY      Dec 8      *Second Sunday of Advent***

Speaker: Patty Friesen      Worship Leader: Henry Funk

Song Leaders: Ben, Benjamin, Anna, Lynette      Accompanist: Naomi

Story: Patty      Sound: Matthew      Ushers: Lloyd/Harold

Offering Counter Team: Jim Dyck, Garry Boldt

Sunday School Leaders: Kathryn/Olivia, Zoe

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

**Coffee** at the office on Friday @ 10:00 am – *note change to winter hrs.*

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

**Luke's Week:** Wed. Bethany serving with youth; Thurs. KCC; Fri. Sermon prep; Sat. Mega Menno

**Birthdays:** *none this week*

**Gathering Room Coffee Schedule:** Dec 8 – Louise Buhler

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TODAY**

**December 8** - Deacons will be meeting with new members at 11:11 in Room 3 to share faith stories - if anyone else is interested in joining the church through baptism or transfer of membership on Jan. 12 - please join us.

**Lunch** with Lois and Patty for spiritual care with *kielke* at back tables at restaurant (not back room)!

**“All is well: Jesus is born!”** Bethany chorus Christmas concert with Special Guests Michelle Busa & Crystal Dueck, Sunday, Dec 8 at 7:00 pm in the Bethany Manor Fellowship centre. Honorarium at the door.

**Together in the Journey** Advent Resources for home devotions at <https://commonword.ca/FileDownload/54693/Advent-At-Home-2024-English.pdf>

**OMC Sunday school Advent/Christmas Giving Project:** At the Children's Peace Library in Kigali, Rwanda, students have a space to learn about peace, building strong communities and healing from trauma. In Rwanda, MCC partner Transformational Leadership Center (TLC) supports three Children's Peace Libraries. These special spaces also gives children a place to enhance their English and comprehension skills. During COVID-19 lockdown, the importance of the Children's Peace Library became apparent when the children kept coming to read and learn from the books. They were using the library as an alternative to school so they could keep learning. Books played a key role in helping to bring back hope for the future and to reduce loneliness due to pandemic restrictions. This holiday season, choose a gift that changes lives. Visit [mcccanada.ca/christmas](http://mcccanada.ca/christmas) or [mcc.org/christmas](http://mcc.org/christmas) to learn more. \$15 CAD provides several books. Donations to OMC SS Giving Project can be placed in offering baskets or MCC Peace Books basket in lobby.

**On December 22nd** we are having our Sunday School Program during the church service. We are anticipating that we will need a few actors outside of our pool of youth and children. If you are interested in acting or participating in some theatrics, talk to Luke Bushman. Once all the kids and youth have the roles they want, there may be a few additional ones! There will likely be one *rehearsal, potentially on the 21st of December.*

**In preparation for our Annual Meeting on Feb.8 @ 9:30 am,** Committee chairpersons- please email your year end report for the AGM booklet to Loretta no later than **January 5th.**

**Tues. Jan. 7 @ 7 p.m.** OMC Book Club: Peace by Chocolate - books coming end of Nov. Contact Jan Guenther if questions. Zoom option available if the weather is bad.

**Sunday, January 12, 2025,** Baptism and new members. There will be 4 joining OMC - others welcome too. Please talk to Luke or Patty.

**From Canadian Mennonite:** With the Canada Post strike, your December print issue will be delayed. Sign up for digital delivery to get it by email on November 29. CM sends an email each Friday and attaches a PDF copy. *The church office also has a digital copy.*

## **Upcoming Christmas Concerts with OMCers:**

**Sat. Dec 7, 2:00 p.m.** *“All is well: Jesus is born!”* Bethany chorus Christmas concert with Special Guests Michelle Busa & Crystal Dueck, Bethany Manor Fellowship centre. Honorarium at the door. (new)

**Sun. Dec. 8, 2:30 p.m.** Doug with Saskatoon Men’s Chorus, Zion Lutheran Church at bottom of Broadway Bridge

**Sun. Dec 8, 7:00 p.m.** Anna, Lois and Lyle with the Bethany Choir

**Fri. Dec. 13, 7:00 p.m.** Theresa, Lynette and Kathryn with Handel’s Messiah, Knox United

**Sat. Dec. 14, 2:00 p.m.** Theresa, Lynette and Kathryn with Handel’s Messiah Singalong, Knox United Sun.

**Sun. Dec. 15, 2:00 p.m.** Michelle with Saskatoon Chamber Singers, Knox United

**Thurs. Dec. 19, 7:00 pm** Nora, Lanae, Mikwanis and Zenon with RJC Christmas Music Program. This concert will feature the Concert Choir, RJC Singers and Concert Band.

**Christmas in China.** Without the cultural trappings of Christmas, Christians in China focus on the message of Jesus but opening their doors to the public at Christmas has become more sensitive in recent years. Pray with church leaders in China as they plan for Christmas celebrations. May God give joy and wisdom as they discern how best to celebrate the coming of Emmanuel. (new)

**MCC Connects:** Mail delivery this Christmas has been impacted by the postal strike, and we are concerned what that might mean for families caught in conflict around the world. These delays can affect the critical support MCC provides – like portable heaters for families displaced by war and facing freezing temperatures. Please consider alternative ways to give:

- donate online at [mcc.org](http://mcc.org)
- call us at 306-665-2555
- drop off a cheque at your nearest MCC Thrift Shop prior to holiday hours
- visit us at 600 45<sup>th</sup> Street West in Saskatoon.

Thank you for everything you’ve already done to help people in crisis. Your support is needed and deeply appreciated.

Do you feel lost trying to navigate changes in your life? **Falling Upward: Life as a Spiritual Journey**, is an online course from the Center for Action and Contemplation, based on Richard Rohr's content on the concept of Falling Upward. It offers wisdom for transformation and self-discovery. Join us on Wednesday evenings at the church beginning October 23rd, at 7:00 pm, for this 15-week course and discover what it feels like when the soul finds its fullness. *Talk to Dave, Harold, or John G for further details.*

### **MC Sask News:**

The Global Anabaptist Bible REad-a-Thon will feature 500 or more voices reading the entire Bible in multiple languages. Individuals or groups can register at [mennmedia.org/register-now/](https://mennmedia.org/register-now/). Participants must submit readings by December 15. The recording will be available at [AnabaptismAt500.org](https://AnabaptismAt500.org) by January 18. The project is sponsored by MennoMedia and Mennonite World Conference.

**Remember MC Sask** in year-end giving Through the fall, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Council and staff have met with most of our 21 congregations to learn about and discuss issues that are impacting our church today. These conversations have been valuable in deepening our connections with each other. As we work together to strengthen these bonds across our regional and nationwide churches, we invite you to support this important ministry. Please consider MC Sask in your year-end giving. Visit <http://mcsask.ca/donate/>. Thank you for being part of this journey! (new)

**RJC Dine & Donate in support of Good Neighbours Food Centre | 5:00-7:00pm, Monday, December 9, 2024** You're invited to a perogy & sausage supper prepared by the RJC kitchen staff in support of the Good Neighbours Food Centre in Rosthern. Admission is by donation and all proceeds raised will go directly to GNFC for Santa's toy shop and food aid for families in need during the Christmas season. The supper will take place in the RJC High School dining hall in our dormitory building. All are welcome!

**RJC Christmas Concert | 7:00pm, Thursday, December 19, 2024** You're invited to join us as we celebrate the Christmas season at RJC! Featuring performances by the RJC High School choirs and band, directed by Adelle Sawatzky. The concert will take place in the RJC Auditorium at 410 - 6th Avenue in Rosthern. Admission by donation.

**Give the gift of Level Ground coffee this Christmas!** Choose from 10 fantastic varieties of fair-trade coffee to treat your family and friends. Plus proceeds go to our youth! Go to [mcsask.ca/coffee](http://mcsask.ca/coffee) and order yours today! Deadline is December 16 for Christmas orders. (new)

**The Merry Mega Menno Christmas** will be happening at Osler Mennonite Church on Saturday, December 14th from 7-9 pm. Come out for a Christmas party with games, snacks, eggnog and prizes. Additional prizes will be awarded to whoever arrives in the most festive outfit for the evening. Email [oslermcpastor2@gmail.com](mailto:oslermcpastor2@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

**Mennonite Church Saskatchewan is celebrating Anabaptism at 500**

Upcoming Events:

**Celebration Kickoff:** The Radicals will be shown on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Wildwood Mennonite Church.

**Pentecost Service:** A service featuring choirs, communion, and supper is tentatively planned for Saturday, June 7, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at the Youth Farm.

**Donations:** Donations to support the Anabaptism at 500 initiatives can be made at [www.mcsask.ca/giving](http://www.mcsask.ca/giving) designated "Anabaptism at 500" (new)

**A refugee sponsorship** proposal has been put forward by an ad hoc Refugee Committee. At the last council meeting, it was approved that we bring this recommendation to the congregation for a vote. Due to tight timelines to apply through MCC it is proposed that a congregational meeting be called for **Sunday December 15** immediately following the service. This meeting will be to discuss this opportunity and vote on it.

**NEXT SUNDAY Dec 15** *Third Sunday of Advent*

Speaker: Patty Friesen      Worship Leader: George Janzen

Song Leader: Kevin      Accompanist: Melanie

Story: Casidi      Sound: Doug      Ushers: Lloyd/Harold

Offering Counter Team: Diana Buhler, John Reddekopp

Sunday School Leaders: Lynette/Eli/Dylan



## CALENDAR

Sun. Dec 8 – 9:00 am Advent Choir practice

**Sun. Dec 8 – 10:00 am Patty Friesen** – Second Sunday of Advent

11:11 am Deacon mtg with new members in Room 3

11:11 am Community Connections mtg in Patty's office

Sun. Dec 15 – 9:00 am Advent Choir practice

**Sun. Dec 15 – 10:00 am Patty Friesen** – Third Sunday of Advent

**Sun. Dec 22 – 10:00 am** Intergenerational Christmas Program

Tues Dec 24 – 7:00 pm Candlelight Service

**Sun Dec 29 – 10:00 am** Patty Friesen – The Magi's Long Journey

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