



Osler Mennonite Church

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

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

March 10, 2024

Hungering for Hope: Embodying Reconciliation

Prelude

Welcome/Land Acknowledgement/Announcements

Call to Worship: based on Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

One: Give thanks to God, for God is good!

Many: God's love endures forever.

One: Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.

Many: God's love endures forever.

One: We may make careless choices and lose our way.

Many: God's love endures forever.

One: We call out to God when we are in trouble.

Many: God's love endures forever.

One: God rescues us from our anxieties and fears.

Many: God's love endures forever.

One: God's word sets us free to walk in newness of life.

Many: God's love endures forever.

One: God gathers us in, from the east and the west, from the north and the south.

All: For God's unfailing love, we give thanks to the Creator of all that is good.

Prayer of Invocation

Gathering Hymns: VT #37
VT #162

**Be Still and Know
The Love of God**

Old Testament Reading: Numbers 21:4-9 *Updated NRSV*

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom, but the people became discouraged on the way. The

people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Children’s Gathering Song: Today Earth is Singing VT #510

Story for All Ages: Adeline

Loose Change Sunday

Lenten Prayer of Confession *based on Psalm 107*

One: Merciful God, we forget that you are the light of the world.

Many: Forgive us for our short memories.

One: Remind us that you are rich in mercy

Many: when we wander away from you.

One: Loving God, convict us of your immense love

Many: that shines brightly on us.

All: Merciful God, light of the world, we come seeking new life in you.

Offering Prayer/Music for Meditation

Sharing Joys and Concerns/Prayer of the Church

Prayers- Gaza ceasefire

- building discernment

Thanksgiving-MCC Blanket making volunteers

- for snow
- MCSK ADS volunteers

Hymn: VT ##703 Rain Down

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10 (*Common English Bible*)

At one time you were like a dead person because of the things you did wrong and your offenses against God. You used to live like people of this world. You followed the rule of a destructive spiritual power. This is the spirit of disobedience to God’s will that is now at work in persons whose lives are characterized by disobedience. At one time you were

like those persons. All of you used to do whatever felt good and whatever you thought you wanted so that you were headed for punishment just like everyone else. However, God is rich in mercy. God brought us to life with Christ while we were dead as a result of those things that we did wrong. God did this because of the great love for us. You are saved by God's grace! And God raised us up and seated us in the heavens with Christ Jesus. God did this to show future generations the greatness of God's grace by the goodness that God has shown us in Christ Jesus. You are saved by God's grace because of your faith. This salvation is God's gift. It's not something you possessed. It's not something you did that you can be proud of. Instead, we are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives.

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 #585 Faith Begins by Letting Go

Sermon: We Are What God Has Made Us

Hymn: VT #828 There's a Wild Hope in the Wind

Benediction: Embrace Jesus, the light of the world. And know that you know that you are loved by God.

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

****Loose Change Sundays TODAY** and April 14 for MCC Gaza project. Please start your stockpile!

TODAY'S WORSHIP March 10 Fourth Sunday of Lent

Speaker: Patty Friesen Worship Leader: Adeline Cox

Song Leaders: Loretta, Ben Accompanist: Naomi

Story: Adeline Sound: Keri/James Ushers: Lloyd/Harold

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

Pickle ball: Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

Coffee at the office on Friday @ 10:00 am

Patty's Week: Mon. exec, council; Weds. Office; Fri. Office

Luke's Week:

Birthdays: 5 – John Gascho; 6 – Erna Funk; 10 – Micah Guenther

Gathering Room Coffee Schedule: Mar 10 – George

NEXT SUNDAY March 17 *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

Speaker: Karl Martens Worship Leader: Patty Friesen

Song Leader: Michelle Accompanist: Lynette

Story: Kathy Sound: Matthew Ushers: Lloyd/Harold

PASTORAL NEEDS SURVEY

Last chance for an interview.....

Sunday - Mar 10: noon-3 pm Shelley, Christy

The Executive Committee is asking for the congregation's input as we prepare for Pastor Patty's retirement next year. Please give some thought to the following questions and sign up for a short 15-minute interview to relay your thoughts. Below are listed the hours we will be available. A detailed interview schedule will be posted on the bulletin board this Sunday so you can reserve a time. If none of these times work for you, you can contact any member of the Executive Committee to make other arrangements or you can email your responses to us.

We look forward to hearing from you.

With thanks, Kevin Boldt, Shelley Penner, Christy Martens-Funk, Loretta Sawatzky

QUESTIONS:

In your opinion, what are the pastoral needs of our congregation going forward?

Thinking of a pastor's job, what percentage of time should the pastor spend on each of their tasks?

Historically we have had different pastoral arrangements equaling between 1 - 1.5 Full Time Equivalent positions. In your opinion, what would a good arrangement be going forward?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Treasurer: 2023 donation receipts have been distributed by email or by mail to everyone this week. Please contact Christy with any questions. Thank you for your continued support of Osler Mennonite Church!

MCC Blanket making *continuing* in the Multi-purpose room Monday & Tuesday – March 11 & 12

On March 23 & 24, folks from MC Sask Ministries Commission along with the Living Skies Region of the United Church are holding a Gaza Peace Pilgrimage in Saskatoon (part of the <https://www.gazaceasefirepilgrimage.com/>). Mark your calendars and watch for more information over the next week!

MCC Connects: Attention gardeners! Do you start your plants from seed? If yes, then this message is for you - we are bringing the plant sale back to the MCC Relief Sale Festival and would love for you to help us out by donating bedding plants, vegetable plants, shrubs, house plants or any other plants you love. Plant a few extra seeds, donate them to MCC and make a difference. If you are interested in partnering with us in this way, please contact Phyllis Goertz at p.goertz@sasktel.net or call the office at 306-665-2555. Keep an eye on our website mccskreliefsale.com for more updates.

MC Sask Update:

You are invited to join Give it up for the Earth! It's a national faith-in-action campaign during Lent 2024, that raises awareness about the climate crisis and mobilizes people across Canada to make a difference through:

- Pledging to reduce personal and household emissions
- Committing to include God's creation in our prayer and our spiritual understanding
- Connecting with Indigenous communities around creation care
- Calling on the federal government to set more scientifically realistic emissions targets and to plan for a truly just transition, through a letter-writing campaign.

More at [https://cpj.ca/fortheearth/\(new\)](https://cpj.ca/fortheearth/(new))

RJC Songs & Sweets | 7:00pm, Sunday, March 10, 2024 Join us in celebrating the legacy of music and the arts at Songs & Sweets: A fundraising concert and cake auction at RJC High School. Featuring performances by RJC Singers & Bass Choir, RJC Alumni & Friends Choir, with special guests Elixir Ensemble: chamber music for piano & strings. The evening will include coffee, tea, desserts, a live cake auction and a cupcake lottery. YOU are invited to sing in the alumni & friends choir. One rehearsal will take place at RJC the afternoon before the event on March 10. Email Alex at development@rjc.sk.ca if you would like to participate in the choir. Rush table seating, no tickets required. More information available at rjc.sk.ca/sweets

Mid-Winter Winds & Pipes Concert at Grace Westminster – Sunday, March 24 @ 7:00 pm with *The Warman Concert Showband*.

For more details see the Poster on the bulletin board.

Date Correction: Retired pastor **Vern Retzlaff** passed away on February 16 at the age of 86. Vern was a lifelong teacher and pastor and served as pastor at Nutana Park Mennonite (1987 - 2005) and Aberdeen Mennonite (2006 - 2018). Memorial details will be available in the coming weeks. Our prayers and condolences go out to his family.

The Youth Farm Bible Camp is having their annual Vereniki Fund Raiser on Tuesday, March 19 from 5:00-7:00pm. Admission is by donation and the menu includes Vereniki (two types), Farmer Sausage, Cream Gravy, Fruit Sauces, Coleslaw, and soft serve ice cream. More information at <https://www.yfbc.ca/march> and read an article about how Anabaptist Theology impacts Spiritual Formation at YFBC (same link). (new)

The Shekinah board is pleased to announce that Sharon Murugiah will be starting as permanent full time Executive Director on March 4. Sharon worked for many years in Sri Lanka with World Vision's child sponsorship program. He has an MBA, a Project Management certificate and a diploma in IT networking. His skills will be well used at Shekinah. We are grateful for this answer to prayer. Please join the board in welcoming and supporting Sharon to this important role in our church community.

Saturday, April 6, 6:00 p.m. Shekinah Retreat Centre and Carmen Corner Meats are "*Puttin on the Ribz '24*". For more information and to purchase tickets see shekinahretreatcentre.org or call (306) 945-4929.

URGENT APPEAL

Mennonite Church Canada is urgently appealing for relief funds for Meserete Kristos Church (MKC) in Ethiopia. MKC leaders and adherents have lost their lives in the crossfire of a violent tribal conflict that began in the western region of Ethiopia in 2018. Civil war, drought and continuing violence have led to severe hardship for MKC congregations and leaders in the area. Please consider donating to help them: <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/international-witness/MKC-relief> (new)

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

Canadian Foodgrains Bank Update – Rick and Jacquie Block Upcoming Events – Save the Date!

There are a number of great in-person and online events coming up in the next few weeks:

March 19: Zoom Gathering for Growing Project and Community Event Leaders & Volunteers, 8:00 p.m. Contact Rick Block at 306-222-8977 for more information.

April 5: Sask Valley Auction Pierogi & Sausage Supper [Foodgrains Bank fundraiser], Brian King Center, Warman, 4:30–7:00 p.m. Contact Walter Wiebe at 306-280-7107.

As regional representatives, we are regularly on the lookout for places to share the work of the Foodgrains Bank. If you know of any public venues or community and/or church events where our presence would be welcomed, let us know.

Update on Gaza

One of the main ways we seek to end hunger in our world is by helping people have access to food. As is currently evident in Gaza, conflict is a major reason people are unable to access food. According to Foodgrains Bank staff, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza is one of the worst food security crises we have seen in decades. The entire population of

Gaza—2.2 million people—is at imminent risk of famine. Of these, 576,000 people (26%) are at catastrophic levels of hunger, referring to an extreme lack of food and exhaustion of coping capacities. Continued hostilities, disruptions in healthcare services, lack of access to nutritious food, lack of access to clean water, and poor sanitation conditions remain major challenges and contribute to the risk of famine in Gaza.

Two Foodgrains Bank member agencies, Development & Peace (D&P) and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), have worked with local partners in Gaza for many years who have demonstrated their ability to provide access to food to people in need. Everyone working for these local partners is facing the same challenges as those they are wanting to support.

Foodgrains Bank members and their local partners are working towards mobilizing aid for 21,000 people with resources gained through our Humanitarian Coalition appeal back in the fall of 2023. It is taking an immense amount of patience, flexibility, and courage to get any aid into Gaza, and so we invite your prayers for safe and effective delivery of food as quickly as possible.

CALENDAR

March 11 & 12 9:00 am MCC Blanket Making *continues*

Sun. Mar. 10 10:00 **Patty Friesen preaching** *Fourth Sunday of Lent*

11:00 Deacons Meeting

12:00 Second Sunday Lunch Bunch

Mon. Mar. 11 6:00 pm Executive meeting

7:30 pm Council meeting

Sun. Mar. 17 10:00 **Karl Martens speaking** *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

Weds. Mar. 13 11:00-11:30 Lent Prayer Group in Coffee Room

11:30-12:30 Lent Bible Study Zoom Coffee Room

Sun. Mar 24 10:00 **Patty Friesen preaching** *Palm Sunday*

Thur. Mar 27 6:00-7:00 pm Maunday Thursday *Faspa & Communion*

Friday Mar 29 7:00 pm Good Friday service

Sun. Mar. 31 10:00 am **Patty Friesen speaking** *Easter Sunday*

11:00 am Easter Brunch – Group C-M helping

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Vol. LXV

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No. 10

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