



Osler Mennonite Church

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

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent “Dare to Imagine God’s Song”

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Focus statement: Singing together causes great joy and jubilation. But, even more, our hearts exult and swell as we imagine God singing over us.

Call to Worship: *(adapted from Zephaniah 3:14-20)*

L: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say: Rejoice!

P: Shout for joy, rejoice with all your heart!

L: God sings over you. Fear not, for God is in your midst.

P: Shout for joy, rejoice with all your heart!

L: Sing praises to God—shout aloud and sing for joy.

P: God is in our midst.

L: We listen.

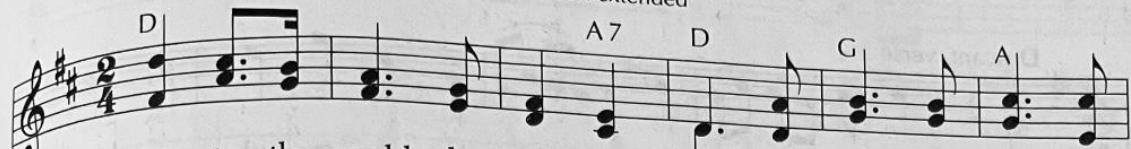
P: We strain to grasp the sound of God’s song.

Hymn: VT# 240 “Joy to the World”

Joy to the World

240

ANTIOCH CM extended



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive its
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions



king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room, and
 play while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, re -
 ground. He comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and



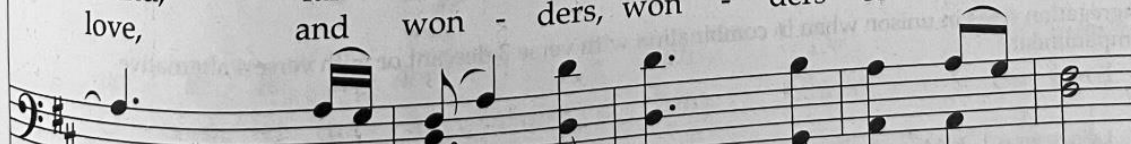
heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 repeat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



and heav'n and na - ture sing, and



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



heav'n and na - ture sing,

Advent Candle Litany

L: We light a candle of joy. And we imagine:

P: Jubilation! Rejoicing! Do not fear!

L: We light the candle and join in God's song, singing loudly, singing fiercely, singing together.

P: Imagine that . . . we are God's wonders, blessed wonders.

Confession and Assurance: Even our wildest imaginations cannot grasp the immense beauty of God. This is a true confession. We are small, God is bigger. We will never fully know, but we are fully known. We catch glimpses of God's magnificence, and we accept that it is only that, a glimpse. God invites us to accept our smallness— while we join the awesome song of God's joy. Today, instead of the usual words of confession, we invite the church to be immersed and "covered" in song. Over our heads there is music. As we await the birth of Jesus, we do well to joyfully give ourselves to the One who imagines the divine in the form of a child. Dare to imagine!

Hymn: VT #254 "O du fröhliche (Oh, How Joyfully)"

254 O du fröhliche (Oh, How Joyfully)

O SANCTISSIMA 5.5.7.4.4.7

Chords: E, A, E, A, E, B, F#, B

1 O du fröh-li-che, o du se-li-ge, gna-den-bring-en-de
 2 O du fröh-li-che, o du se-li-ge, gna-den-bring-en-de
 3 O du fröh-li-che, o du se-li-ge, gna-den-bring-en-de
 1 Oh, how joy-ful-ly, oh, how hope-ful-ly, waits the earth on
 2 Oh, how joy-ful-ly, oh, how peace-ful-ly, sleeps the earth on
 3 Oh, how joy-ful-ly, oh, how thank-ful-ly, wakes the earth on

Chords: F#, B, E

Weih-nachts-zeit! Welt ging ver-lo-ren; Christ ist ge-
 Weih-nachts-zeit! Christ ist er-schie-nen, uns zu ver-
 Weih-nachts-zeit! Himm-li-sche Hee-re jauch-zen dir
 Christ-mas eve! Love comes heal-ing, God re-
 Christ-mas night! Sins are cov-ered, grace dis-
 Christ-mas morn! God has spo-ken, death is

Chords: A, E/B, B7, E

bor-en: Freu-e, freu-e dich, o Chris-ten-heit!
 süh-nen, Freu-e, freu-e dich, o Chris-ten-heit!
 Eh-re. Freu-e, freu-e dich, o Chris-ten-heit!
 veal-ing. Friends, be joy-ful and be-lieve!
 cov-ered. In our dark-ness shines the light!
 bro-ken. Al-le-lu-ia! Christ is born!

Scripture Readings:

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Shout for joy, fair Zion; shout, Israel, be glad! Rejoice with all your heart, fair Jerusalem! YHWH has averted your punishment and swept away your foes. Israel, YHWH is among you as ruler; never again need you fear disaster. On that day this must be the message to Jerusalem: Fear not, Zion, let not your hands hang limp in despair, for YHWH your God is in your midst, a warrior to keep you safe; who will rejoice over you and be glad of it; who will show you love once more, and exult with songs of joy.

Colossians 3:16

Let the Word of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you. Instruct and admonish one another wisely. Sing gratefully to God from your hearts in psalms, hymn, and song of the Spirit.

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 Kathy Braun

Offering Prayer/Music for Meditation

Sharing Joys and Concerns/Prayer of the Church

- Dayna's grandmas who are both nearing death, one in SK and the other in Didsbury making it very stressful for her family.
- Upcoming Christmas services and a meaningful season
- Upcoming weddings
- navigating meet-ups in family & friends who hold differing responses to the pandemic

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:46-55

Mary said: "My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior. For you have looked with favor upon your lowly servant, and from this day forward all generations will call me blessed. For you, the almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your Name. Your mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear you. You have shown strength with your arm; you have scattered the proud in their conceit; you have deposed the mighty from their thrones and raised the lowly to high places. You have filled the hungry with good things, while you have sent the rich away empty. You have come to the aid of Israel your servant, mindful of your mercy – the promise you made to our ancestors – to Sarah and Abraham and their descendants forever."

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!

Hymn: VT #389 "Together"

389

Together

I WILL SING WITH YOU 8.5.8.5.10.12.5.5.5



1 I will sing with you, my fam - 'ly; will you sing with me?
 (2) sing with you, my neigh - bor; will you sing with me?
 (3) sing with you, my ri - val; will you sing with me?
 (4) sing our song to - geth - er; sing in har - mo - ny.



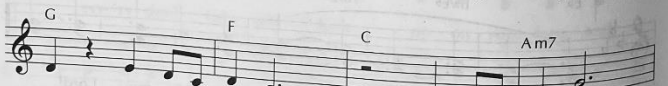
I will sing with you, my fam - 'ly; will you sing with me?
 I will sing with you, my neigh - bor; will you sing with me?
 I will sing with you, my ri - val; will you sing with me?
 We will sing our song to - geth - er, wheth - er two or three.



The notes won't al - ways come out as I'd like,
 My words will be im - per - fect, but I'll try.
 Dif - f'rence is a place where God is found.
 Je - sus feels our pain; he sets us free.



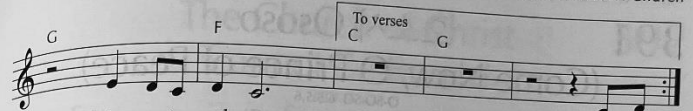
but I will learn to see the log in my own
 Bring - ing my as - sump - tions to the light, I'll
 In seek - ing peace, we're walk - ing on - to ho - ly
 The Spir - it's giv - en us this song of hope to



eye. God, I'll sur - ren - der.
 pray, God, I'll sur - ren - der.
 ground. God, we sur - ren - der.
 sing: God, we sur - ren - der.

Bring us to - geth - er,
 Bring us to - geth - er,
 Bring us to - geth - er,
 Bring us to - geth - er,

Text: Nathan Grieser (USA), 2014, rev. 2018
 Music: Nathan Grieser; acc. Jonathan Landis (USA)
 © 2014 Nathan Grieser

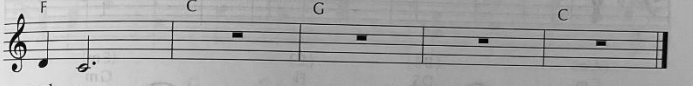


bring us to - geth - er.
 bring us to - geth - er.
 bring us to - geth - er.
 bring us to - geth - er.

2 I will
 3 I will
 4 We will



Bring us to - geth - er, bring us to -

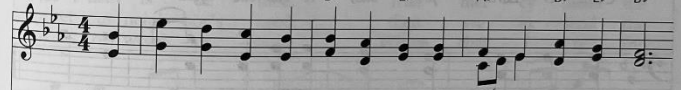


geth - er.

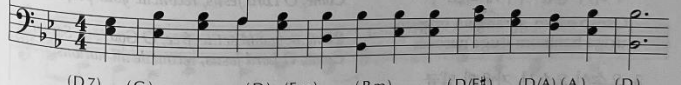
In Christ There Is No East or West 390

ST. PETER CM

Capo 1: (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (D) (A)
 Eb Bb Eb Ab Bb Eb Bb



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - 'ry - where their high com - mun - ion find.
 3 Join hands, then, peo - ple of the faith, what - e'er your race may be.
 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north.



(D7) (G) (D) (Em) (Bm) (D/F#) (D/A) (A) (D)
 Eb7 Ab Eb Fm Cm Eb/G Eb/Bb Bb Eb



but one great fel - low - ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 His ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
 All Christ - ly souls are joined as one through - out the whole wide earth.



Text: John Oxenham (England), 1908, *Bees in Amber*, 1913, alt.
 Music: Alexander

Sermon: Sing for Joy!

Hymn: VT #809 "Sing a New World into Being"

Sing a New World into Being 809

SENDING: Commissioning

HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7 D

G D7 G D

1 Sing a new world in - to be-ing. Sound a bold and hope - ful theme.
 2 Sing a new world in - to be-ing where each gen - der, class, and race
 3 Sing a new world in - to be-ing where the home-less find a home;
 4 Sing a new world in - to be-ing. Join the an - cient proph-ets' cry

G C Am G D7 G

Find a tune for si - lent yearn-ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:
 brings its rain-bow gifts and col - ors to God's lim - it - less em-brace;
 where no chil-dren ev - er hun-ger but are filled with God's sha - lom;
 for a time of health and plen - ty when all tears have been wiped dry;

D G D G D7 B Em A D G

dream a church where all who wor-ship find their lives and loves be - long. Sing
 where the lines that once di - vid-ed form in - stead the ties that bind. Sing
 where all peo - ple work for jus-tice, where all hate and ven-geance cease. Sing
 when com-pas-sion flows like wa-ters, pour-ing balm for all who grieve. Sing

C Am G D G

a new world in - to be-ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!
 a new world in - to be-ing: risk trans-form-ing heart and mind!
 a new world in - to be-ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.
 a new world in - to be-ing: live the prom-ise you be-lieve!

Benediction: Sing and sing. And when you cannot raise a note of song, the rocks will cry out. And when the echoing stones go still, in the dangerous crevice that is your heart, if you lie still, there remains an altar, a way to enter holiness, a lush and delicate calm.

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## TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Speaker: Patty Friesen          Worship Leader: George Janzen  
Song Leaders: Ben, Kathryn      Accompanist: Naomi  
Children's Time: Kathy          Sound: Matthew          Usher: Anna  
Children's Sunday School – practice for Christmas Program

**Patty's Week:** Tues curling; Weds. office, café; Fri off/wedding rehearsal, Sat. Wedding @Cornerstone Church

**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. There is a *Giving Jar* set up in the foray.

## TODAY

**Adult Education** after worship.

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

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

Meeting ID: 893 6482 7220

*\*note this is the last week for this class*

**\*Voices Together Sunday School Class** in Buffet Room, Sunday, Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30. Bring a hymnal & VT Leader Edition to dig into more rich layers of the new hymnal.

Jake's Bible class in Room 7

\*Church office will be closed Dec 23 – Jan 2 for Christmas celebrations

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*IMPORTANT REMINDER** – last person out of the building is responsible to make sure all *lights are off AND the outside door is locked*. It has been unlocked a few times in the last months!!!

**\*Christmas Coffee and Conversation** with Deacons - Tues. Dec. 14, 2:00 pm Osler Cafe back room. We will be talking about our Christmas traditions growing up and what is meaningful now.

## **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.

\*Reminder to all Committee Chairs that the annual reports are due **January 5**. Please submit via email to Karl, [karlwmartens@gmail.com](mailto:karlwmartens@gmail.com)

**\*RJC Christmas Concert - December 15, 7:00pm (SK CST)**. Join us as we celebrate the Christmas season! Music and performances by RJC students and staff. Livestream for those who wish to enjoy the program at home can be found at [rjc.sk.ca](http://rjc.sk.ca). Saskatchewan public health orders will be followed at this event.

**\*Dec 30, Thursday, 2:00 p.m.** Ernie Hildebrand (pastor at OMC 1974-79) has written his memoirs "Guiding Diverse Flocks" *Tales of a Rural Mennonite Pastor*. You are invited to an "Author Reading and Book Signing" event. Books will be for sale at \$20.

**\*Thurs. Jan. 6, 2:00 p.m.** OMC Ukrainian Christmas/Epiphany celebration at Bethany Manor with OMC Deacons. Meet in the Manor Multi-purpose Room for a masked safe distance conversation of Ukrainian Christmas traditions adopted by Mennonites. There will be a treat to take home. (All OMCers included - please let Patty know if coming.)

**Student Bursary: 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.



**\*RJC Tournament of Memories (Basketball & Hockey), January 7 & 8, 2022** - Alumni & friends of RJC are invited to our annual basketball & hockey tournament. Basketball will take place on Friday, January 7 and Saturday, January 8. Those interested in basketball should register by Dec. 28 by email to Denelda Fast ([deneldafast@hotmail.com](mailto:deneldafast@hotmail.com)). Hockey will take place only on Saturday, January 8. Those interested in hockey are encouraged to contact Paul Ayres ([paul.ayres@hotmail.com](mailto:paul.ayres@hotmail.com)). Questions for the school can be directed to (306) 232-4222.

### **MC Sask**

As 2021 draws to a close, we at MC Sask thank you for your support – the prayers, words of encouragement, volunteering and financial donations.

We ask that you please send your year-end donations and payments as soon as possible, with any extra donations that come in late sent separately. Donations can be sent via e-transfer, cheque, or we can set up direct deposit.

We also ask that you remember MC Sask as you plan your budget for 2022. Your financial support allows us to fulfill our commitments to Canadian Mennonite University, Rosthern Junior College, our camps, Restorative Justice Ministries, support for pastors and our 23 congregations, and our shared programming through Mennonite Church Canada.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and blessings in the New Year!

The MC Sask Council and Personnel Committee are working towards the hiring of an *interim Executive Minister*. They are also preparing to begin the search for a new Executive Minister. A job description can be found at [www.mcsask.ca](http://www.mcsask.ca) The job posting will be made in the new year. Please direct your questions to Andrea at [searchcommittee@mcsask.ca](mailto:searchcommittee@mcsask.ca)

**Get your coffee sample pack** before they're gone! Get your Level Ground sample pack containing 4 - 75g packages of ground coffee; 1 each of Peru, Tanzania, Colombia and Decaf for only \$15.

These are available at the office gift wrapped for immediate pick up!

Order yours today at <https://mcsask.ca/coffee> or call the office at 306-249-4844 ext 3.

**MCC Connects:** Give the gift of love and warmth this holiday season! MCC Saskatchewan's quilts are now 40% off for the remainder of the holiday season. Purchase one today at [mccskquiltsale.com](http://mccskquiltsale.com) or call 306.665.2555.

**\*Forever in Motion** for Adults 50+ held in the Osler Community Hall on Mondays & Thursdays from 10 am – 11am. *Free.* Check out the poster on the bulletin board.

### **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.

**Advent 2:** God's Embrace: This image is a photocopy of a needlework piece done by Elizabeth (Liz) Wenger in 1987 called "For God so loved the world." Liz is a disabled artist and lies on her back with the screen above her pushing the needle through while someone on the other side pushes it back through to Liz. An embrace encloses. It can be soft or strong. The memory of the touch stays in our bodies. You might have noticed the backwards "E" on the title. One of the ways I imagine God hugs us in the Biblical text is through inclusion. A plain example is Psalm 8 which starts and ends with the same line. Today's example is Luke 3:1-6. It begins

with a list of the political power of the day which is powerless to save and the end line proclaims the true power - salvation of God.

**Advent 3:** God's Song floats throughout the banner. Music has the power to move our imaginations as poetry, rhythm, breath and memory come together. I like to imagine the morning stars singing together at the world's creation. How do you imagine that sound and what was the effect? How does God sing to you? In C.S. Lewis' book "The Magicians Nephew" Aslan creates the new world with song.

*\*For more information and details on the banner, feel free to exam it up close and check out the printed material in the table on the foyer.*

### OMC CALENDAR

- 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**  
Dec 30 2:00 pm Ernie Hildebrand Book Reading *Buffet Room*  
**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**  
Jan 9 Sunday School Resumes

### **NEXT SUNDAY WORSHIP TEAM: Dec 19 Fourth Advent**

Speaker: Children's Christmas Program

Worship Leaders: Nora Pederberg and Youth

Song Leaders: Kathryn, Michelle Accompanist: Lynette

Sound: James/Keri Usher: Anna

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

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No. 49

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website: <http://oslermennonitechurch.org>

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

*Christmas Quote: I'm so glad friends don't come with price tags. I could never afford the wonderful friends I've got!*

