



# Osler Mennonite Church

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

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

December 15, 2024

## Third Sunday of Advent

*Together on the Journey: Anointing for Justice: Who Belongs?*

### Prelude

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

God's vision of shalom and justice depicts a kingdom in which we radially realign ourselves with the marginalized and oppressed. Who needs to hear the invitation to belong in God's kingdom?

### Advent Candle Lighting

1: Like a cloth with frayed edges,

our world leaves people on the fringes;

2: Those who aren't accepted, who don't belong;

1: The poor, the brokenhearted, the prisoners, the oppressed.

2: But God's kingdom shows us another way.

*(Light 3 candles)*

*All: Give us eyes to notice those on the fringes and arms to extend our boundaries, inviting all to become woven into our communities.*

### Call to Worship:

L: Merciful One: you anoint us for justice, you call us to you.

**C: Your Spirit is poured out upon us.**

L: Yours is the way of release and restoration.

**C: May your love flow through us to heal the brokenhearted.**

**May we declare your good news to bring hope to the poor.**

L: You anoint us; we are yours.

**C: We delight and rejoice in you.**

### Prayer of Invocation

**Hymns of Praise: VT #215 Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee**

**VT #212 Comfort, Comfort, O My People**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8, 11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me; to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display God's glory. For I, the Lord, love justice, I hate wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. For as the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

**Children's Gathering Song: Today Earth is Singing**

**Story for All Ages:** Casadi Schroeder

**Offering Prayer/Choir - *This is My Song***

**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
- those experiencing a blue Christmas
- Karl's dad's surgery this week,

**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
- a wonderful season despite weather interruptions
- for a great OMC youth Mega-Menno Christmas

**Candle Prayers for inner and world peace**

**Hymn: VT #217      Hark! The Glad Sound!**

**Second Reading:** Matthew 1:1-16

*An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham (the short version highlighting the matriarchs).*

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez

and Zerah by **Tamar**, and Salmon the father of Boaz by **Rahab**, and Boaz the father of Obed by **Ruth**, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David. And David was the father of Solomon by the **wife of Uriah, (Bathsheba)**, Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of **Mary**, who bore Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

**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 #210 O Come, O Come, Immanuel**

**Sermon: Saints and Sinners in Jesus' Family Tree**

**Hymn: VT #223 Bless'd Be the God of Israel**

**Benediction:** In the hope of God, what was once cast aside now grows back. Those on the fringes are woven back into the fabric of family. Go forth now, clothed in joy!

\*Offerings can be done via e-transfer to [osler.mc.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:osler.mc.treasurer@gmail.com)

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

**TODAY Dec 15** *Third Sunday of Advent*

Speaker: Patty Friesen Worship Leader: George Janzen

Song Leader: Kevin Accompanist: Melanie

Story: Casadi Sound: Doug Ushers: Lloyd/Harold

Offering Counter Team: Karl Martens-Funk, John Reddekopp

Sunday School Leaders: Lynette/Eli/Dylan

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

**Coffee** at the office on Friday @ 10:00 am

**Patty's Week:** Tues. sermon; Weds. off; Fri. Council Christmas;

Christmas holidays Dec. 25-Jan. 3 - **Available for emergencies 306-260-6069.**

**Luke's Week:** Wed. OMC Office Hours; Thur. 2025 Planning; Fri.

Organizing before Holidays; Sat. Christmas Program Rehearsal;

Sun. Children's Program

**Birthdays:** 19 – Shelley Penner; 21 – Charlie Clark

**Gathering Room Coffee Schedule:** Dec 15 – Louise Buhler  
Dec 22 – Marlene Campbell

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **TODAY – Congregational meeting**

**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.

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

**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 give 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 be one *rehearsal on December 21st at 10:00 am.*

**December 29** - 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. *Rescheduled*

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

**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.

**Upcoming Christmas Concerts with OMCers:**

**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.

**Anytime:** Beautiful Christmas concert from Canadian Mennonite University here - <https://youtu.be/Bi9RP52yuZQ>

**MCC Connects:** Join MCC for Transformation Tuesdays, a free monthly opportunity to practice peacebuilding skills. This month, Having Better Difficult Conversations will be facilitated on Tuesday, December 17 from 7-9 pm at the MCC Centre. All are welcome to this workshop where we will explore how we can improve our relationships and respectfully and authentically disagree with one another. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. For more information and to register, please visit: [mcc.org/events/transformation-Tuesdays](https://mcc.org/events/transformation-Tuesdays)

**MC Sask News:**

**Save the date! The MC Sask Gathering 2025** (annual delegate sessions) will be held at RJC High School on March 7 & 8, 2025. The theme is "Differences for the Common Good". All are welcome to attend. More details available soon!

**We come into Advent anticipating the celebration of Jesus' birth**, the time when God broke into our world. This happens in many ways in our day too. Throughout Mennonite Church Saskatchewan we see evidence of this in the lives of our congregations, camps, schools, and so many other places. Thank you for continuing to support our work together as we seek to live out God's calling for us as a church. Please consider MC Sask in your year-end giving. Visit <https://mcsask.ca/giving> (new)

**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.

**RJC announces the addition of Grade 9!** In response to parental and student requests, and in an effort to expand and enhance our school program and mission, RJC High School is pleased to announce the addition of grade 9 for the 2025/2026 school year. Grade 9 is the natural intake for most high schools in the province, and an increasing number of students and families have requested this program. We are excited to now provide this opportunity for our students. For details go to <https://www.rjc.sk.ca/2024/12/04/rjc-announces-addition-of-grade-9/> (new)

**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](https://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.

**Save the Date!** The Mega Menno gang are hard at work planning the 2025 Winter Youth Retreat! Join us between January 31 to February 2 at

the Shekinah Retreat Centre for a weekend of worship, community, and fun! More details to come in the next few weeks.

**Do you feel powerless against the tide of Climate Change?** Read how one young person and her church youth group addressed that feeling by taking action at <https://mcsask.ca/article/11903> (new)

### **MC Sask Announces Church Engagement Minister Resignation**

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan announced today that Josh Wallace has officially resigned from his position as Church Engagement Minister, effective December 31, 2024.

In Josh's nearly five years serving MC Sask, the regional church has walked through periods of change and challenge.

"I've been honoured to walk alongside so many of our congregations. Thank you for welcoming me into your lives and worship. I feel blessed to get to see God's Spirit at work in you and through you, and I look forward to continuing to serve the regional church in a volunteer capacity."

MC Sask is grateful for the wisdom and thoughtful leadership Josh brought to his work, and the ways he was present with congregations and also engaged in the broader church. We wish him well in this next season of life. (new)

### **Mennonite Church Saskatchewan is celebrating**

#### **Anabaptism at 500 with a series of events:**

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)

### **Support Guardería (Day Care) Samuelito in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.**

Charleswood Mennonite Church in Winnipeg invites you to join them in supporting the Iglesia Evangelica Menonita de Bolivia (IEMB), and the Guardería (Day Care) Samuelito in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The Guardería Samuelito [<https://www.facebook.com/guarderiasamuelito>] is a church

run day care that serves the lowest income people in their community. For more information and to donate go to <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/Bolivia>. You can also donate through your local or Regional Church. Mark donations: “Bolivia – IEMB – Samuelito”. Join Charleswood and IEMB as they work together to care for the most vulnerable. (new)

## CALENDAR

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

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

Sat. Dec 21 – 10:00 am Christmas Program practise

**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

\*Fri. Jan 3 – 12:00 pm Epiphany Lunch @ Bethany

**Sun Jan 5 – 10:00 am Len Rempel** – Creeds and Confession

**Sun. Jan 12 – 10:00 am** Baptism of Jesus, new members & communion

**Sun. Jan 19 – 10:00 am RJC Highschool Choir**

11:30 am Potluck – bring lots Group A-B set-up

**Sun. Jan 26 – 10:00 am Patty Friesen**

**\*Epiphany Lunch** with the Pastors - Fri. Jan. 3, 12:00 p.m. Bethany Dining Hall for all interested OMCers, including those not living at Bethany. Lunch ticket \$14.25. Please let Patty know for reservation and if you need a ticket. What a way to start the New Year with your favourite Mennonite ministers!

**NEXT SUNDAY Dec 22** *Intergenerational Christmas Program*

Song Leader: Kathryn                      Accompanist: Lynette

Sound: Matthew                      Ushers: Benjamin/Dick

Offering Counter Team: Carl Martens-Funk, Stephanie Siemens

No Sunday School

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