



Osler Mennonite Church

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

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent “Dare to Imagine God’s Face”

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Focus statement: What amazing love is this that the Godhead comes down to us in the little clan of a little people and takes on a human face? With Mary, we rejoice in God, our Saviour, by actively participating in God’s leveling mercy.

Call to Worship: Rachel Clark

Advent Candle Litany: Benjamin Clark

Candle lighters – Eli Schellenberg, Oren Bird & Dylan Martens

L: We light a candle of love, and imagine

P: the lowly lifted, fear met with love.

L: We light the candle and pray for God’s face to shine on us, to save us, restore us.

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

Prayer of Confession & Assurance

L: We notice, O God, that when you feed people, everyone has enough.

P: We notice that in our world, when we feed people, some have more ‘ than enough, and many people are still hungry.

L: Teach us to love.

P: We notice, O God, that in your social, economic, racial, and gender orders, no one is greater, and no one is left behind.

L: We notice that in our world there are many ladders, and many are climbing.

P: Reorientate us to your vision of equality.

L: God of mercy lower us, raise us, empty us, and fill us. Like an empty manger, we want to be ready to receive Emmanuel.

All: *Our souls magnify our God; our spirits rejoice in Christ our Savior. God has looked with favor on our lowliness. The Mighty One has done great things for us, and holy is God's name.*

Hymn: VT #250 “The First Noel”

TELLING GOD'S STORY: Birth of Jesus

250 The First Noel, the Angel Did Say

THE FIRST NOEL Irregular

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er Beth - le -
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three, full rev - 'rent.

shep - herds in fields as they lay - in fields where they lay keep - ing
 east, be - yond them far, and to the earth it gave
 came from coun - try far. To seek for a king was their
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop
 ly up - on the knee, and of - fered there in his

their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 and stay right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 pres - ence, their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.

TELLING GOD'S STORY: Birth of Jesus

There Were Angels Hovering Round 251

ANGELS HOVERING ROUND Irregular

1 There were an - gels hov' - ring round, there were an - gels hov' - ring
 round, there were an - gels, an - gels hov' - ring round!

2 They sing in harmony, (x2)
 they sing in harmony

4 The shepherds on their knees, (x2)
 the shepherds, shepherds on their knees.

Offertory: Christmas Giving Project – Refugee Committee

Musical Meditation:
 Lanae Martens-Funk, Nora Bergen-Braun & Zoe Schellenberg

Sharing Joys and Concerns/Prayer of the Church

- students and family returning home for the holidays
- condolences to Dayna’s family at the passing of both of her grandmas
- Helen Peters (Warman Care Home) sends Christmas greetings

Hymn: VT #216 “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

216 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS' 7.6.7.6.6.7.6

F Bb C Dm Bb F Gm C F

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem has sprung!
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind.
 3 Flow - er, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,

Bb C Dm Bb F Gm C F

Of Jes-se's lin - eage com - ing as saints of old have sung.
 With Ma - ry we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor gloom and grief ev - 'ry - where.

Gm F G C F

It came, a flow'r - et bright, a - mid the
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to
 True man, yet ver - y God, from sin and

Bb C D Gm F Am C F

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 us a Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
 death he saves us, and light - ens ev - 'ry load.

Text: stanzas 1-2 anon., "Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen" (present-day Germany), 1599; trans. Theodore Baker (USA), 15th c.; *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengasäng* trans. Harriet K. Spaeth (USA), *The Hymnal*, 1940, alt.
 Music: German traditional, 15th c.; *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengasäng*, 1599; born (Germany), 1832; *Musae Sionae VI*, 1609

Scripture: Luke 1:39-55 The Message

Benjamin Penner & Mikwanis Bird

Mary didn't waste a minute. She got up and traveled to a town in Judah in the hill country, straight to Zachariah's house, and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb leaped. She was filled with the Holy Spirit, and sang out exuberantly,

You're so blessed among women, and the babe in your womb, also blessed! And why am I so blessed that the mother of my God visits me? The moment the sound of your greeting entered my ears, the babe in my womb skipped like a lamb for sheer joy.

Blessed woman, who believed what God said, believed every word would come true!

And Mary said, I'm bursting with God-news; I'm dancing the song of my Savior God. God took one good look at me, and look what happened—I'm the most fortunate woman on earth! What God has done for me will never be forgotten, the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others. God's mercy flows in wave after wave on those who are in awe before them. God bared their arm and showed their strength, scattered the bluffing braggarts. God knocked tyrants off their high horses, pulled victims out of the mud. The starving poor sat down to a banquet; the callous rich were left out in the cold. God embraced their chosen child, Israel; God remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high. It's exactly what God promised, beginning with Sarah & Abraham and right up to now.

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 #247 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

247 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7 D

Descant, verse 3

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of
 F C F C F B \flat of

1 Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the
 2 Christ, by high-est heav'n a-dored; Christ, the ev-er-
 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of

right-eous-ness! Light and life to all he brings,
 F/C C F F Dm G7

new-born King! Peace on earth and mer-cy mild,
 last-ing Lord, late in time be-hold him come,
 right-eous-ness! Light and life to all he brings,

ris'n with heal-ing in his wings. Mild he lays his glo-ry
 Am C F G7 C F C7 F

God and sin-ners rec-on-ciled." Joy-ful all ye na-tions,
 off-spring of the vir-gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head
 ris'n with heal-ing in his wings. Mild he lays his glo-ry

Text: Charles Wesley (England), *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, 1739, alt.
 Music: Felix Mendelssohn (Germany), 1840; adapt. William H. Cummings (England), 1855, *Congregational Hymn and Tune Book*, 1857; desc. David Wilcocks (England), *Carols for Choirs*, © 1961 Oxford University Press.

by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us
 C F C7 F C B \flat

rise, join the tri-umph of the skies. With th'an-gel-ic
 see, hail th'in-car-nate de-i-ty; pleased with us in
 by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us

from the earth, born to give us sec-ond birth.
 D7 Gm C7 F C F

host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"
 flesh to dwell, Je-sus, our Im-man-u-el!
 from the earth, born to give us sec-ond birth.

Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King."
 B \flat D Gm C7 F C7 F

Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King."

Kids Program: "That's How the Story Goes"

Scene 1: The Campfire

Children's Choir: Sometimes You'll See Angels

Scene 2: Visiting Mary

Scene 3: Visiting Joseph

VT#255 Love Came Down at Christmas

Love Came Down at Christmas 255

LOVE INCARNATE 6.7.6.7 with refrain

1 Love came down at Christ - mas, love all love - ly,
 2 Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate,
 3 Love shall be our to - ken, love be yours and

love di - vine. Love was born at Christ - mas—
 love di - vine. Wor - ship we our Je - sus—
 love be mine, love to God and neigh - bor,

Refrain
 star and an - gels gave the sign. Sing no - el,
 what shall be our sa - cred sign? Sing no - el,
 love the u - ni - ver - sal sign. Sing no -

sing no - el, sing no - el.
 el, sing no - el.

Chord symbols represent a simplified harmony.
 Text: Christina G. Rossetti (England), *Time Flies: A Reading Diary*, 1885; rev. in *Hymns for Today's Church*, 1987, © 1982 Jubilate
 Group (admin. Hope Publishing Co.)
 Music: C. G. Rossetti

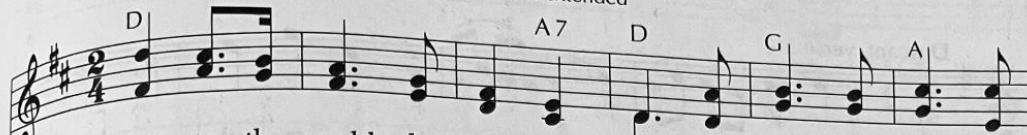
Scene 4: Visiting the Shepherds
 Children's Choir: That's How the Story Goes
 Scene 5: Just One More Song

Children's Choir: Evening Prayer
Scene 6: Merry Christmas!
VT#240 Joy to the World (v.1)

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
 ploy 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



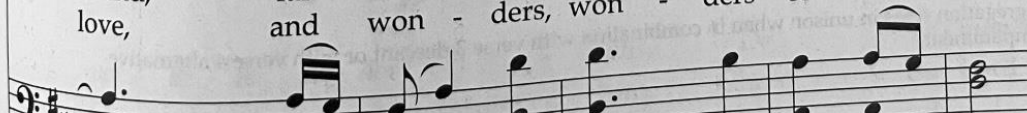
heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



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,

Text: based on Psalm 98; Isaac Watts (England), *The Psalms of David* [. . .], 1719, alt.
 Music: Lowell Mason (USA), *Occasional Psalm and Hymn Tunes*, 1836

Friedensfurst

Benediction: (*a Celtic prayer*) – Braden Martens-Funk

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you on the road.

May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out your hands to serve. May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open up your heart to love. May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet and may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you. Amen.

Cast of “That’s How the Story Goes”

Gabriel – Bree

Raphel – Anna

Merriel – Olivia

Jehudiel – Emmett

Young Angels – Jeremiah, Morrison, Walter and Norman

TODAY’S WORSHIP

Children’s Christmas Program

Worship Leaders: Nora Pederberg and Youth

Song Leaders: Kathryn, Michelle Accompanist: Lynette

Sound: James/Keri Usher: Anna

Patty’s Week: Tues. vacation; Weds. office, Christmas Eve/Epiphany prep; Fri. Service; Sun-Sat. Vacation, available on cell for emergencies.

Nora’s Week: Vacation Dec 20 – Jan 3.

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.

OMC CALENDAR

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

NO SUNDAY WORSHIP on December 26

FIRST SUNDAY OF 2022 *Communion*

Speaker: Patty Friesen Worship Leader: George Janzen

Song Leaders: Ben, Kathryn Accompanist: Melanie

Children’s Time Wilf Sound: Doug Usher: Harold

TODAY - Jake's Bible class in Room 7

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

***FYI** – the Dec 24 Candle lighting celebration will be adapted for COVID – *we will be using battery operated candles.*

*We are glad the church is including Lina and her family in their Christmas giving. While our two churches have raised all essential monies required by our sponsorship agreement, we would like to use the Christmas

giving project money to purchase some holiday gifts for the family, to defray some additional medical expenses, and to cover any other unanticipated costs that may occur. The Lina Sponsorship Committee.

***Osler School** invites you to experience the "Wonder" of Christmas as seen through the eyes of Osler School with this link to our Christmas Program! Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year from the staff and students at Osler School! <https://youtu.be/RsQGVw3tE08>

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!!!

Dec 30, Thursday, 2:00pm 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.

Reminder to all Committee Chairs that the annual reports are due **January 5**. Please submit via email to Karl, karlwmartens@gmail.com

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.)

Voices Together Sunday School Class in Meditation Room 3, Sunday, Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30. Bring a hymnal to dig into more rich layers of the new hymnal.

Friendship Inn Sign-Up on the bulletin board for the Third Saturday every other month 11:00 – 1:30.

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.

Forever in Motion for Adults 50+ held in the Osler Community Hall on Mondays & Thursdays from 10:00am – 11:00am. *Free*. Check out the poster on the bulletin board.

***A Very Shekinah Christmas** will happen online, starting on December 23, 2021. While you are waiting, we are bringing back last year's Shekinah 12 Days of Christmas (because it’s environmentally friendly to reuse) as well as updates on 2021 and a look ahead to 2022. Head over to: <https://shekinah.ca/events/2021/a-very-shekinah-christmas-2021> to watch things unfold.

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). Hockey will take place only on Saturday, January 8. Those interested in hockey are encouraged to contact Paul Ayres (paul.ayres@hotmail.com). Questions for the school can be directed to (306) 232-4222.

RJC Open House & Friday Night Live - January 21, 2022 - Prospective students and families are invited to the RJC campus for a look into life as a student at RJC. There will be campus tours and RJC's annual Friday Night Live student coffee-house. Register by email to admissions@rjc.sk.ca or call (306) 232-4222.

*Bethany Manor has 1 Bedroom Rentals available for immediate occupancy. Call Janina @ 306-242-9019 or email janina@b55.ca

MCC Connects: MCC is seeking young adult participants for its SALT program. Serving and Learning Together (SALT) is a year-long, cross-cultural service experience. Through SALT, Christian young adults from Canada and the U.S. serve internationally in a variety of positions in fields such as education, agriculture, healthcare, information technology, peace and more! Learn more: <https://mcccanada.ca/get-involved/serve/volunteer/salt>.

***MDS** is responding to flooding in British Columbia and is looking for volunteers (all must be fully vaccinated) in January for cleanup. Contact Kelsey Friesen at kfriesen@mds.org or call 866-261-1274.

They are presently investigating the damage from a string of deadly tornadoes in the Midwest USA and will determine their responses

MC Sask

*MC Sask Council is pleased to announce the hiring of Josh Wallace as Interim Executive Minister for Mennonite Church Saskatchewan. Josh has served MC Sask as Church Engagement Minister since 2020, providing leadership and wisdom in the areas of visioning and mission, and Council is grateful for his willingness to increase his role during this time of transition. Josh will begin his .6 FTE position on January 1, 2022, allowing for overlap time with outgoing Executive Minister Ryan Siemens, who concludes his work with MC Sask on Jan. 31, 2022. The interim position is for up to 6 months, pending the search for a new Executive Minister.

For the Executive Minister job description and additional details visit www.mcsask.ca or contact Andrea Enns-Gooding at searchcommittee@mcsask.ca.

*Click to watch the MC Sask 2021 Christmas Video or share this link: https://youtu.be/l_GT75AUzBw

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.

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 4: God's Face is hidden from us but Hebrews says Jesus reflects god's glory and is the exact imprint/representation of God's being. How do you imagine god's face: Dare to imagine this face looing at you with the deepest love imaginable. See if you can find the hidden faces of Jesus in this banner.

Advent 5: God's Robe. This image was created by Donald Jackson and depicts the 7 days of creation. You can find it on the first page of the Saint John's Bible. I thought one way God might keep hope alive would be to surround Godself with images of the harmony and beauty of the new earth. Music comes out of the bottom of the robe as the morning star – Jesus (Rev 22:16) and the morning stars (Job 3:7) sing together, daring us to join in the song. I used a dirty “D” as I think God's Robe would be in among the muck of the world.

Advent 6: God's Dance. Check out the bottom of the banner for the image of dancing that comes from the 'zine' created by Marika Veith in the Advent worship Resources. I forget the joy that permeates God's call to us. Grab a hand, let's dance!

Advent 7: God's Benediction (blessing) is layered within the banner. Paul Miller, at Alan Kreider's funeral said, “to bless is to show and celebrate that God offers fullness of life to all and everything” God's blessing comes silently, from within, from others, or though all seemed lost. You might not see if clearly in the banner, but God's blessing support us each Day.

***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.

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

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No. 50

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website: <http://oslermennonitechurch.org>

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