



# Osler Mennonite Church

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

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10:00 a.m. Worship Service

November 19, 2023

*Holding Out for Grace*

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome/Land Acknowledgement/Announcements**

## **Call to Worship**

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Leader: God of social graces  
be with us in this gathering today.

**People: In every interaction, stand by our side.  
When words are needed, help us find them.**

Leader: In the give and take of conversation,  
help us to give carefully and take freely.

**People: When others choose to put us down,  
be with us in humiliation's slow burn.**

Leader: Keep us from returning evil for evil  
and teach us the way of compassion.

***ALL: In the rough and tumble of mingle and chat,  
in the grapple and embrace of sustained discussion,  
you are our centre of gravity,  
our steadying force, the ground beneath our feet.***

## **Prayer of Invocation**

**Gathering Hymns: VT #84 To God Be the Glory  
VT #196 Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom**

## **Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-8**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When

they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep, sleep at night and those who are drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet, the hope of salvation.

**Children’s Gathering Song:** VT #510 Today Earth Is Singing  
**Story for All Ages:** Adeline

**Offering / Offering prayer / Music for Meditation**  
**Sharing of Joys and Concerns / Prayer of the Church**

Prayers – those who find November difficult

- those who are traveling, upcoming MC SK leadership meeting on camps
- Alex as he goes to Hong Kong November 27-December 5
- ceasefire in Gaza

**Hymn VT #203            O God, Our Help in Ages Past**

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 25:1-13 The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids  
“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

**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 #721 Christ Be in Your Senses**

**Sermon: Holding Out for Grace**

**Hymn: VT #416 Beyond a Dying Sun**

**Benediction:** *1 Thess. 5:9-11* God has desired that we receive the gift of Jesus who died for us so whether we are alive or have died, we live in him. Therefore, let us encourage each other and build each other up. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

**TODAY'S WORSHIP November 19** *Holding Out for Grace*

Speaker: Patty Friesen Worship Leader: Adeline Cox

Song Leader: Michelle Accompanist: Lynette

Story Time: Adeline Sound: Benjamin Ushers: Susan/Dick

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

**Patty's Week:** Mon. Worship; Tues. Advent; Weds. office, AMBS class; Fri. Office; Sat. MC SK leadership meeting at Eigenheim

**Luke's Week:** Wed. Advent Prep from Home; Thurs. NPMC and KCC; Fri. OMC Office & NPMC Youth; Sat. Prep Work, OMC Youth; Sun. Church @ OMC

**Birthdays:** 21 – Tobin Leaf Friesen; 22 – Lois Siemens; 24 – Ruth Buhler

**Friday:** coffee is on every Friday in the church office – 10:00 a.m.

**Gathering Room Coffee Schedule:** Nov 19 - Louise

**NEXT SUNDAY November 26** *Memorial Sunday*

Speaker: Patty Friesen Worship Leader: George Janzen

Song Leaders: Ben, Kathryn Accompanist: Melanie

Story Time: Lynette Sound: Benjamin Ushers: Bill/Anna

## CALENDAR

**Nov 19 10:00 am Patty Friesen speaking** *Holding out for Grace*

11:00 am Dick & Kathy sharing re: learning tour

**Nov 26 10:00 am Patty Friesen speaking** *Memorial Sunday*

Nov 29 6:00-7:30 pm Faspa & CMU Webinar – please sign up

**Dec 3 10:00 am Luke Bushman speaking** *First Sunday of Advent*

**Dec 10 10:00 am** Patty Friesen speaking *Second Sunday of Advent*

**Dec 17 10:00 am** Christmas Program

**Dec 24 No 10:00 am Service**

**7:00 pm Candlelight Service**

**You are invited** to join a Sunday morning choir that will sing during Advent. "Impromptu" rehearsals start at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday, December 3rd to 24th, to sing one (maybe two) songs each Sunday morning to celebrate the season.

**Pickle ball** starting Wednesdays at 1:00, OMC gym.

**Next Sunday:** Memorial Sunday we will be lighting candles and saying the names of our deceased loved ones. Those who wish to visit with a deacon or pastor afterwards, please meet in Patty's office.

**New Address** for Robert & Brandee Borne

201 – 2703 Spadina Cres E

Saskatoon, SK S7K 6P8

**Creating Healthier Church Culture Webinar** Weds. Nov. 29, 6:00-7:30 CT in OMC Coffee Room with faspa potluck. Please sign-up on the bulletin board.

**Community Connections:** 2 MCC Blankets in the Lobby are for Sale for \$100 each.

**Anyone available to help** with cider at Osler kick off to Christmas on Nov 25, at the tree lighting ceremony at heritage park? Others available to sing three Christmas carols? Please contact John Gascho or Kaytee Edwards-Buhler.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

MCC has developed an email that can be sent to Justin Trudeau and others in the Canadian Government re: a call for a ceasefire in Israel/Palestine. The Link is below:

[Call for an end to violence in Palestine and Israel \(Canada\)](#)

**Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Council** is pleased to announce the hiring of Len Rempel as our new Executive Minister. Len is currently pastoring at Warman Mennonite Church and Pleasant Point Mennonite Church. Prior to moving to Saskatchewan, Len was very involved in the work of the wider church. He served as Chief Financial Officer of Ten Thousand Villages Canada; was Chief Operating Officer at Mennonite World Conference, working out of the Kitchener, ON office; and was Pastor at St. Agatha Mennonite Church in Ontario.

Len shares “I am honoured to be entrusted with the role of Executive Minister. I am thankful to be able to serve the Church in this way and I look forward to connecting with each congregation and pastor in MC Sask.” He will replace Gary Peters, who is currently serving as Interim Executive Minister for MC Sask since March 2023. This leadership transition will take place in early June, 2024. Watch for more information and a full interview with Len in the next few weeks.

We invite you to pray for Len, Pleasant Point MC, Warman MC, Gary, MC Sask Staff and the Council as we look toward the future.

**Canadian Mennonite presents,** “Answering the Call: Three Young Pastors Reflect on Ministry,” an online discussion on Wednesday, November 29 at 7:00 p.m. CT / 8:00 p.m. ET. Guests Curtis Wiens, Kennedy Froese and Elshaday Baraki will discuss their call to ministry and what they enjoy about being leaders in the church. Register today at: [www.canadianmennonite.org/events](http://www.canadianmennonite.org/events)

### **MCC Connects:**

Join MCCS for Transformation Tuesdays, a free monthly opportunity to learn peace practices for everyday life. This month, You Got Booked will be facilitated on Tuesday, November 28 from 7-9 pm at the Main Office. All are welcome to experience a life-sized board game that shows how identity, poverty, and incarceration are connected. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. For more information and to register, please visit: <https://mcc.org/events/transformation-tuesdays>.

### **MC Sask Update:**

**RJC Spend-A-Day November 22** Prospective students in Grades 8-11 are invited to experience a day in the life at RJC. Please contact [admissions@rjc.sk.ca](mailto:admissions@rjc.sk.ca) or call 306-232-4222 for more information and to register

**The Micah Mission is hosting a showing of *Bones of Crows*** on November 21 at 7:00 pm the Roxy Theatre. Admission is by donation, and there will be a silent auction in support of Micah's Restorative Justice Programs. **(new)**

**Micah Mission Annual General Meeting November 25, 10:00 a.m.** The Micah Mission Board of Directors and Staff are pleased to invite you to Micah's AGM at Wildwood Mennonite Church (***1502 Acadia Drive, Saskatoon***). RSVP by Nov. 23 to [info@themicahmission.org](mailto:info@themicahmission.org). **(new)**

**Join Micah Mission at Wanuskewin on December 4 for our learning series, *Conversations in the Spirit of Truth & Reconciliation***, as we dive into the theme of Justice. Cost: \$30.00. Contact [info@themicahmission.org](mailto:info@themicahmission.org) for more information and to buy tickets. **(new)**

**Tuesday, December 5 from 5:00-7:00 pm, the Youth Farm Bible Camp will be hosting their annual Christmas Fundraising Supper.** Menu is Slow Roasted Beef and Turkey, Stuffing, Potatoes, Salad and all the fixings! Admission is by donation. Come support the camp and learn about the ministry. **(new)**

**A Very Shekinah Christmas December 10** 3 pm with North Sky Chorale conducted by Richard Janzen. There will be a formal farewell for Ron and Sue. Goodies to follow. Admission by donation. **(new)**

**Christmas at CMU** returns to start the Advent season. Enjoy various CMU music ensembles perform Christmas selections on November 25 at 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM on the CMU campus. Visit [cmu.ca/christmas](http://cmu.ca/christmas)

It is ***Canadian Mennonite*** subscription list update time! Under the *Every Home Plan*, everyone who attends church is eligible to subscribe. Many of our church members have been subscribing for years, but we want to ensure that newcomers to the church also have access to the magazine. Subscriptions are available in print and digital formats, and are paid for collectively by *Mennonite Church Saskatchewan*. If you are not already receiving the magazine and would like to, or if you would like to make changes to your existing subscription, please contact the office as soon as possible.

## **MC Sask Council is pleased to announce the creation a new Special Projects Fund**

When reviewing current finances, Council determined that MC Sask's current reserves held a significant surplus, and that the funds could be put to better use by congregations and related organizations. Tim Wiens, MC Sask Finance Chair, states *“Previous Councils had set aside specified donations and bequests to be used as a reserve fund. We determined that these dollars had grown to a level where some could be best used now, rather than waiting for a time in the future. We will still have a reserve fund that would cover potential shut down costs and budget shortfalls.”*

These funds can provide opportunities both within MC Sask and to other related organizations. The special projects would be one-time endeavors designed to build organizational capacity, or seed money for new programs. All MC Sask programs and related organizations are encouraged to apply. The next submission deadline is February 1, 2024.

Interim Moderator, Sharon Schultz adds *“There may be new ideas from our related organizations that need co-funding to be implemented. Budgets are tight with many organizations and if we can provide some financing to help get these new projects started, we are pleased to offer assistance. Projects of a capital construction are eligible. Projects which make the organization better by providing professional development for staff, new marketing initiatives, or improved governance will also be considered.”*

The entire policy and application process can be found at <http://mcsask.ca/specialprojectsreservefund>. For additional information, contact Tim Wiens at [finance@mcsask.ca](mailto:finance@mcsask.ca)

**Forever in Motion** - free drop-in classes every Tuesday and Friday starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Community Hall led by Lucy Friesen and Susan Braun. Join OMCers' and other Osler locals for seniors' exercise and conversation.

## **International Witness**

During the last month of horrific violence in the Middle East, the Mennonite Church Canada Palestine-Israel Network (PIN) has worked to promote prayer, awareness, and advocacy for peace with justice. Pray for God's wisdom, courage, and emotional strength for the Network's area church working groups and individuals. For more about the PIN's recent statement on Gaza, calls to prayer and action, and information about our mandate and regional working groups, please visit the PIN web site at <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/pin>

Mennonite siblings in Myanmar call us to pray with them for those who are in danger in Khampat. 65 Mennonite families have fled for the second time as the military bombs their town near the Indian border. This is particularly difficult for the elderly and children. Pray also for Chin Christian Church (Kitchener), Kitchener Emmanuel Church, Grace Christian Church (Ottawa), and Calgary Chin Christian Church who have family and friends in Myanmar. Pray also for Bible Missionary Church (a Mennonite World Conference denomination) as they respond to needs in Khampat. Lord, hear our prayers.

## **Climate Action**

See how MC Canada's partner in climate action, For the Love of Creation, is supporting faith-based groups advocating for change at COP 28 in Dubai! Visit For the Love of Creation website (<https://fortheloveofcreation.ca/cop28-unite-act-deliver/>) for invitations to mobilize in prayer and action in preparation for COP28 happening Nov 30 - Dec 12.

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