

MCC Connects: Join us on January 18th, 2020 for the Great Winter Warmup! Get involved with something big—record-breaking big! Help us touch the lives of people in need while celebrating MCC's 100th anniversary. We're attempting to collect 6,500 comforters to deliver to people affected by conflict and disaster around the world. For more information on the event and the hosting locations, check out the website at greatwinterwarmup.ca or call the office at 306.665.2555.

***Give a Hymnal for Christmas:** You can donate a copy of the “Voices Together” pew addition to our church as a Christmas gift. Call 1-800-245-7894 and they will send you a certificate to give for Christmas. Your gifted book will ship with the rest of our church’s order upon the release of the hymnal.

OMC CALENDAR

Dec 15 Council Budget meeting, 11:15 am, Room 3
Pizza at noon
Sunday School program rehearsal 12:30 pm

Dec 16 Blue Christmas service, 8:00 pm

Dec 22 Children’s Christmas program 10: 00 am with Special
Christmas coffee to follow.

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight service 7:00 pm

Jan 8 Wednesday Bible Study 1:00 pm

Worship Leader: Patty Friesen
Song Leader: Kathryn Janzen Pianist: Lynette Janzen
Sound: Steph S + Micah G Nursery: Marlene Campbell
Ushers: Karl Martens and John Gascho

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

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



Osler Mennonite Church

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

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

December 15, 2019

Third Advent

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Call to Worship:

Leader: God of eternity, when the voices of prophets are silent and the faith of your people low; when darkness has obscured light and indifference has displaced zeal; you see that the time is right, and prepare to send your Christ.

All: Set us free from fear and faithlessness that we may be ready to welcome the One who comes as Saviour and Lord.

Lighting of Advent candles

Invocation

Blue/HWB #184 “Hark! The glad sound!”

Reading: *Be Glad!*

Blue/HWB #210 “Good Christian friends, rejoice”

Children's Gathering Hymn: Jesus Loves Me

Children's Time: Marlene Campbell

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

Blue/HWB #209 “Oh, how joyfully (*O du fröhliche*)”

Offering Prayer/Offertory

Sharing Joys and Concerns/Prayer of the Church

Choir: Helpless and Hungry / What Child is This

Epistle Reading: James 5:7-10

Blue/HWB #178 “Come thou long expected Jesus”

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

Blue/HWB #211 “Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming”

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:46-55

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!

Blue/HWB #176 “Comfort, comfort, O my people”

Choir: In the Bleak Midwinter

Reading: *Child of God*

Sung Benediction: HWB #213 “Let all together praise” vs 1-3

Spoken Benediction: Almighty God, clothe us in the mantle of praise that we may always rejoice in proclaiming your glory and in receiving your blessings, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sung Benediction: verse 4 of “Let all together praise”

To all our visitors: WELCOME. We are delighted that you are worshipping with us.

Scent Free: We are striving to be considerate of those with sensitivities to scents/fragrances and ask all to avoid wearing scented products.

Live Stream: For those wishing to join us for worship, but unable to attend in person, our services are live-streamed to our Facebook page.

Children's Worship Binder, an instrument to help children through the worship hour, is available in the foyer.

Offering can be e-transferred to osler.mc.treasurer@gmail.com

TODAY:

- **Adult Christmas Choir practice 9:00 am**
- **Centering Prayer** in Prayer Room #003 at 9:15 - 9:30 am.
- **Special Christmas coffee** served in the gym after the worship service.
- **Sunday School for all ages** begins at 11:15 am
- **Council Budget meeting, Room 3, 11:15 am**
- **Pizza at noon**
- **Children's Christmas program rehearsal 12:30 pm**

THIS WEEK:

- **Mon, Dec 16, 8:00 pm: Blue Christmas Service.**
- **Tues, Dec 17, 7:30 pm: Centering Prayer Group**
- **Sat, Dec 21, 10:00 am: Children's Christmas program rehearsal**

NEXT SUNDAY, Dec 22: Children's Christmas Program, 10 am

NEXT SUNDAY, Dec 22: 4th Advent: Children's program

Worship Leader: Nora Pederberg Song Leader: Kathryn Janzen

Pianist: Lynette Janzen

Sound: Dick B / Rob B

Nursery: Diana Buhler

Ushers: Karl Martens and John Gascho

UPCOMING SERVICES

Dec 16 Blue Christmas service 8:00 pm

Dec 22 Children's Christmas Program 10:00 am

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 pm

Dec 29 My Point of View by King Herod (monologue by Stephanie Siemens)

Patty's Week: Tues: sermon at home, visit; Wed: office, choir; Thurs: choir; Fri. off

Nora's Week: MON - Meeting in Saskatoon & Blue Christmas Service; WED - RJC concert; THUR - MCSask Meeting & Youth leader meetings in Saskatoon; FRI - afternoon in Osler.

Remember in Prayer:

-choral music and all who sing

-our deepening prayer life (John G)

*MCC (600 – 45th St W, Saskatoon) is hosting “Circles of Grace” information session on **Thursday, December 19**, 12-2 pm. See details on the bulletin board.

***Gently Used/New Boys Clothes** Needed Ages 5-11. Please contact Anne Peters.

***Church Office Closed December 23-January 2**. Feel free to call Patty's cell for emergencies 306-260-6069

***MCC 100th Celebration:** Community Connections Committee is **looking for people who did a term of volunteer service with MCC to share about their experience**. We would like to do this during the sharing time during the month of January. If you are willing to share please let Shelley Penner or Patty Friesen know.

***RJC CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERTS –**

Concert #1: **Wed, December 18**, 7:30 pm at Knox United Church, 838 Spadina Crescent East, Saskatoon.

Concert #2: **Friday, December 20**, 7:00 pm at Rosthern Junior College. Admission is free; a collection will be taken in support of RJC. Everyone is welcome.

***Coro Nova** invites you to join us for our Christmas Concert on **Saturday December 21** at 7:00pm at Knox United Church in Saskatoon. Many of the singers are rooted in experiences at RJC, Sonrisa, and A Buncha Guys. Tickets \$10.00 at the door, Children are free.

***Wonderful Winter Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. Bible Study in January** with George Janzen and Patty Friesen in the Coffee Room. A study on the book of Matthew.

***Sunday, January 26, 2020:** MCC 100th Anniversary Service and Potluck, at OMC. Eileen Klaassen-Hamm speaking.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Sunday school Christmas 2019 Giving Project: MCC MeadowGreen Neighbourhood Youth Christmas Party and gifts hosted by Kaytee Edwards Buhler on December 17. Giving Box in lobby.**

***Today: Saskatoon Chamber Singers “Mystery and Memory”** featuring Britten’s Ceremony of Carols and A Dylan Thomas Christmas. Sunday **December 15th at Knox United Church. Concerts at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm.** \$25 tickets in advance or \$30 at the door. See Michelle for tickets.

***Monday December 16th 8:00pm Blue Christmas:** This is a gentle, contemplative service for those who are carrying pain or loss during this season of celebration. It is a small service creating space to bring our struggles and hold a moment together for acknowledgement, comfort, and hope in the presence of one another and the Spirit.

***Christmas Hampers:** Community Connections Committee will be assembling Christmas Hampers on **Saturday, December 21**. We are asking the congregation for cash & food donations. Also if you are aware of a person/family that could benefit from a hampers please let Harold Loewen or Patty Friesen know.

***Sunday, December 22, 11:30 Buffet Lunch in Osler Cafe Backroom** for those needing a place to hang out between church and Osler Choral Society at 2:00 Barn Playhouse. Please join Patty and Mom for lunch and fellowship but pay for your own meal :)

***Warman Community Band** will be playing on Dec. 16 at the Warman Gospel Church at 7 p.m.

***The Osler Choral Society** will be the special guest choir at the RJC Christmas concert at Knox United Church (838 Spadina Cres E) on **Wed, December 18, 7:30 pm**. The Choral Society is also having their own Christmas Concert at the Barn Playhouse on **Sunday, December 22, 2:00 pm**. See poster on the bulletin board for ticket details.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES:

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

While John was in prison, he heard about the works the Messiah was performing, and sent a message by way of his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you 'The One who is to come' or do we look for another?" In reply, Jesus said to them, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see:

'Those who are blind recover their sight; those who cannot walk are able to walk; those with leprosy are cured; those who are deaf hear; the dead are raised to life; and the anawim—the "have-nots"—have the Good News preached to them.' "Blessed is the one who finds no stumbling block in me."

As the messengers set off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out to the wasteland to see—a reed swaying in the wind? Tell me, what did you go out to see—someone luxuriously dressed? No, those who dress luxuriously are to be found in royal palaces. So what did you go out to see—a prophet? Yes, a prophet—and more than a prophet! It is about John that scripture says, 'I send my messenger ahead of you to prepare your way before you.' "The truth is, history has not known a person born of woman who is greater than John the Baptizer. Yet the least born into the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Epistle Reading: James 5:7-10

Be patient, my sisters and brothers, until the appearance of Christ. See how the farmer awaits the precious yield of the soil, looking forward to it patiently while the soil receives the winter and spring rains. You, too, must be patient. Steady your hearts, because the coming of Christ is at hand. Don't grumble against one another, my sisters and brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! To learn how to persevere patiently under hardship, sisters and brothers, take as your models the prophets who spoke in the name of the Most High.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

Let the desert and the wilderness exult! Let the Arabah rejoice and bloom like the crocus! Let it blossom profusely, let it rejoice and sing for joy! The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of YHWH, the splendor of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees. Say to all those of faint heart:

"Take courage! Do not be afraid! Look, YHWH is coming, vindication is coming, the recompense of God— God is coming to save you!" Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, the ears of the deaf will be unsealed. Then those who cannot walk will leap like deer and the tongues of those who cannot speak will sing for joy. Waters will break forth in the wilderness, and there will be streams in the desert. The scorched earth will become a lake; the parched land, springs of water. The lairs where jackals used to dwell will become thickets of reed and papyrus. And through it will run a highway, a road called the Sacred Path. The unclean may not travel by it, but it will be for God's people alone; and no traveler—not even fools—will go astray. No lions will be there, nor will any fierce beast roam about it, but the redeemed will walk there—for those whom YHWH has ransomed will return. They will enter Zion shouting for joy, with everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them, and sorrow and lament will flee away.

Scripture 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."