

OMC CALENDAR

- Dec 16 Blue Christmas Zoom 7:00 pm
Dec 24 Christmas Eve Facebook only service 7:00 pm

*If you are interested in donating to the Bethany Manor Assisted Living and Personal Care Support Fund, or would like more information, contact Bethany Manor Fund Development Office 306-242-9019 or email info@bethany55living.ca

Upcoming In Sanctuary & Facebook Live Sunday Services:

- Dec. 13, Third Advent: On the Road to Restoration by Alex Tiessen, Benjamin Penner and Micah Guenther
Dec. 20, Fourth Advent: Singing Service and Children's Video Program
Dec. 24, 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service on OMC Facebook only
Dec. 27: Christmas Sunday: In the Anchor-hold: Julian of Norwich and Self-Isolation by Patty Friesen

Worship Leader: Terry Stefaniuk Children's Time: Adeline Cox
Pianist: Naomi Schellenberg Sound: Stephanie Siemens
Song Leaders: Ben Buhler, Michelle McKinnell, Loretta Sawatzky
Ushers: Lloyd Sawatzky, Harold Loewen

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

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website: <http://oslermennonitechurch.org>

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 6, 2020

Second Advent: *On the road to repentance*

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Call to Worship: *(Adapted from Isaiah 40:3-5)*

Leader: Listen! A voice cries out in the wilderness:

People: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Leader: Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill made low.

People: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Leader: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people
shall see it together.

(Light two Advent candles)

All: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn: Blue/HWB #172 “O come, O come Immanuel”

Children's Advent Gathering Song: Blue/HWB #204 “Gloria”

Children's Time: Adeline Cox

Offering Prayer/Offertory

Sharing Joys and Concerns/Prayer of the Church

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

Scripture Reading: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (The Inclusive Bible)

Yhwh , favor your land once again and restore the fortunes of Israel; forgive the guilt of your people and cover all their sins. I will listen to what you have to say, Yhwh — a voice that speaks of peace, peace for your people and your friends so long as they don't return to their folly. Your salvation is near for those who revere you and your glory will dwell in our land. 10 Love and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. 11 Fidelity will sprout from the earth and justice will lean down from heaven. 12 Yhwh will give us what is good, and our land will yield its harvest. 13 Justice will march before you, Yhwh, and peace will prepare the way for your steps.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-11 (The Inclusive Bible)

Console my people, give them comfort," says your God. "Speak tenderly to Jerusalem's heart, and tell it that its time of service is ended, that its iniquity is atoned for, that it has received from Yhwh's hand double punishment for all its sins." A voice cries out, "Clear a path through the wilderness for Yhwh! Make a straight road through the desert for our God! Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low; let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges become a valley!

Then the glory of Yhwh will be revealed, and all humankind will see it." The mouth of Yhwh has spoken! A voice commands, "Cry out!" and I answer, "What will I say?" —"All flesh is grass and its beauty is like the wildflowers: the grass withers and the flower wilts when the breath of Yhwh blows on them. How the people are like grass! Grass withers, and flowers wilt, but the promise of our God will stand forever." Go up on a high mountain, you who bring good news to Zion! Shout with a loud voice, you who bring good news to Jerusalem! Shout without fear, and say to the towns of Judah "Here is your God!" Yhwh , O Sovereign One, you come with power, and rule with a strong arm! You bring your reward with you, and your reparation comes before you. Like a shepherd you feed your flock, gathering the lambs and holding them close, and leading mother ewes with gentleness.

Hymn: Blue/HWB #183 "On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry"

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8 (The Inclusive Bible)

Here begins the gospel of Jesus Christ , the Son of God: 2 as it was written in Isaiah the prophet: "I send my messenger before you to prepare your way, 3 a herald's voice in the desert, crying, 'Make ready the way of our God . Clear a straight path.' " 4 and so John the Baptizer appeared in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to John and were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. 6 John was clothed in camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and he ate nothing but grasshoppers and wild honey. 7 In the course of his preaching, John said, "One more powerful than I is to come after me. I am not fit to stoop and untie his sandal straps. 8 I have baptized you in water, but the One to come will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

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!

Sermon: "On the Road to Repentance" George Janzen

Hymn of Response: Blue/HWB #599 "He leadeth me"

Benediction

Patty's week: Tues. worship prep; Wed: office, Deacons' Zoom; Fri: office; Sat. Ebs skiing.

Patty is available for in-person masked visits at the church office Weds, Fridays or phone/Zoom calls anytime. Patty will not be in church office Dec. 21-Jan. 2 but in church Dec. 27, Jan.3.

Nora's Week: working Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sun.

THIS WEEK:

Mon. Dec 7: Kids Bible School zoom 7:00 pm

Thurs, Dec 10: Youth Group / Bible School on Zoom, 7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY: Dec 13: “On the Road to Restoration” by Alex Tiessen, Benjamin Penner, Micah Guenther

Worship Leader: Patty Friesen Children’s Time: Jake Buhler

Pianist: Melanie Boldt Sound: Matthew Stefaniuk

Song Leaders: Loretta Sawatzky, Michelle McKinnell, Alex Tiessen

Ushers: Lloyd Sawatzky

Remember in Prayer:

-peaceful Advent

-Homer Janzen, Dan Richert’s great uncle and the dad of Gordon Janzen (former OMC pastor) passed away on November 21 in Steinbach. The funeral is being held and live streamed on Dec 4. In lieu of flowers they are asking that donations be made to Mennonite Church Canada International Witness at www.mennonitechurch.ca/giving.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***RJC Drive-In Christmas Carol Festival** - December 9, 2020 at 7:30pm in the RJC front parking lot. Come enjoy RJC students singing popular Christmas carols on the lawn from the comfort and safety of your own vehicle.

***Wednesday Wellness @ 7:00 pm Zoom Check-Ins with Deacons’ Care Groups.** You will receive an email Zoom invite for George’s group: Weds. Dec. 9, 7:00 p.m., Julie’s group: Weds. Dec. 23, 7:00 p.m., Wilf’s group: Weds. Dec. 30, 7:00 p.m., Frieda’s group: **Mon. Dec. 28**, 7:00 p.m. for Frieda’s 75th birthday party. The Zoom links are the same so if you want to see other people you are missing, please join in.

***Thank you to the OMC congregation** for your support of refugee sponsorships in the past, and in the current sponsorship of Lina Alnouri and her five children. Our partner in this sponsorship is the Wildwood Mennonite Church. As a church, our committed portion of her sponsorship is \$20,000. To date, in pledges and contributions, we have received a total of \$18,937.85. If you would like to contribute, please designate your giving accordingly. Thank you also for the many in kind contributions. We have collected most of the household furnishings Lina will need and are exploring housing possibilities. Lina's situation in Lebanon remains precarious as does that of all refugees. We are thankful for this opportunity to help, along with many other groups, in the effort to support their relocation. Please continue to pray for Lina, her children, and the plight of refugees around the world. George Janzen

***2020 Sunday School Christmas Giving Project: Lina Refugee Fund.** Through Advent and at Christmas Eve pre-recorded service, we will be receiving gifts for Lina Al-Nouris Refugee Fund in anticipation of their arrival in the new year. Please pray for Lina, Ayiat, Hajar, Hussein, Abdal, and Mohammed as they prepare for their new life in Saskatoon. Please also check out <http://www.oslermennonitechurch.org> for an updated list of household items also needed. Contact Sandra Grismer (306-380-4576; sgrismer1@sasktel.net) if you can donate, pledge to provide, or have questions.

***OMC December Outdoor Activities** with safe distancing and weather permitting (306-260-6069)
Sun. Dec. 20, 1-3 p.m. Ski Warman trails - meet at Lions Park, 9 Ave North.
Sun. Dec. 27, 1-3 p.m. Skate around Osler tree 2nd Ave.
Sun. Jan. 3, 1-3 p.m. Snowshoe Shekinah trails by chalet with campfire ring. \$10/day use
Let Pastor Patty know if interested 306-260-6069, oslermcpastor@sasktel.net.

***Mosaic Sunday School class:** Every Sunday at 11:00am via Zoom. The password is: Mosaic. **This is a NEW link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87212174301> Meeting ID: 872 1217 4301

***Upcoming Event:**

Zoom Blue Christmas Service, December 16th 7:00pm

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 be present to the darkness that accompanies us in this season. Zoom

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86915856288?pwd=bkt6NWpVSUJUTd4ZlhEZExzSW0yQT09>

Meeting ID: 869 1585 6288 Passcode: OMC

*Advent Resources for individuals and families at www.commonword.ca/go/2190.

*Prayer/Meditation Room 003 available for quiet contemplation with Christmas tree and electric fireplace if you need to get out of your house.

***Welcome to Kathy Braun as new church Administrative Assistant.** Kathy and Loretta will be transitioning in the next few weeks and Kathy will be taking over in the new year.

MCC Connects: You are invited to join MCC in supporting the Government of Canada's legislation around the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), being tabled in Parliament this December. MCC believes that passing a legislative framework to implement UNDRIP is an excellent step toward ensuring the human rights of Indigenous Peoples are respected and honoured in Canada. If you agree, we invite you to contact Minister of Justice David Lametti and your MP to urge them to fulfill the government's commitment to reconciliation by making every effort to bring this legislation to Royal Assent.

Visit mcccanada.ca/take-action to use MCC's convenient letter-writing tool to amplify the calls of Indigenous neighbours.

***You are invited to spend A Very Shekinah Christmas with Shekinah Retreat Centre!** Join us online for 12 Days of Christmas, starting December 13 and ending Christmas Eve. Enjoy stories, music, and singing with the Shekinah board, with Friends of Shekinah, and with the Shekinah staff. And maybe a little "dummheit" (silliness in English). See our website for more information: <https://shekinah.ca/events/2020/a-very-shekinah-christmas>

How is Shekinah doing financially? Check out our website on December 1 to see how we are holding up: <https://shekinah.ca/news/2020/shekinah-update>.

***RJC Christmas Program: There Is Still Hope** - This online event will be held on Thursday, December 17, 7:30pm (SK CST) at <https://rjc.sk.ca/christmas>. The program will feature music, art, and other items of hope and celebration by RJC students and staff.

***Give the gift of Coffee for Christmas!**

You can still place your order for Level Ground Coffee and support the youth of MC Sask at the same time!

Go to <https://mcsask.ca/coffee> or call the MC SK office at 306-249-4844 to place your order.

Deadline to order for Christmas delivery is Dec 15.

All orders under \$125 delivered to the MC SK office.

***From the Re-opening and Executive committees:**

If you can use live stream to connect with the worship service, we would ask you to stay home and connect virtually through Facebook. If you are not on Facebook, due to the 30 person limit (for us it would be 20 people plus the worship team), **people attending in person are required to register with Loretta by Friday NOON so we know who can be accommodated that week. You can email the church office at oslermcoffice@sasktel.net or text Loretta at 306-281-2237.**