

MCC Connects: Are you wondering how COVID-19 is affecting MCC Thrift Shops, Material Resources and local programming here in Saskatchewan? Stay up to date with COVID-19 updates for MCC Saskatchewan by visiting mccsk.ca and clicking on COVID-19 information and updates. We invite your ongoing prayers for all those affected by these extraordinary days.

***FROM MENNONITE CHURCH SASKATCHEWAN:**

There are a few things we want to share with you due to the postponement of the ADS. The Draft Audited Financials for MC Sask and the camps are available at <https://mcsask.ca/event/8602-2020-03-13-2020-mc-sask-annual-delegate-sessions>.

The report book is also available there.

Plans are being made for a 1 day business only session focusing on reports, passing the new bylaws, and the budget. Details will be available soon.

OMC CALENDAR

Mar 25 Adult Bible Study 1:00 pm

Worship Leader: George Janzen Song Leader: Michelle McKinnell
Pianist: Naomi Schellenberg Sound: Doug McKinnell

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

Vol. LXI March 22, 2020 No. 12

Church Office – 306-239-2133

Fax – 306-239-2279

oslermcoffice@sasktel.net

oslermcpastor@sasktel.net

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

March 22, 2020

Lent 4: Show us, Jesus, how you define blindness

Welcome / Announcements

Call to Worship:

Leader: The Lord is our shepherd.

People: We have everything we need.

Leader: The Lord leads us beside peaceful waters and right paths, comforting us through the valleys of despair, and preparing for us a rich feast.

People: We have more than we need.

Leader: The Lord anoints us for healing, strengthening, gifting, and blessing.

People: Our cups overflow with goodness and mercy.

All: We will live in the house of the Lord forever.

Invocation

Hymns: Blue/HWB #216

“Christ whose glory fills the skies”

Blue/HWB #545

“Be Thou My Vision”

Children's Gathering Hymn: Jesus Loves Me

Children's Time: Patty Friesen

Offertory Prayer

Scripture reading: Ephesians 5:8-10, 13-14 (NRSV)

Sharing Joys & Concerns / Prayer of the Church

Hymn: Blue/HWB #577 “O love that will not let me go”

Scripture Reading: Readers Theatre - 1 Samuel 16:1-13

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!

Confession:

God, we confess that we are quick to judge others and not acknowledge our own sins and weaknesses. (Pause for silence)
We confess that we do not always follow your example because immorality, impurity, and greed are part of our lives, and obscene stories, foolish talk and coarse jokes come from our lips. God, we need your light to shine on us to expose the things we say and do that are not pleasing to you. (Pause). Forgive us our sins.

Assurance of pardon:

Though your hearts were once filled with darkness, now you are full of the light of the Lord. This light within you produces only what is good and right and true. Let the Holy Spirit fill and control you. Walk in the light for you are no longer blind.

Hymn: Blue/HWB #589 “My shepherd will supply my need”

Sermon: “Anointing in Lent” Nora Pederberg
Ritual of Response / Extinguish Candle

Sung Benediction: Green/SJ #54 “Longing for light” v. 1-4

Spoken Benediction: May the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you, where ever it may find you. May it guide you through this wilderness; protect you through the storm. May it bring you hope and wonder, in the moments it will show you. May it bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors.

Sung Benediction: Verse 5 of “Longing for light”

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:

- **Youth Mentorship Event, and all other youth programming, is postponed until a later date.**

THIS WEEK:

- **Wed, Mar 25: Adult Bible Study 1:00 – 2:00 pm**

Patty’s Week: Today: at church with worship team only

Nora’s Week: Today: at church with worship team only

Nora, Patty, and Loretta’s Hours: OMC staff has been encouraged to work remotely as much as possible and practice social distancing. Please continue to call and e-mail to connect with us at this time.

NEXT SUNDAY: March 29 – Fifth Sunday of Lent

“Lazarus Unbound” by Patty Friesen

Worship Leader: Adeline Cox

Children’s Time: Patty Friesen

Sound: Matthew Stefaniuk

Song Leader: Kathryn Janzen

Pianist: Lynette Janzen

UPCOMING SERVICES

Apr 5 Palm Sunday. “The Path of Humility” by Patty Friesen

Apr 9 *Pending - Maundy Thursday Potluck & Communion

6:00 p.m. Lunch group M-Z (leaders Sandra & Torben) in charge.

Apr 10 Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m.

Apr 12 Easter Sunday. “Don’t Explain It” by Patty Friesen.

Membership transfer: Alex Tiessen.

***Pending - Brunch 11:00 am**

Lunch group A-C (leaders Wilf & Kaytee) in charge.

Apr 19 “Trauma Care” by Heather Peters, MCC SK

Apr 26 “Our MCC Vietnam Experience” by Louise Buhler

Remember in Prayer:

- stressed university students and leaders making adjustments
- elders in isolation -Friendship Inn
- healthcare workers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Thank you to the worship committee** for their extra work and creativity during this time and Loretta for extra communications. Thank you to everyone who is able to continue offerings for our ongoing church and community work. Offerings can be mailed to OMC, Box 129, Osler, S0K 3A0, e-transferred to osler.mc.treasurer@gmail.com or it's easy to set up direct deposit.

***Fill the Freezer campaign:** it is cathartic to make soup these days at home to fill the deacons' freezer for those in isolation. If anyone has extra containers please bring to church. Community Garden potatoes for donation in front entrance.

***Isolation Resources at church for pick-up or delivery:** please call or text Patty 306-260-6069 or Nora 306-260-6552 for conversation, CDs of Mennonite singing, inspirational videos, books, magazines, prayer shawls, prayer books and other prayer resources, frozen soup and community garden potatoes.

***April Newsletter submissions are due.** If you have a three sentence submission of something that encouraged or inspired you over these past weeks of social distancing, please send them to oslermcoffice@sasktel.net.

***Adult Easter choir has been cancelled until further notice.**

***Blanket Making has been postponed to a later date.**

***Cora Nova Spring Concert that was scheduled for March 28 has been cancelled.**

***Lent Bible Study led by George on lectionary passages for upcoming Sunday services:**

Wednesday, Mar. 25, 1-2 p.m. Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

Wednesday, April 1, 1-2 p.m. Isaiah 50:4-92; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11; Philippians 2:5-11; and for Easter Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24; Col. 3:1-4; John 20:1-18

***Friendship Inn:** If anyone wants to drop off donations, they can do that at the side door. If purchased items are accompanied by original receipt, they will issue tax receipt for donation. The list on their website includes 16 oz containers with lids, paper bags, bread, mayonnaise, cheese slices, whole fruit, bottled water, disinfectant spray, wipes and toilet paper.

***Lina refugee sponsorship needs.** Lina and family could arrive in Canada as early as end of March. We are looking for furnishings and housewares for the family of six. Please check the bulletin board for the complete list and post your name with the donated item(s). Small items can be left at the church but we encourage large items be kept at your home until further notice. This is an exciting time for the current Al Nouri family we welcomed in 2018, the additional Al Nouri family coming soon and OMC as their sponsors! Thank you for your support.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES:

Ephesians 5:8-10, 13-14 (NRSV)

8 For once you were darkness, but now in God you are light. Live as children of the light – 9 for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. 10 Try to find out what is pleasing to God... 13 everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14 for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleepers, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

1 Samuel 16:1-13 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

Yhwh said to Samuel, “ How long will you grieve for Saul since I rejected him as ruler of Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. For I am sending you to Jesse in Bethlehem, for I have chosen my ruler from among his children.” 2 But Samuel replied, “ How can I go? For if Saul learns about it, I will be murdered.”

Yhwh replied, “ Take a heifer with you: I am sending you to Jesse. Tell him that you came to offer a sacrifice to Yhwh , 3 and invite Jesse to the sacrifice. Then I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me my selection.” 4 Samuel did what Yhwh said.

When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met Samuel. They asked, “ Do you come in peace?” 5 Samuel said, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to Yhwh . Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his children and invited them to the sacrifice. 6 When they arrived, and Samuel saw Eliab, and said to himself, “ Surely, God’s anointed stands here before Yhwh .” 7 But Yhwh said to Samuel, “Pay no attention to appearance and height; I have rejected him. Yhwh does not see as mortals see; mortals see only appearances but Yhwh sees into the heart.” 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab to pass before Samuel, who said, “ No. Yhwh has not chosen this one.”

9 Next came Shammah, but Samuel said, “ Not this one either.” 10 Seven sons were presented to Samuel by Jesse, who said, “ Yhwh has not chosen any of these.” 11 Samuel asked, “ Are these all the sons you have?” “ There is still the youngest,” Jesse said, “but he is tending the sheep.” Samuel said, “ Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until the lad arrives.” 12 So they sent for the boy, a ruddy youth with bright eyes, and handsome to behold. Yhwh said, “Rise and anoint this one.”

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed the boy in the presence of his brothers, and from that day forward the spirit of Yahweh came upon David and was with him. Then Samuel set out on his way to Ramah.