



Osler Mennonite Church

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

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

July 23, 2023

She went to inquire of the Lord

Prelude

Welcome/Land Acknowledgement/Announcements

Call to Worship *Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24*

L: O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

C: You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

L: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

C: Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

L: If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

C: If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

All: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Prayer of Invocation

Hymns of Praise: VT #76 Holy, Holy, Holy

VT #175 Planets Humming as They Wander

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

Thus says Yahweh, the Holy One of Israel, I am the first, and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me? Let them proclaim it; let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. Do not fear or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

Children's Gathering Song: VT #510 Today Earth Is Singing
Children's Time: Wilf

Offering / Offertory Prayer / Music for Meditation

Sharing of Joys and Concerns / Prayer of the Church

Prayers-for family reunions

-Ben's recovery from knee surgery

Thanksgiving-for the Mennonite Concerto

-much needed rain

Condolence-to Ruth Buhler & family at the death of her brother Peter Neudorf

Hymn: VT #551 Beautiful Things

Epistle Reading: Romans 8:18-25 (*New Updated RSV*)

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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: O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Biblical Storytelling: Are you there God? It's me, Rebecca.

Hymn: VT #719 Jesus, Help Us Live in Peace

Benediction: Go with hope for what we cannot see. Go waiting for it with patience. Go in the love and peace of God. Amen.

Sermon Reflections:

1. In Rebecca's story, (*Gen.25:22*) for the first time, we have someone going to inquire of the Lord in a dedicated sacred place. Pastor Patty imagines it could be a sacred place known to the family like the mountain named by Abraham, (*22:14*) Jehovah Jirah, God provides. Where are your sacred places that you go to talk to God?
2. What is the purpose of generational themes of infertility in Genesis? While working within a specific blood-line, God also works to bless the childless (*Abraham's servant - Gen 24*) and the children outside the pure-bloods born to slaves (*Hagar and Ishmael Gen 16*) and concubines (*Bilhah and Zilpah - Gen 30*).
3. What can we take away from studying messed-up biblical families?

**Offerings can be done via e-transfer to osler.mc.treasurer@gmail.com*

TODAY'S WORSHIP

July 23

Rebecca prays

Speaker: Patty Friesen

Worship Leader: George Janzen

Song Leader: Kathryn

Accompanist: Lynette

Children's Time: Wilf

Sound: Stephanie

Ushers: Dick & Susan

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

Patty's Week: Tues. sermon; Weds. Office; Fri. office, camp

Luke's Week: Mon. from home; Tues NPMC; Wed. OMC office;

Thurs. from home; Youth event TBT

****Please note** – there will be a congregational meeting on July 30 to approve the 2022 financial statements.

Save the Date: Sun. Aug. 27, 10:00 a.m. Outdoor Joint Service with Aberdeen, Warman, Langham at Wilf and Ruth's yard, featuring Midwives of Justice skit; Curtis and Jill Wiens music; and communion led by Gary Ewen-Peters. Rollkucken and watermelon to follow.

***Note** Luke and Patty will be gone Mon. July 31-Mon. August 14. (Patty can be reached by cell and will be around Tues/Weds. Aug. 8,9) For emergencies please call deacons: George Janzen 306-280-1775, Wilf Buhler 306-230-6690, Julie Bergen 306-250-2995, Karl Martens 306-716-7855, Frieda Rempel 306-239-4361 or the Mennonite hospital chaplain on-call 306-250-7362.

Birthdays: 23 – Diana Buhler; 24 – Dennis Boldt (89); 28 – Emmett Bergen-Braun

Yard Maintenance: Terry Stefaniuk & family

Join the OMC Walking Group starting at 8:00 am at the church

Free coffee every Friday in the church office

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Note Date Changes - European Holiday sharing with coffee and kuchen Sunday, Sept 3, 11:00 a.m. sanctuary. We would like to see 3 slides of your holiday (doesn't matter when) and hear your brief reflection on a highlight and lowlight of your trip and why we travel. Please bring slides on USB over the next weeks and we'll assemble a slideshow on the sanctuary computer. Feel free to bring other souvenirs or European chocolates!

“Just in Case” a presentation by Elaine Lozinski hosted by Bethany Manor on Thursday, July 27th 2-3 pm in the Fellowship Centre. An overview of Final Affairs planning, key discussions for families, and the guiding documents your family will need, *“Just in Case.”*

See poster for more details.

***MCC Connect:** In its 6th season, Grow Hope Saskatchewan is helping to support the work of MCC and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to provide emergency food supplies and long-term food security. With your donations, 300 of the 421 available acres have been sponsored so far this year! To hear stories and for more information and to help sponsor the remaining acres, please visit: <https://www.growhopesk.ca/>. As little as \$15 can provide food assistance to one person for a month.

Upcoming hybrid CPE unit beginning September 2023. If you are looking for professional development, university credit, and a place to develop personalized learning goals, CPE (Clinical Psychospiritual Education) is a great learning opportunity brought to you by the Saskatoon Institute for Pastoral Education. Applications are due July 1, visit www.cpe-saskatoon.com to learn more.

Mennonite Church Canada Gathering 2024 postponed to 2025. Strategic planning and budget shifts, both in some regions and at the nationwide church level, have contributed to the decision to postpone the MC Canada in-person Gathering to the summer of 2025. This decision was confirmed at the MC Canada AGM on June 24, 2023.

Save the Date: Shekinah Move-a-Thon, Sept 17, 2023. Watch for details.

MC SK Updates:

The 2023 MC Sask Scholarship application forms are now available at www.mcsask.ca/youth-ministry

***August 6 Forest Church gathers at Shekinah 3pm.** If you have been curious but never made it out, this would be a great opportunity to see what forest church is like. Zachary Stefaniuk leads us in outdoor worship. All are welcome!

August 6 Singing in the Arbor at Muskeg Lake Cree Nation sponsored by Walking the Path, MC Sask and Muskeg Lake Cree Nation. Come, have fun, meet your neighbors and share food. Various choirs, singers and dancers from 3-5 pm. Supper at 5pm, Bannock and farmer's sausage provided, bring a dessert or salad.

August 12 The Spruce River Folk Festival is back for 2023 at Spruce River Farm, Spruce Home. Great entertainment, education and food. See <https://www.spruceriverfolkfestival.com/> for details. Volunteers still needed for set up Aug. 10, help with parking, gate, silent auction, children's activities, running a coffee and drinks stand and grounds management on Aug. 12 and clean up on Sunday Aug. 13. If you can help please contact Ray Funk at rayfunk8@gmail.com or 306-961-7964

Shekinah Retreat Centre has an opening for the Executive Director position. We are seeking a high energy person to grow our camping and facility rental programs. The preferred candidate will have a commitment to the Anabaptist tradition, an entrepreneurial spirit, nonprofit leadership experience and excellent communication skills. Preferred start date is August 1, but can be negotiated. Most salary and benefits follow MC Canada guidelines. For further information contact Board chair, Phyllis Goertz: 306-242-8367 or p.goertz@sasktel.net

InCERT from MC Sask's CERT (Climate Emergency Response Team) Check out MC Canada's Emissions Reduction Grant <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/mc-canada-emissions-reduction-grant> available to churches to 1) improve our own buildings and 2) provide ways for us to donate to the fund. See how you can be involved in addressing climate change in this substantial way. You can also view the webinar, "Energy Efficient Faith Buildings

CALENDAR

- July 23 10:00 am Patty Friesen speaking** *Rebecca prays*
July 30 10:00 am Patty Friesen speaking *Rachel prays*
2-4:00 pm Memorial for Helen Peters at the Brian King Centre
Aug 6 10:00 am Dave Feick speaking
Aug 13 10:00 am George Janzen speaking
Aug 15 6:00 pm Executive mtg
7:30 pm Council mtg
Aug 20 10:00 am Charlie Clark speaking
Aug 27 10:00 am Joint Service AWOL on the Buhler yard
Sept 17 11:00 am Semi-Annual mtg

NEXT SUNDAY July 30 *Rachel prays*
Speaker: Patty Friesen Worship Leader: Henry Funk
Song Leader: Kevin Accompanist: Melanie
Children's Time: Jake Sound: Doug Ushers: Harold & Lloyd

The Osler Mennonite Church, Box 129, Osler, Saskatchewan S0K 3A0
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Church Office – 306-239-2133

oslermcoffice@sasktel.net

oslermcpastor@sasktel.net

oslermcpastor2@gmail.com

website: <http://oslermennonitechurch.org>

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