



Osler Mennonite Church

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

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

February 25, 2024

Hungering for Hope

Prelude

Welcome/Land Acknowledgement/Announcements

Call to Worship: based on Psalm 22:23-31

One: Come, you who seek God, proclaim God's glory!

Many: All you descendants of Jacob and Rachel,

One: come.

Many: All who are isolated and feel alone,

One: come.

Many: All who are hungry,

One: come.

Many: All who wander,

One: come.

Many: Come, from all ends of the earth.

All: *Come, you who seek God, proclaim God's glory, and walk in faith.*

Prayer of Invocation

Gathering Hymns: VT #49

All Who Are Thirsty

VT #505

All Praise to Thee, My God

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 17:1-7

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so.

Children's Gathering Song: Today Earth is Singing VT #510
Story for All Ages: Lynette

Lenten Prayer of Confession

Leader: Trustworthy God, we want to live with faith,
yet we worry there will not be enough.
We want to believe in your promises, yet we lose hope.
We want to follow you, but sometimes the road is too hard.

People: We confess before you
our unbelief, our worry, our hopelessness.

Leader: Shape us into a people who will live in faith.
Strengthen us so we can deny ourselves,
take up your cross, and follow you.

People: In your grace, Lord, give us faith
to believe that you will call into existence
the things that do not exist. Amen

Offering Prayer/Music for Meditation

Sharing Joys and Concerns/Prayer of the Church

Prayers- ceasefire in Gaza

-those recovering from surgery and other health issues

Hymn: VT #575 Faith of the Martyrs

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those

who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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 #590 I Know Not Why God’s Wondrous

Sermon: Jesus Our Centre

Hymn: VT #557 Spirit of God! Descend

Benediction: Just as Abraham did not waver through his unbelief but was strengthened in his faith by God’s promise, may we, too, give glory to God and be fully persuaded that God has the power to do what God has promised.

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

****Loose Change Sundays** coming back March 10 and April 14 for MCC Gaza project. Please start your stockpile!

TODAY’S WORSHIP February 25 *Second Sunday of Lent*

Speaker: Luke Bushman Worship Leader: Patty Friesen

Song Leaders: Ben, Kathryn Accompanist: Naomi

Story: Lynette Sound: Keri/James Ushers: Lanae/Carl

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

Pickle ball: Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

Coffee at the office on Friday @ 10:00 am

Patty’s Week: Weds. office, Bible study; Fri. Office

Luke’s Week: Weds. Sermon/NPMC Youth; Thurs.KCC; Fri. OMC Youth; Sat. Sermon Work; Sun. OMC Church

Birthdays: 25 – Simon Clark; 27 – Bruce Sawatzky

Gathering Room Coffee Schedule: Feb 25 - Wilf
Mar 3 - Julie

NEXT SUNDAY March 3 *Third Sunday of Lent*
Speaker: Luke Bushman Worship Leader: George Janzen
Song Leaders: Kathryn, Anna Accompanist: Melanie
Story: Luke Sound: Matthew Ushers: Lanae/Carl

CALENDAR

Sun. Feb. 25 10:00 Luke Bushman preaching Second Lent
11:00 Worship Meeting Patty's office

Wed. Feb. 27 11:00-11:30 Lent Prayer Group in Coffee Room
11:30-12:30 Lent Bible Study Zoom with Dan Epp-
Thiessen Coffee Room (Zoom link/recording available for homes)

Weds. Feb. 28 7:30 .m.www.canadianmennonite.org/events Livestream:
The Wall Between: What Jews and Palestinians Don't want to
Know about Each other.

Thurs. Feb. 29, 7:00 p.m. www.commonword.ca. Book Launch of
Together in Hope - Matthew Braun participates!

Sun. Mar. 3 10:00 Luke Bushman preaching Third Lent
11:00 Forum: MCC Climate Change film with Erika

Weds. Mar. 6 10:30-11:00 Lent Prayer Group in Coffee Room
11:30-12:30 Lent Bible Study Zoom with Dan Epp-
Thiessen Coffee Room (Zoom link/recording available for
homes)

Sun. Mar. 10 10:00 Patty Friesen preaching Fourth Lent
11:00 Deacons Meeting
12:00 Second Sunday Lunch Bunch

March 4 - Executive meeting 6:00 pm; Council meeting 7:30 pm
**We ask all Committees to meet before March 4 to determine their
chairperson

PASTORAL NEEDS SURVEY

The Executive Committee is asking for the congregation's input as we prepare for Pastor Patty's retirement next year. Please give some thought to the following questions and sign up for a short 15-minute interview to relay your thoughts. Below are listed the hours we will be available. A detailed interview schedule will be posted on the bulletin board this Sunday so you can reserve a time. If none of these times work for you, you can contact any member of the Executive Committee to make other arrangements or you can email your responses to us.

We look forward to hearing from you.

With thanks, Kevin Boldt, Shelley Penner, Christy Martens-Funk,
Loretta Sawatzky

QUESTIONS:

In your opinion, what are the pastoral needs of our congregation going forward?

Thinking of a pastor's job, what percentage of time should the pastor spend on each of their tasks?

Historically we have had different pastoral arrangements equaling between 1 - 1.5 Full Time Equivalent positions. In your opinion, what would a good arrangement be going forward?

INTERVIEW HOURS AVAILABLE:

(Please sign up for a 15-minute slot)

Sunday - Feb 25: noon-2 pm Kevin, Loretta

2-4 pm Kevin, Shelley

Tuesday – Feb 27: 5-8 pm Kevin, Christy

Thursday - Feb 29: 2-5 pm Kevin, Loretta

5-9 pm Shelley, Christy

Friday - Mar 1: 9 am - noon Loretta, Kevin

6-9 pm Loretta, Christy

Sunday - Mar 3: noon-3 pm Shelley, Christy

MCC Connects: Are you curious about how MCC helps refugees with our refugee sponsorship program? Listen to our podcast *How Do I Sponsor a Refugee?* You can tune in on either Spotify or Apple Podcasts to hear about the experience of bringing people to Canada and how they are supported and empowered in their first year here.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The second projector has been installed and the project is complete! Thank you to the donors who made this project a reality. A big thank-you goes to Matthew Stefaniuk for managing the project. Also, thanks go to our sound booth techs who expertly run our sound and visuals each week, and lastly to Worship and Trustees committees for working together to facilitate this sanctuary upgrade.

MCC Blanket making in the Multi-purpose room starting at 9 am during the week of March 4 – 8.

Warman MCC Thrift Shop Sales for 2023 \$434,204.29
2022 \$371,862.16

Because of volunteers MCC continues to offer affordable items to people in our community; helps people locally through the Food Band and Kidsport; helps people around the world through donations.

MC Sask Update:

March 3: 3pm Forest church at Shekinah explores themes of Lent in outdoor worship with guidance from Ric Driediger. All are welcome!

A working copy of the report book (now including the budget) is now available and Registration is open! Everyone is invited to the MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions on March 8 & 9 at North Star Mennonite Church in Drake, SK. We will be exploring the theme of Rekindling Relationship. Go to <https://mcsask.ca/event/11596> for details and to register! (updated)

SMYO @ ADS – March 8-10. Are you in grades 10-12, and interested in getting more involved in the church, developing your leadership skills, and having an all-around pretty great time while you're at it?? Then this weekend is for you! Join us at North Star Mennonite Church in Drake for all or part of the weekend, rides provided. Registration deadline: March 1. Visit www.mcsask.ca/youth-ministry, or contact youthminister@mcsask.ca for more information. (new)

MC Sask Winter UPDATE: Find out what's happening at MC Sask this winter - updates from the Camp Subcommittee, Finance, Church Engagement and more! Also details for our upcoming Annual Delegate Sessions and how you can attend. Find it at

[https://mcsask.ca/article/10720\(new\)](https://mcsask.ca/article/10720(new))

RJC Songs & Sweets | 7:00pm, Sunday, March 10, 2024 Join us in celebrating the legacy of music and the arts at Songs & Sweets: A fundraising concert and cake auction at RJC High School. Featuring performances by RJC Singers & Bass Choir, RJC Alumni & Friends Choir, with special guests Elixir Ensemble: chamber music for piano & strings. The evening will include coffee, tea, desserts, a live cake auction and a cupcake lottery. YOU are invited to sing in the alumni & friends choir. One rehearsal will take place at RJC the afternoon before the event on March 10. Email Alex at development@rjc.sk.ca if you would

like to participate in the choir. Rush table seating, no tickets required. More information available at rjc.sk.ca/sweets

The Shekinah board is pleased to announce that Sharon Murugiah will be starting as permanent full time Executive Director on March 4. Sharon worked for many years in Sri Lanka with World Vision's child sponsorship program .He has an MBA, a Project Management certificate and a diploma in IT networking. His skills will be well used at Shekinah. We are grateful for this answer to prayer. Please join the board in welcoming and supporting Sharon to this important role in our church community. (new)

Join Mennonite Church Canada Climate Action and Indigenous Relations for a joint nationwide, online book study – Thursdays, March 7-April 11, 7 p.m. CDT (8 ET / 6 MT / 5 PST). More info and registration (<https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/article/31851>). “This book study will reveal how climate activism is inseparable from Indigenous justice, and will deepen your commitment to solidarity with Indigenous peoples.” (new)

CommonWord - Virtual launch of the Together in Hope resource collection for facing the climate crisis. On Thursday, February 29, 7:30 PM (CST) join the members of the MCCanada Climate Action group as they launch a new collection of resources designed to help us walk together to face the climate crisis in hope. Register for the Zoom event at commonword.ca/go/3801.

Our own Matthew Braun is part of the Panel.

CMU Discover Day – Full- or half-day options available on March 8. Tour the CMU campus, visit a class, meet professors and current students, learn about financial aid, ask questions, and have treats on us! Visit cmu.ca/discover-days. (new)

Midwinter Together: An Evening of Food, Music, and Books for CMU-era alumni (2000-present) on Friday, March 1 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Support student bursaries and reconnect with friends old and new. CMU faculty are hosting a banquet down the first floor of the castle building, followed by visiting in the Blaurock Café with music from

CMU alumni Jesse Krause, Thomas Krause, and friends. Space is limited. For information and tickets visit cmu.ca/midwinter-together. (new)

Bethany Manor is looking to hire an Accounting Clerk to cover a temporary maternity leave (full time). Please see SaskJobs website for a full description and details of the position. (new)

Mid-Winter Winds & Pipes Concert at Grace Westminster – Sunday, March 24 @ 7:00 pm with *The Warman Concert Showband*.
For more details see the Poster on the bulletin board.

Forever in Motion - free drop-in classes every Tuesday and Friday 10:00 am at the Community Hall

**God, we pray today for impossible situations—
places where it seems impossible to bring peace,
impossible to find joy,
impossible to move forward in any way
that does not wrench the heart of the world.**

**In every impossible situation,
let us meet violence with peace,
let us offer love,
let us do good work,
even if it feels futile.**

**Let us not be afraid to shed tears nor to insist on joy.
By your grace and in your mercy,
remind us that, with you, nothing is impossible.
Amen.**

Joanna Harader 2023. (new)

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