



Osler Mennonite Church

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

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Lent 4 - March 27, 2022

“From exceptionalism to inclusion”

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Focus: As we seek God’s way, we move from a sense that “we” and “ours” have special standing to the knowledge that all are equally part of God’s kingdom.

Call to Worship:

Leader: Together we seek the way of God,

People: rejoicing that we are new creations in Christ.

Leader: From a human point of view, we demand what is ours,

People: but through Jesus we learn that all share in God’s inheritance.

Leader: Let us join God’s feast,

People: where all celebrate together.

All: Let us live out God’s way of inclusion.

Prayer of Invocation:

To the God who gathers us, we pray our lives, too, will become places of gathering, welcoming, and embracing those we thought were far off. From our wandering and alienation, we have stumbled into loving arms. From our pride and self-righteousness, we have watched and resented as others stumble into loving arms. God, bring into clear focus our distancing and embracing, our rejecting and our welcoming. Weave together the strands within us—the prodigal son, the brother, and the father—to see your work of reconciliation in our church and community. Amen.

Hymn: VT #1 “Summoned by the God who Made Us”

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

And so from now on, we don't look on anyone in terms of mere human judgment. Even if we did once regard Christ in these terms, that is not how we know Christ now. And for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old order has passed away; now everything is new! All of this is from God, who ransomed us through Christ—and made us ministers of that reconciliation. This means that through Christ, the world was fully reconciled again to God, who didn't hold our transgressions against us, but instead entrusted us with this message of reconciliation. This makes us Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making the appeal directly through us. Therefore we implore you in Christ's name: be reconciled to God. For our sake, God made the One who was without sin to be sin, so that by this means we might become the very holiness of God.

Responsive reading:

Leader: Your ways, O God, are higher than our ways.

People: Your thoughts are higher than our thoughts.

Leader: We seek God's ways.

All: Lord, move us away from fearful responses into the light of your compassion.

Children's Gathering Song: VT #762 “This Light of Mine”

This little light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine! x3

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Children's Time: Wilf Buhler

Offering Prayer/Music for Meditation

Sharing Joys and Concerns/Prayer of the Church

- thanks for a good transition into Bethany for Patty's mom Faye
- pray for Josh Wallace & family as they deal with medical issues
- pray for the Ukraine people – the tragic destruction of lives

Lenten prayer of confession (Isaiah 55 adapted)

Leader: Holy One, we seek you while you may be found.

People: We call upon you while you are near.

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, for our thoughts are not your thoughts and our way are not your ways.

People: forgive us for acting as if we must earn your love.

Open us to receiving your love as a gift.

Leader: As we walk with Christ on this Lenten journey, let us see your way more clearly

All: and follow your way more faithfully.

Hymn: VT #377 “New, Earth, Heavens New”

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:11b-21

“A man had two sons. The younger of them said to their father, ‘Give me the share of the estate that is coming to me.’ So the father divided up the property between them. Some days later, the younger son gathered up his belongings and went off to a distant land. Here he squandered all his money on loose living. “After everything was spent, a great famine broke out in the land, and the son was in great need. So he went to a landowner, who sent him to a farm to take care of the pigs. The son was so hungry that he could have eaten the husks that were fodder for the pigs, but no one made a move to give him anything. Coming to his senses at last, he said, ‘How many hired hands at my father’s house have more than enough to eat, while here I am starving! I’ll quit and go back home and say, “I’ve sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children. Treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ With that, the younger son set off for home. “While still a long way off, the father caught sight of the returning child and was deeply moved. The father ran out to meet him, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, ‘I’ve sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children.’”

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 #300 “Far, Far Away / I Will Arise”

Sermon: Lost Son #1: Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places

**Hymn: VT #682 “Lord, Listen to Your Children”
#811 “Use Us, God”**

Benediction: From this time and place into whatever awaits, may you follow God’s way of inclusion. May you recognize your assumptions of entitlement so that you can live into God’s fully inclusive love. As you go, know that our God of the wilderness remains with you on the way.

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP *Fourth Sunday of Lent*

Speaker: Patty Friesen Worship Leader: Terry Stefaniuk
Song Leaders: Loretta, Dayna Accompanist: Melanie
Children's Time: Wilf Sound: Matthew Usher: Harold
Children's Sunday School: Loretta, Rachel & Sarah

Patty's Week: Mon. MC SK; Tues. Easter prep, Weds. Office; Fri. Office

Nora's Week: Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun

Birthday this week: Clint Neufeld & Ava Boldt

NEXT SUNDAY WORSHIP *April 6 Fifth Sunday of Lent*

Speaker: Nora Pederberg Worship Leader: Alex Tiessen
Song Leaders: Ben, Kathryn Accompanist: Lynette
Children's Time: Lynette Sound: Matthew Usher: Lloyd
Children's Sunday School: Loretta, Rachel & Sarah

OMC CALENDAR

Mar 28 7:30 pm Worship Comm mtg

Apr 3 10:00 am Nora Pederberg

Apr 6 1:00 pm Education Comm mtg

Apr 8 6:30-8:30 pm OMC Youth Event

Apr 10 10:00 am Patty Friesen Palm Sunday

Apr 14 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Communion *In person & zoom*

Apr 15 7:00 pm Good Friday Service *In person & Facebook*

Apr 17 10:00 am Patty Friesen Easter Sunday

11:00 am Easter Buns & Coffee in Multi-purpose room

Announcements

***Re-opening committee** has recommended that people continue to wear masks but it is no longer required. Please **DO NOT** come if you have any symptoms of COVID. Food and drinks will be served on Easter Sunday with the Deacon's working on the details. Coffee time will restart after Easter (in the multi-purpose room). Church will continue to be live-streamed.

*Mennos with Ukes - Tues, 7:30 p.m. Mount Royal Mennonite Church gym. Come learn to play ukulele at MRMC with Val Regier leading.

***Thursday, March 31** 5-7 pm Vereniki Supper at the Youth Farm Bible Camp. Admission is by donation.

MCC Connects: Save the date! The MCC Saskatchewan Relief Sale is coming June 2022. We are now accepting donations for various auction items. Contact Marg Epp at 306-381-7059 or mepp@sasktel.net to make your donation. We ask all donations include product use and care information, and begin at a minimum \$50 in value.

CommonWord Webinar: 100 Years of Mennonite Central Committee. Join Alain Epp Weaver, Esther Epp-Tiessen, and César Flores for an online conversation on Thursday, April 7 at 7:00 PM CDT. Hear about MCC's 100-year history of service and reconciliation, including the complicated ways Christian service has been intertwined with colonialism, racism, and regimes of power. Visit commonword.ca/go/2314 to register

MC Sask Updates

***Thank you** to everyone who took part in the MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions on March 12! The hybrid format worked quite well. To view the Memorial video (with music provided by Darrell Bueckert), the report book, evaluation form or videos from some of our report book contributors go to www.mcsask.ca.

***Join the Mennonite World Conference Assembly Online!**

Can't make it to Indonesia 2022? With online registration you will get access to a virtual hub, the "home-base" of online Assembly. Through the hub you will enter into the virtual Assembly world. Here you can access daily plenaries as live stream. You can participate in hybrid and online workshops and discussions. You can follow Assembly on-site through vlogs and participate in a mixed online and on-site small group. There will be exhibits of MWC related organization, concerts, children and youth activities. Cost is \$150 USD. Details at <https://event.mwc-cmm.org/event/8c9c9576-4a3d-4ab2-a486-fc5024defbf6/websitePage:371aa2ec-8bd6-47fb-bfad-deb6c4c16fa6>

***April 3** - Join Phyllis, Audrey and Laura from the Shekinah board as they lead us in **outdoor worship** at forest church. We convene at 3:00 at **Shekinah**. Rubber boots might come in handy! All are welcome! **Registration for Amplify!** is now open. Come join other youth from across the country for a week off fun and praise. July 31-August 4

Coro Nova SATB Choir Spring Concert - Sunday March 27th at 7:30pm at Knox United Church in Saskatoon. Tickets are \$10 at the door, children free. Masks and double vaccinations are encouraged.

Music at CMU Open House, March 31, 1:30-4:00 PM CST – For those considering a Bachelor of Music, Music Therapy, or a Bachelor of Arts with a Music major. Meet with professors, discover what classes are like, and tour the campus. To register visit cmu.ca/campusvisit

***Spring at CMU**, April 10, 7:00 CDT online. Engage with the CMU story hearing reflections from CMU students, faculty, and alumni. Choral performances by CMU's ensembles. Visit cmu.ca/springatcmu

Employment Opportunities

Bethany Manor is seeking a temporary full-time Finance and Accounting Manager to fill a 12-month maternity leave, with the potential extension to 18 months. Email resume and cover letter to melanie@b55.ca

RJC employment opportunity – needed Teacher/Music Director (1.0 FTE) For more information visit rjc.sk.ca or contact Principal, Ryan Wood, at ryan@rjc.sk.ca. Come and join our team!

Shekinah Retreat Centre is looking for summer workers and also a full-time, permanent Administrative/Hospitality coordinator. <https://shekinah.ca>

Camp Elim Is looking for staff. Check the poster on the bulletin board.

*In fall of 2022, a spot will be open on the **Christian Horizons International Board of Directors**. This director will represent Saskatchewan. The mission of Christian Horizons is: For more information please visit christian-horizons.org or contact Lori Weiler-Thiessen at loriwt60@gmail.com or 306.933.0285

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