



# Osler Mennonite Church

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

*10:00 a.m. Worship Service*

*July 30, 2023*

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome/Land Acknowledgement/Announcements**

### **Call to Worship** Psalm 105:1-10, 43-45 (*Inclusive Bible*)

L: Alleluia! Give thanks to YHWH, and call on God's Name;  
proclaim God's deeds among the peoples!

### **C: sing to God; sing praise, and tell of all God's marvels!**

L: Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts that seek YHWH rejoice!

### **C: turn to YHWH—to God's strength—and seek God's presence constantly.**

L: Remember the marvels God has done—the wonders performed and the judgments pronounced—you descendants of Sarah and Abraham, God's faithful ones, you offspring of Leah, Rachel and Jacob, who are God's chosen.

### **C: YHWH is our God; whose authority covers all the earth.**

L: God remembers the covenant forever, the promise God made for a thousand generations, the pact made with Sarah and Abraham, the oath to Rebecca and Isaac,

### **C: the decree confirmed to Leah, Rachel and Jacob, an everlasting covenant for Israel.**

L: God led the people out joyfully, singing their glad songs, and gave them the lands of the nations. Where others had toiled, they took possession, on condition that they kept God's statutes and obeyed the Laws.

*All: Alleluia!*

## **Prayer of Invocation**

**Gathering Hymns: VT #606    Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**  
**VT #666    In Thee Is Gladness**

**Old Testament Reading:** Psalm 119:129-135 (Living Bible)

Your laws are wonderful; no wonder I obey them. As your plan unfolds, even the simple can understand it. No wonder I wait expectantly for each of your commands. Come and have mercy on me as is your way with those who love you. Guide me with your laws so that I will not be overcome by evil. Rescue me from the oppression of evildoers; then I can obey you. Look down in love upon me and teach me all your laws.

**Children's Gathering Song:** VT #114 Now Thank We All Our God  
Children's Time: Jake

**Offering / Offertory Prayer / Music for Meditation**

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns / Prayer of the Church**

*Prayers- Condolence*—Susan & Dick Braun & family at the death of their sister Sarah. Memorial Service Aug 19, 2:00 pm @ OMC

**Hymn: VT #517      Children of the Heavenly Father**

**Epistle Reading:** Romans 8:26-39 (*Updated NRSV*)

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. For those whom the Holy One foreknew were also predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ, in order that Christ might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom God predestined, were also called, and those who were called were also justified, and those who were justified were also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? The Holy One who did not withhold their own Son but gave him up for all of us. How will The Holy One not also give us everything? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are

accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than victorious through the One who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**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 #203 O God, Our Help in Ages Past**

**Biblical Storytelling:** Are you there God? It’s me, Rachel.

**Hymn: VT #419 Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

**Benediction:** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Go in the peace of Christ. Amen.

**Sermon Reflection:**

1. Rachel is the third generation to struggle with fertility and to call on God about it but to also use other means to get what she wants. The women in today’s story are both given voice and agency in a patriarchal society. What are the scripture writers trying to tell us by this generational repetition?
2. Genesis is the story of pre-organized religion where individuals call on God and make altars and sacred places wherever they encounter God. There also appears to be some mixing of religions with “The Living One Who Sees and Hears” and household idols (probably fertility gods). At this point, there doesn’t seem to be judgement about that but after the Exodus, God will want sole loyalty, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”
3. Struggling with God and others marks the whole biblical story from beginning to end. What does struggle with God do for us? How does our struggles with others show us God’s face? How does this reality of struggle challenge the notion that “if we just believe in God, everything will be perfect?”

*\*Offerings can be done via e-transfer to [osler.mc.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:osler.mc.treasurer@gmail.com)*

## TODAY'S WORSHIP

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

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

**\*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:** 30 – Harry Martens

**Yard Maintenance:** Garry Boldt & family

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

**Free coffee** every Friday in the church office

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TODAY:** 11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting

Agenda

1. call meeting to order
2. approve agenda
3. introduction of Matthew Stefaniuk as digital and technology coordinator
4. approve 2022 financial statements - Christy
5. concrete pad extension for accessible parking - Kevin
6. adjournment

**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 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!

**\*MCC Connects:** Grow Hope Saskatchewan Field Day! How do the crops we grow in Saskatchewan support emergency food assistance in regions of conflict, drought, and disaster? Join us on Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at the annual Cherry Sunday Festival in Bruno to learn more and to tour one of the Grow Hope fields.

Sun. Aug. 20, 1:00 Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare on the SK with Patty and Robin. Please get tickets ahead - may sell out.

## **MC SK Updates:**

**The 2023 MC Sask Scholarship** application forms are now available at [www.mcsask.ca/youth-ministry](http://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!

**\*Singers!** Come and join the Mennonite Choir for Under the Arbor at Muskeg Lake on August 6. There is one rehearsal on Friday, August 4 at 7pm @ Rosthern Mennonite Church. The choir will be led by Jordan Wiens and Sharryl Reikman. For more info call Nancy Epp – 306-232-2018 (New)

**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](mailto:rayfunk8@gmail.com) or 306-961-7964

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

### CALENDAR

- 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 3 11:00 Coffee, Summer Slideshow and Sharing
- Sept 10 11:00 Sunday school, deacons meeting
- Sept 17 11:00 am Semi-Annual mtg followed by Potluck

### NEXT SUNDAY Aug 6

Speaker: Dave Feick                      Worship Leader: Henry Funk  
Song Leaders: Anna, Kathryn              Accompanist: Lynette  
Children's Time: Kathy      Sound: James      Ushers: Harold & Lloyd

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