



Osler Mennonite Church

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

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Lent
Christ Collides with Our Blinders

Prelude

Welcome/Land Appreciation/Announcements

Call to Worship:

One: As we worship, Christ collides with our blinders.

Many: We want to know you and follow you, O Christ.

One: Will you cry to God? Will you climb a tree?

Many: We will journey,

scanning the horizon for signs of the kingdom.

So much is hidden,

and at times we do not grasp what God is saying.

One: Jesus, show us mercy.

Many: Seek and save us.

All: Jesus, show us mercy.

Invocation

Hymns of Praise: VT #225 We Come

VT #145 Touch the Earth Lightly

Confession and words of assurance

All: Loving and merciful God

we confess that we have sinned against you.

One: We have not loved you with all our thoughts, words, and actions.

**Many: We have sinned through what we have chosen to do and
what we have chosen to neglect.**

One: We have not fully accepted your love for us.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Many: We walk through our days with blinders on,

unable to see or understand clearly.

All: We repent before each other and before you, our loving God. Please help us open our hearts to your love. Help us walk with open eyes and hearts so we may better share your peace in your world, rejoicing in your name. Amen.

Leader: Now hear these words of assurance:

God tells us that we are created in God's image. God created us for relationship with God and each other. In this, we know that God will never break our relationship. God's steadfast love endures forever.

First Reading: Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter
and our tongue with shouts of joy;

then it was said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Children's Gathering Song: Today Earth is Singing

Story for All Ages: Luke

Offering Prayer/Music for Meditation

Sharing Joys and Concerns/Prayer of the Church

Prayers –

Thanks – to all the volunteers who helped with the blanket making

Candle Prayers for peace and our hearts' desires...

Hymn: VT #732 Open My Eyes (verses 1-3)

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:31-19:10

Then he took the twelve aside and said to them, "Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be handed over to the gentiles, and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. After they have flogged

him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again.” But they understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth¹ is passing by.” Then he shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he shouted even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him, and when he came near, he asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me see again.” Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has saved you.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God, and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

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 #738 Open My Eyes That I May See

Sermon: What Are Our Blinders?

Hymn: VT #568 Christ Has No Body Here but Ours

Benediction: As we journey, Jesus collides with our blinders. See anew!
Step toward shalom! Expand the reign of God! Go, growing peace!

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

*Our Services are all Streamed and Archived on-line.

TODAY March 30 *Christ Collides with Our Blinders*
Speaker: Alex Tiessen Worship Leader: Luke Bushman
Song Leader: Michelle Accompanist: Melanie
Story: Luke Sound: Benjamin Ushers: Harold/Lloyd
Offering Counter Team: Jim Dyck, Stephanie Siemens
Sunday School – Naomi, Zoe

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

Friday Coffee time at church – 10:00 am *all are welcome*

Luke's Week: Tues. speaking at RJC; Wed. NPMC Staff mtg & youth;
Thurs. work from home; Fri. OMC office hours & Youth

Birthdays: March 31 – Ava Boldt; April 5 – Anna Neufeld

Gathering Room Coffee Schedule: Mar 30 – Louise

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Last Bible Study on April 2 8:30 am Gospel of Luke CMU Zoom
Bible Study -Coffee Room.

Council has sent up a Pastoral Transition Team: this group would be an ad ac team formed to support Luke and the Deacons with crisis care and other duties during this time of transition. They are Dave 306-270-5031 or Julie 306-250-2995

Education Committee - Please join us in the sanctuary on April 6 from 11:15-12:00 for a time of sharing from Karla Koehn, currently serving as the Donor Engagement Coordinator at MCC Saskatchewan. In addition to managing donation processing and donor engagement, she also coordinates the Material Resource Program and its volunteers. Join her to hear inspiring stories of your generosity and the impact of MCC's work both locally and globally. You'll also get an inside look at how the Material Resource Program is supporting those affected by conflict and disaster around the world.

Mennonite Church Canada's Emissions Reduction program
There will be a celebration event for the 2024 Emissions Reduction Grant during Earth Week - on April 23 at 7pm CT (on zoom).

We received a grant from this program to replace our Water Heater so... A member will share our congregation's story with the nationwide church.

Also, Osler's story is now live on the MC Canada news feed!

[Osler Mennonite Church Charts Path to Reduced Carbon Emissions - Mennonite Church Canada](#)

MC Canada Gathering – OMC Council is looking for members who wish to attend these sessions as a delegate. Early bird registration is in June so we seriously need to consider plans to attend. Please contact Kevin, Shelley or Loretta if you are considering attending this event

MC Canada Gathering 2025 Registration is now open! Three exciting "tracks" for registration: Gathering 2025; U30 Gathering 2025 and Youth Gathering 2025. Go to <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/nationwide-events/Gathering2025> to read more about our speakers, workshop choices, child care information, Leadership Day, youth information, young adult opportunities and more! (new)

MCC Connects: MCC will be including local artisans at this year's Relief Sale Festival on Saturday, June 14. If you would like to sell your goods, tables are available to purchase for \$50/table or \$25/table for students. Each artisan is asked to donate an item for the online auction. For more information, please contact Ernie Foth at urbanwoodshedyxe@gmail.com, visit <https://www.mccskreliefsale.com/get-involved1>, or call the MCC office at 306-665-2555. We hope to see you there!

Bethany Family / Friends are you willing and able to serve the Bethany Community? Get involved by becoming a Volunteer Dining Room Server! This is your opportunity to get some light exercise while serving your community. Plus, you receive a meal free each time you serve! We especially need volunteers on Sundays, even one Sunday a month can help! Check the bulletin board for more details....

MC Sask News:

April 6: Forest church @ Shekinah 3pm. Ed Olfert will center our time of outdoor worship around the well-known lyric: "***Gott ist de Liebe, er liebt auch mich!***" All are welcome! (new)

The Bethany Manor Music Committee would like to welcome you to enjoy our Easter concert. On April 5th at 2pm, and on April 6th at 7pm, we are delighted to welcome you to the Bethany Fellowship Centre. Admission is by offering at the door.

RJC Spend-a-day | April 9 Prospective students in Grades 8-11 are invited to experience a day in the life at RJC on Wednesday, April 9 from 9:00am – 3:30pm. Shadow a student, enjoy a meal in the dining hall, attend chapel, explore music, sports, and dorm life. Come and see what RJC is all about and what we can offer you! Register at rjc.sk.ca/spend-a-day.

Lois Baerg, on the scene at Village Green. Catch Lois's enthusiasm for the critical part that Village Green in Saskatoon plays in the work of Mennonite Central Committee, at many different levels, locally and abroad, while addressing action that needs to be made in the interest of climate change. Read more at <https://mcsask.ca/news/11991-incert-march-26> (new)

Nutana Park Mennonite Church is celebrating 60 years of congregational life the weekend of April 5 & 6. Lots of music, special features and food. Anyone that ever attended NPMC is welcome.

Stories from Emissions Reduction Grant recipients. Over the coming weeks, MC Canada Climate Action (www.mennonitechurch.ca/climate-action) will post stories from congregations who used their Emissions Reduction Grant to help “green” their church buildings. The first post is from Osler Mennonite Church who “greened” their hot water (www.mennonitechurch.ca/article/45364). (new)

Anabaptism at 500

Saturday, July 26 3:00 pm at the Mennonite Youth Farm, Rosthern
Join fellow heirs of the Anabaptist Reformation in celebrating with music and stories the 500th anniversary of the beginning of our Anabaptist faith family, and our 130 years in Saskatchewan. Supper will be available for purchase on the grounds. Bring your own seating.

Since 2016 Mennonite Church Canada has had a Palestine Israel Network (PIN) of volunteer individuals and working groups who are active in addressing the conflict in that part of the world. This came about as a result of calls from Palestinian Christians. Check out the

website at: <https://mennonitechurch.ca/pin> There is a monthly newsletter highlighting activities of justice and peace and ways that you can participate.

We are hiring! Shekinah Retreat Centre is currently looking for a highly motivated and enthusiastic Booking Coordinator/Event Host. For details on this full time position, please go to <https://www.shekinahretreatcentre.org/> and scroll down to career opportunities.

Consider the Church Garage Sale...Our church had a Garage Sale April 26th& 27 in 2024. The idea was introduced as part of a creation care initiative. We decided the GOAL of the garage sale was to pay down the church roof mortgage, to form relationships with our community and to recycle items that were not being used. These goals complement our Christian faith, and we feel we accomplished all of them. A garage sale gives permission to those who would never enter a church building to walk in. Read more at <https://mcsask.ca/garage-sale>

As of March 23, Canada is in a federal election campaign. Politics can be a tricky, and sometimes difficult, thing to talk about, especially in the church. However, we are called to pray for our leaders, including political leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-2). So we pray in this election season for candidates, party leaders, and for our country.

Creator God.

You created each of us with a voice and mind.

We enter this season as a nation and pray for
open and honest discussion,

a sense of unity even as we disagree,

and we pray for those who are important to you:

the poor, those on the margins, those without a voice.

Guide us as we seek discernment and help us recognize

that we are citizens in your kingdom first;

that while we have responsibilities to our country,

our responsibilities to you take precedence.

May all our dialogue be done with your love and grace.

Amen (new)

From Anna Vogt of MCC Canada

It's federal election time in Canada.

As we reflected on how to engage this year as a team, we realized that we wanted to focus less on issues, and more on who we are. During uncertain times, our calling remains to act as people of peace, loving our neighbors both near and far.

This election season and beyond, there are things that we can do, based on the values we hold and the people we care about, that will make a difference. Jesus calls us to love our enemies and our neighbours, feed the hungry and seek justice for the vulnerable. An election is the perfect time to practice these skills in ways that go far beyond the ballot box and strengthen our relationships with one another.

Join us in taking the following pledge. We'll share these commitments from compassionate Canadians like you with our elected officials and ask them to uphold the same practices as they govern.

I commit to loving my neighbours in the following ways:

- Listening with curiosity and compassion
- Speaking with authenticity and integrity
- Acting for the good of my community, here at home and around the world

You may go to the MCC Canada Website to sign this pledge

CALENDAR

Sun. Mar 30 – 10:00 am Alex Tiessen speaking

11:15 am Visioning Session with Tim Nickel

Noon – Pizza Lunch followed by a final session

Sun. Apr 6 - 10:00 am George Janzen speaking – loose change Sunday

11:10 am Karla Koehn MCC Sask

Sun. Apr 13 – 10:00 am Julie Bergen speaking – Palm Sunday

Thurs. Apr 17- 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Supper/Service

Sun. Apr 20 – 10:00 am Luke Bushman speaking – Easter Sunday

11:00 am Potluck Brunch Group C-M

NEXT SUNDAY April 6 *Christ Collides with Our Selfishness*

Speaker: George Janzen Worship Leader: Dave Feick

Song Leader: Michelle Accompanist: Naomi

Story: Loose change Sound: Doug Ushers: Carl/Lanae

Offering Counter Team: Diana Buhler, Kevin Boldt

Sunday School – Lynette/Bree

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

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No. 13

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