

**MCC Connects** - Give **hope** this Christmas. In rural villages and mazes of city streets, MCC provides disaster relief, supports efforts to improve health, education and livelihood and works for peace in ways that show Christ's love and care. \$200 supports local community peace mentors. See "Joy to the World" at [sk.mcc.org](http://sk.mcc.org).

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**CMU: Feb. 3 to 5, 2011** – *Refreshing Winds* explores what it means to worship in cultural context. Focusing on the theme, Here in This Place: Worship in Cultural Context, this biennial conference on worship and music features author and church planter Brian McLaren and musician Steve Bell. Registration deadline is Dec. 17.

<http://www.cmu.ca/conferences.html>

Consider writing a letter of thank you to Prime Minister Steven Harper (and if you like, copying your member of parliament, the leaders of the other parties - Michael Ignatieff, Jack Layton, and Gilles Duceppe) for signing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* on November 10, 2010. The address for all these people is House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6. No postage on the envelope is necessary. Writing to Government is free.

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Worship Leader: Jake Buhler  
Song Leader: Michelle McKinnell  
Accompanist: Mark Bigland-Pritchard  
Scripture: Sandra Macarthur  
Sound: Dave Klassen  
Ushers: Russ Friesen, Cornie Guenther  
This Sunday nursery care: Kathy Braun  
Next Sunday nursery care: Joanne Feick

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

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## OSLER MENNONITE CHURCH

Osler, Saskatchewan

**A Welcoming Christian  
Community for Peace**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
December 12, 2010

### ***ADVENT 3: Be patient as God works!***

*Focus Statement: In our time, we suffer, and witness the suffering of others. God calls us to envision the end of suffering, to be patient observers of God's healing action, and at the same time active partners with God in the coming of the good news of restoration.*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

### GATHERING

Choir:

“Joy has dawned”

“See, Amid the Winter Snow”

**\*Theme Song: SS #49**

**“I will come to you in the silence”**

Chiming and Silence

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Dan, Teresa & Ryan Wiebe

### **Call to Worship:**

L: As the farmer waits for the precious crop,  
patient until the earth receives the early and the late rains,

**P: we strengthen our hearts in hope, for the Lord's coming is near.**

L: Go and tell what you have seen and heard:

**P: doubters are being reassured,  
addicts are staying clean, the poor are hearing good news!**

L: Blest are those who take no offense at these signs of new life.

Invocation

PRAISING AND HEARING

**Hymn: STJ #13**

**“My soul is filled with joy”**

Children’s Choir

“Away in a Manger”

“Come, Ring those Bells”

Children’s Time

Kathryn Janzen

Offering

Offertory music: Christy Martens-Funk & Katherine Allaby

Offertory prayer

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

Chime and Silence

New Testament Lessons: Matthew 11:2-11

**Hymn: HWB #184**

**“Hark! The Glad Sound!”**

Sermon:

”Desolation Boulevard”

Gordon Allaby

RESPONDING

**Hymn: HWB#211**

**“Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming”**

Chime and silence

**Litany of confession:**

L: Mighty God, patience is not our strongest suit.

**P: Everything around us moves at breakneck speed,  
and we expect you also to work at our pace.**

L: Forgive us.

**P: By your Spirit, teach us the grace**

**of your long and steady quest for justice. Amen**

Words of assurance

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayer of the church

SENDING

\*Benediction: Do not be afraid! God is here. God’s highway makes a path in the wilderness: not even fools will go astray. God lifts you up, you who are bowed low; God is coming to deliver you.

**\*Hymn: HWB#209** (v. 1 in German)

**“O, how joyfully”**

**\*Please rise**

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**We welcome all who are worshipping with us today.**

To all our visitors: WELCOME. We are delighted that you are worshipping with us.

**Nursery care is provided** during the worship service for those who desire it (children over 4 years old should be accompanied by an adult).

**Children’s Worship Binder**, an instrument to help children through the worship hour, is available in the foyer.

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**TODAY**

- **Beverages and snacks** available after the service.
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL for all ages** begins at 11:15 a.m.
- **Adult Christmas Choir practice** today at 11:15 am.
- **Floor hockey:** 7:00-7:30 pm – younger children  
7:30-8:30 pm – older kids, youth and adults

**THIS WEEK**

- \*Mission and Service committee will be putting together **Food Hampers**. Donations of food or money will be received until **December 15**. Please designate cash donation to "Food Hampers."
- **Gathering to Pray:** Friday mornings at 7:30 am. All are invited to this time of prayer for those in our church.
- **Adult Choir Practice:** Saturday, December 18, 7:30pm

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*Sunday School Practice for Christmas Eve program:** The children will have an additional practice at about 12:45 P.M. on Sunday, December 19th. They will be served a pizza lunch following the Sunday School time. Parents and any other family members are welcome to stay for lunch on that day as well. Please let John Reddekopp or Mary Ann Braun know if you are planning to stay.

\*The **Sunday School Christmas Project** this year is an MCC-supported 'Peace School for Children in Iraq'.

**Sunday School Christmas Project: Peace School for Children and Youth in Iraq.** Iraqi children have been traumatized by years of war, neglect, economic sanctions and continuing violence and upheaval. In the summer of 2007, MCC supported a pilot program of an Iraqi organization, Mercy Hands, to develop a peace education curriculum in a school in Baghdad. Now, due to the success of that project and a peace education manual created out of that pilot program, MCC is supporting new sessions of a peace education school at Al Hadi Youth Club, located in an impoverished neighbourhood of Baghdad. The project will reach some 160 children over four sessions, targeting children who have dropped out of school. Children will learn about peace, acceptance, and tolerance through activities such as drama, music, sports and stories. Each session will end with students staging a theatrical performance for their parents, community leaders and officials, and media representatives. Your gift helps build peace in Iraq.

**You can designate offerings toward this project this month. The offering at the Christmas Eve program will go towards this as well.**

**\*Christmas Eve Sunday School Program:** Friday, December 24  
7:00pm

\*There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

\*There will be no **Ladies Wednesday morning Bible Study** in December. **Ladies Bible Study** will resume in January.

\*Please consider including the Prime Minister and your MP on your Christmas Card list. Our Peace in the Public Square committee suggests a simple encouraging message, such as, "**Please live for peace: good will to all**". Pre-printed cards with this message will be available for your use.

### **\*RJC Christmas Concerts:**

December 12, 7:30 pm – Knox United Church, Saskatoon

December 17, 12:00 noon – Noon Christmas Concert Series, Station Arts Centre, Rosthern.

December 17, 7:00 pm - RJC Christmas Concert, RJC Auditorium

**\*RJC Alumni Tournament of Memories** - January 7 & 8, 2011  
Basketball, hockey, crokinole and singing. Alumni and friends of RJC should register by December 30th by phone (306 242-1757) or email ([deneldafast@hotmail.com](mailto:deneldafast@hotmail.com)). Reconnect with old classmates and friends, and exercise your mind, body and spirit at the same time! See your Alumni Bulletin for more details or contact Denelda with questions.

**\*A Christmas Cantata:** "The Mystery & The Majesty" Wednesday December 15<sup>th</sup>, McClure United Church. This is a fundraiser for Station 20 West, one of our MC Saskatchewan ministries. For more details see the poster on the bulletin board.

\*Stephanie Siemens plans to go on the MC Canada learning tour to Burkina Faso, February 17-28, and the Mission and Service committee invites all those interested in helping to sponsor Stephanie to please make a donation designated to OMC, Burkina Faso trip.

\*The Education Committee is sponsoring a **winter book club**. If you are interested in spending some cozy winter evenings with friends, reading and discussing good books, be sure to write your name on the sign-up list on the church's bulletin board.

## TODAY'S SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

**Isaiah 35:1 - 10 (NRSV)** <sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Matthew 11:2 - 11 (NRSV)** <sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." <sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.

<sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' <sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**Psalms 146:5 - 10 (NRSV)** <sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, <sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; <sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; <sup>8</sup> the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. <sup>9</sup> The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. <sup>10</sup> The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

**Luke 1:47 - 55 (NRSV)** <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

