

MCC Connects - Give **peace** this Christmas. At Al Hadi Youth Club in Baghdad, Iraq, children learn how to be peacemakers through music, art, drama and sports. Your gift of \$130 provides peace education. See "Joy to the World" at sk.mcc.org.

You can help. Pray for the people of Sudan and their leaders guiding the referendum process. On January 9, 2011 southern Sudan is scheduled for a historic vote – whether or not to remain within the larger country of Sudan. Please pray for and with the Sudanese people as they make this important decision.

Rick & Jacquie Block, Ezra & Hilary from Saskatoon, recently re-located to Chiapas Mexico to serve with MCC as Community Development Workers. Pray for them during language study, in settling into a new home and community and in their work.

Worship Leader: Wilf Buhler
Song Leader: Art Zacharias
Accompanists: Lynette Janzen
Scripture: Lorenda Reddekopp
Sound: Dave Klassen
Ushers: Russ Friesen, Cornie Guenther
This Sunday nursery care: Diana Buhler
Next Sunday nursery care: Sarah Guenther

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

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Gordon Allaby, pastor

Church Office – 306-239-2133 Pastor's Office – 306-239-2274

Youth Info line – 306-239-2148 Fax – 306-239-2279

oslermc@sasktel.net

oslermcpastor@sasktel.net

website: <http://oslermc.sasktelwebsite.net/>



OSLER MENNONITE CHURCH

Osler, Saskatchewan
**A Welcoming Christian
Community for Peace**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
December 26, 2010

First Sunday after Christmas: Weep and rejoice!

Focus Statement: In our time, sorrow and longing are avoided or denied, especially in the holiday season. God calls us to name our joy and our pain, and frees us to praise God while lamenting the suffering of God's people.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING

***Hymn: HWB#193**

“Silent night, holy night”

***Theme Song: SS#49**

“I will come to you in the silence”

Chiming and Silence

Call to Worship:

L: I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,

P: because of the abundance of God's steadfast love.

L: God said, “Out of Egypt I called my son,”

in joy and in pain, God is bringing us to freedom.

P: The Christ child is born, and still Rachel weeps for her children, refusing to be comforted.

L: Jesus shares our skin:

He lives with the lonely and bereaved.

All: It is no messenger or angel,

but God's own presence that saves us.

Invocation

PRAISING AND HEARING

Children's Time

Edna Zacharias

Hymn: STJ#31

“He came down”

Offering and prayer

Old Testament Lessons: Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148

Chiming and Silence

New Testament Lessons: Hebrews 2:10, Matthew 2:13-23

Hymn: HWB#206

“Infant holy, infant lowly”

Sermon:

Jolene Braun

RESPONDING

***Hymn: #201**

“Hark! The herald angels sing”

Chiming and silence

Litany of Confession: (unison)

God of lavish gifts and freeing love, it is hard to hold suffering and celebration together. We are grateful for Jesus' birth, and we long to see wrong made right. Free us from the need for tidy packages of faith, and loosen our grip on the fears and griefs that bind us. Strengthen our arms to hold this new child and to offer him a home among us. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayer of the church

SENDING

***Benediction: Go, covered with God's favour, sheltered by God's mercy, awash in the abundance of God's steadfast love.**

***Hymn: HWB#427**

“You shall go out with joy”

***Please rise**

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.

TODAY

- **There will not be beverages and snacks after the service today.**
- **No Sunday School today.**
- **No floor hockey today.**

THIS WEEK

- **Youth game night** Youth meet at the Allaby's house, 216 Willow Drive on Thursday, December 30, 7:00-10:00 pm. Please let Dave, Gordon or Leslie know if you are coming.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Submissions for the **January newsletter** are due by **December 28**.

*The **Sunday School Christmas Project** this year is an MCC-supported **Peace School for Children and Youth in Iraq**. Details about the Peace School are on the bulletin board. This month, offerings can be designated toward this project, and the offering from the Christmas Eve program will also go towards this project. Your gift helps build peace in Iraq.

*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.

***Committee reports** are to be submitted to Shelley by January 10, 2011.

*The new **winter book club will meet in January to pick meeting dates and book titles.** If you are interested in spending some cozy winter evenings with friends, reading and discussing good books, there is still time to sign-up on the church's bulletin board.

***Ladies Wednesday morning Bible Study** will not meet this week, but will resume in January.

***Station 20 West** is one of our MC Sask church ministries. Offerings designated to support Station 20 West will be received.

***CMU PIT - Mar. 11 to 13, 2011** – PIT is back! CMU welcomes students to pray and praise together at PIT 2011's "Pieces of Peace" gathering. This year's event features speakers Adelia Neufeld Wiens, Dan Epp-Tiessen, and Jarem Sawatsky and drama from Ted Swartz (www.tedandcompany.com) Registration fees increase after Feb. 1. Visit pit.cmu.ca

RJC Coming Events

***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). 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.

RJC Open House, January 21, 5:30-10:00 pm. Come and find your place with us! Youth in Grades 7-12 are invited to join us for a fun evening of information about Rosthern Junior College. Bring your parents, bring your youth pastor, bring your whole youth group. Come for supper and stay for School and Dorm tours, Coffee House, Parent Meeting and Night Lunch. Please call 306 232-4222 or email office@rjc.sk.ca by January 17 to register.

Isaiah 63:7 - 9 (NRSV) ⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior ⁹ in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Psalms 148:1 - 14 (NRSV) ¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! ² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! ³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! ⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! ⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. ⁶ He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. ⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, ⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! ⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! ¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! ¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! ¹² Young men and women alike, old and young together! ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. ¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Hebrews 2:10 - 18 (NRSV) ¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." ¹³ And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." ¹⁴ Since, therefore, the

children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Matthew 2:13 - 23 (NRSV) ¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” ¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.” ¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”