

***MCC Connects** – Give water for Christmas. Your gift of water helps bring a life-giving resource to families and communities, improving health and saving lives. \$10 provides equipment for wells in Mozambique and Tanzania. See Christmas Giving at mccsk.ca or call MCCS at 306-665-2555.

***RJC Christmas Concert** - Rosthern Junior College will present its annual Christmas Concert on Friday, December 21 at 7:00 pm in the school auditorium. Join us as we celebrate the Christmas season with music and fellowship and refreshments.

***RJC Alumni Tournament of Memories:** Jan. 4 & 5, 2013 - Basketball, hockey and singing. Alumni and friends of RJC should register by Dec. 21st by phoning 306-242-1757 or by 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 or RJC website for more details, or contact Denelda with questions.

Worship Leader: Adeline Cox
Song Leader: Ben Buhler
Accompanist: Diana Buhler
Scripture reader: Steve Guenther
This Sunday Nursery care: Leslie Allaby
Next Sunday Nursery care: Amalia Aldana and Loren Gomez
Sound: Abe Braun
Ushers: Sarah Hiebert, Susan Braun

The Osler Mennonite Church, Box 129, Osler, Saskatchewan S0K 3A0
Vol. LIII December 16, 2012 No. 51
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OSLER MENNONITE CHURCH

Osler, Saskatchewan
A Welcoming Christian
Community for Peace

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
December 16, 2012

Advent: *Out from the Shadows* Advent Three

Prelude
Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING

Chiming to worship and silent preparation

Call to Worship

One: Sing aloud and shout for joy.

All: We have no need to fear.

One: God is in our midst, and God is bringing us home.

All: The broken and the weak will no longer feel shame.

One: God is bringing justice to all.

All: We light the third candle of Advent as a sign that we celebrate and join in God's homecoming justice.

Lighting of Advent 3 Candle

Norman Chura

Invocation

***Hymn: Blue/HWB #184 "Hark the Glad Sound"**
Blue/HWB #202 "The Virgin Mary had a baby boy"

Sharing of joys and concerns

Discipline of Silence and Prayer of the church

LISTENING

Children's Time

Kathryn Janzen

Hymn: Purple/SS #15 "Hope is a Candle"

Old Testament Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Gospel Lesson: Luke 3:7-18

Offering and Offertory music

Offertory prayer

Hymn: Blue/HWB #183 "On Jordan's banks the Baptist Cry"

Sermon: "House Cleaning" Gordon Allaby

RESPONDING

***Hymn: Purple/SS #49 "I will come to you in silence"**

Benediction

***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 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

- **Beverages and snacks** available after the service.
- **Sunday School for all ages** begins at 11:15am.
- **Christmas Choir Practice** begins at 11:15am.
- **Floor Hockey – 7:00pm**

Birth Announcement

*Congratulations to Alison and Danny Warren and families, on the birth of daughter Annika Louise Warren in Portland Oregon on December 12th. Proud and happy grandparents Jim and Margaret Dyck say that baby and parents are doing fine!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Consider preparing a meal for John and Rhonda Gascho and their son Jem. The deacons would like to provide 2 meals a week to assist the Gaschos, and a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Please speak to one of the deacons if you have any questions.

*Again this year, the Mission and Service committee will be delivering **hampers** full of food and useful personal use items. The hope is to have enough donations to fill 9 hampers. M&S committee will be assembling the hampers at the church on the morning of Saturday 22nd.

*The final Sunday School practice for the Christmas Eve Pageant will be **next Sunday afternoon, December 23 at 12:30pm**, following a **Pizza Lunch**. Parents and families are welcome to stay for lunch and rehearsal as well. This practice will run till approximately 1:45pm.

*Our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service and Pageant** will be held on Monday, December 24th at 7:00pm. Everyone is welcome and bring your neighbours and friends!

*This year the Sunday School Christmas Giving Project is **MCC's "Supporting People Caught in Crisis" in Syria**. A giving jar is in the church foyer for the Advent season and you may place donations there or designate gifts made through the offering as for: "Christmas Giving Project: MCC Syria". See the bulletin board for more details.

*Everyone should have received a 3-question QUESTIONNAIRE by email or in your church mailbox, requesting your reflections and visions for the future of our church. Extra copies can be found on the podium in the foyer. Council requests that your replies be directed to Louise Buhler by December 23rd.

*Reminder: Committee yearend reports should be submitted to Diana by January 4, 2013.

*The new church pictorial directories are coming; however, they will not arrive till the new year.

*A **“Messiah’ Sing-A-Long”** is planned for December 30, 2012 at 3:00pm in the Osler Mennonite Church. Those who have sung this famous work by G.F. Handel are invited to participate in this fun event. Singers, please bring your own scores (if you have one) and be at the church by 2:15pm. If you wish not to sing, you are invited to come, listen, and enjoy this casual musical afternoon, including a Potluck “Faspa”, (sweet or savoury) after the sing-a-long. And fun will be had by all!

***An Advent message from Mennonite Church Canada:**

Thank you for volunteering our time to build God’s Kingdom in the many ways you participate – from worship services and Sunday School classes to neighbourhood outreach projects and programs of your Area and National churches. Together, we are Mennonite Church Canada!

***Advent Three prayer from Mennonite Church Canada:**

“Lord God, we lift up our hearts and worship you. Thank you for your willingness to accept our repentance, and to cleanse and renew us for right living in the abundance of good things that you have given us. Amen.”

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, God has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; The Lord will rejoice over you with gladness, the Lord will renew you in God’s love; the Lord will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Luke 3:7-18

7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

10 And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ ¹¹ In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ ¹² Even tax-

collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’¹³ He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.’¹⁷ His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.