

***MCC Connects:** A Christmas Giving gift will provide women around the world with a future of hope. \$20 builds skills by helping a woman in Bolivia learn how to make jewelry for income, or \$125 covers the cost of a sewing machine for a woman in South Sudan. See Christmas Giving at mccsk.ca or call 306.665.2555.

***Giving through automatic withdrawal** – The last newsletter had an article describing an option for having your church offering transferred from your bank account to that of the church on a regular basis to simplify your giving. Please read the article and let our treasurer, Jim Dyck, know if you have any interest in using this method.



Prayer Requests for Sunday, Dec 22:

Thank you, God for blessing us with the presence of your son. Help us take care of others, just as your family cared for you when you came to us as a baby. (taken from the Mystery of God's Dwelling, www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2164)

Worship Leader: Christy Martens-Funk
Song Leader: Ben Buhler
Accompanist: Mark Bigland-Pritchard
Scripture reader: Rachel Buhler
This week's Nursery Care: Jan Guenther
Next week's Nursery Care: MaryAnn Braun
Sound: Dan Schellenberg
Ushers: Dick Braun, Carl Martens-Funk

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OSLER MENNONITE CHURCH

Osler, Saskatchewan
A Welcoming Christian
Community for Peace

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
December 22, 2013

*O, the mystery of God's dwelling
Advent Four ...in the child that is born!*

Prelude
Welcome & Announcements
Choir: "The bells are ringing"

INVITING THE MYSTERY

Chiming to worship and silent reflection

***Hymn: Insert** "Angels From the Realms of Glory"

Call to Worship (Luke 1:47-55)

One: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of God's servant.

Many: Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

One: for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

Many: and holy is God's name.

One: God's mercy is for those who fear God

Many: from generation to generation.

One: God has shown strength with God's arm;

Many: God has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

One: God has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

Many: and lifted up the lowly;

One: God has filled the hungry with good things,

Many: and sent the rich away empty.

One: God has helped Israel, in remembrance of God's mercy according to the promise God made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."
Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord.

Many: Let us awake to love!

One: Strengthen your hearts, for the Lord is near.

Many: We will not grumble against one another.

One: Come, rejoice in God our Saviour:

All: O, the mystery of God's dwelling in the child that is born!

Invocation

Choir: "Christmas Hymn"

Hymn: Purple/SS#26 "Helpless and hungry"

ENGAGING THE MYSTERY

Confession and lighting the Advent wreath

One: The power of God is held in the weakness of human flesh.
Let us pause to consider incarnation: a child born and a son given. (pause)
Let us confess our skepticism and doubt, the weakness of mortality. (pause)
The fourth Advent candle is the candle of joy.

Many: In this light, we celebrate forgiveness, knowing that God dwells in the child that is born.

***Hymn: SS (Purple) #19 "Jesus, Jesus, oh what a wonderful child" (x2)**

Sharing

Discipline of Silence and Prayer of the Church

Hymn: Blue/HWB #210 "Good Christian friends, rejoice"

Choir: "Born On This Day"
"All is Well"

Children's Time

Kathryn Janzen

Offering and Offertory music
Offertory Prayer

CELEBRATING THE MYSTERY

Hymn: Blue/HWB #206 "Infant holy, infant lowly"

Choir: "Evening Prayer"

Old Testament: Isaiah 7:14
Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1: 18-25
Dramatic Reading

Reflection: "Expecting" Gordon Allaby

Choir: "Come and hear the news"
"Beside Thy Cradle"

***Hymn: Insert "O Holy Night"**

*Benediction

**Please rise*

We welcome all who are worshiping with us today.

To all our visitors: WELCOME. We are delighted that you are worshiping 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.

Advent Four Focus Statement: In God's mysterious ways, skepticism and doubt are overcome by confident expectation and obedience, the joy of incarnation is accompanied by pain, and the power of God is held in the weakness of human flesh. So, let us receive the child who came to establish the house of the Lord – *there is joy!*

***TODAY**

- **Beverages and snacks** available after the worship service.
- **Sunday School for all ages** begins at 11:15am.
- **Pizza Lunch at noon** for all Sunday School children, Youth and their parents
- **Christmas Program practice**
- **Open gym** tonight at 7:00pm - Basketball

THIS WEEK

- **Tuesday, Dec. 24th, 7:00pm – Christmas Eve Sunday School pageant and Candlelight Service**

Remember in Prayer

Sarah Hiebert, in Royal University Hospital.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* **O, the mystery of God's dwelling!** Our Advent theme is a statement about God's profound act of entering the human world, and it also reflects our confusion and frustration from trying to make sense of this stupendous event. To better grasp the Christmas season, Advent is designed to be a penitential season, instead of a frantic shopping season that ends on the 25th. Each Sunday, through to Epiphany, we will progress in exploring the mystery, as penitence peels away the barriers to understanding.

*Gordon will not be in the office on Thursday and Friday, December 26th and 27th. Adeline will be working in the church office on Monday and Friday mornings this week.

*Our annual **Christmas Eve Pageant and Candlelight Service** will start at **7:00pm** on Tuesday, December 24th.

***Christmas Giving Project:** Each year at this time the church, through the Education Committee, chooses a Christmas Giving Project. This year's project is through the Canadian Food Grains Bank. It is called the *Christmas Ornament Project*. The aim is to provide food for starving people around the world. We are especially focusing on Syrian refugees who are experiencing severe suffering through the war which is happening in their country. **It takes \$12.00 to feed one person for a month.** For every \$12.00 donated, an ornament will be displayed on the stair banister in the foyer. Our goal: to feed 100 persons for a month. There is a jar in the foyer for donations and church offerings can be designated. The Christmas Eve offering will go towards this project as well. Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

Matthew 1: 18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Angels From the Realms of Glory

Verse 1: Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth
Heralds of creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth

Chorus: Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King.

Verse 2: Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching by your flocks at night,
God with us is now residing,
See, there shines the infant Light.

Verse 3: Wise men, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions shine afar;
Seek, in Him, the hope of nations,
You have seen His rising star:

O Holy Night

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, the night when Christ was born;
O night, O Holy Night, O night divine! (repeat)

Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother.
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
With all our hearts we praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we,
His power and glory ever more proclaim!
His power and glory ever more proclaim!