

**\*MCC Connects:** Let's celebrate God's goodness for 50 years of faithfulness to MCC Saskatchewan. Each month throughout 2014, we will celebrate a different part of our community's faith in action. In January, International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) sponsors and volunteers will remember and honour the international volunteers, and those who make this program life transforming. If you've been part of this program, expect an invitation. Learn about IVEP at [IVEP.mcc.org](http://IVEP.mcc.org)

**Prayer Request from Mennonite Church Canada:**

\*Please pray for all those in central and eastern Canada who remain without power and heat after devastating ice and snow storms, and especially those who are new to Canada, marginalized populations, and the homeless. Pray also for all who will work through Christmas to restore power and those who will work to provide food and shelter. "Come, awake to the birth of our Saviour, our helper, and the one who dwells with us in our troubles. God, thank you for showing your saving mystery to all kinds of people, and for dwelling with us in Jesus. Help us share the hope, love, joy, and peace of knowing Jesus with the people we meet."

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Worship Leader: John Reddekopp  
Song Leader: Kevin Boldt  
Accompanist: Mark Bigland-Pritchard  
This week's Nursery Care: MaryAnn Braun  
Next week's Nursery Care: Adeline Cox  
Sound: Chris Buhler  
Ushers: Dick Braun, Carl Martens-Funk

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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 29, 2013

*O, the mystery of God's dwelling  
First Sunday after Christmas ...in our distress!*

Welcome & Announcements

INVITING THE MYSTERY

Chiming to worship and silent reflection

**Call to Worship**

One: Come before the one made perfect in suffering.

**Many: Let us awake to the birth of our Saviour,**

One: the one who calls us brothers and sisters,

**Many: the one who helps in times of testing!**

One: The pioneer of our salvation goes before us:

**All: O, the mystery of God's dwelling in our distress!**

Invocation

**\*Hymns**

"Celebrating our 85th Birthday" – Ruth Buhler and Jake Buhler

**Confession and enjoying the light of the Advent wreath:**

One: In both the exuberance of Christ's birth and the human sorrow that accompanied it, let us pause to consider God's presence in both you and grief. (pause)  
Let us confess the violence we have experienced and spread, that God may overcome it with grace. (pause)

In our distress, the Advent wreath reminds us of God's steadfast love.

**Many: In this light, we celebrate forgiveness,  
In his love and pity, Jesus redeems us.**

Sharing

**Prayer of the Church: Blue/HWB #720**

ENGAGING THE MYSTERY

Children's Time Edna Zacharias

**Hymn**

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 63:7-9

Gospel lesson: Matthew 2:13-23

Reflection: Melanie Boldt

**Hymn**

Reflection: Jan Braun

Offering and Offertory music

Offertory Prayer

CELEBRATING THE MYSTERY

Video: Celebration of our year

**\*Hymn**

\*Benediction :

One: Let us proclaim the mystery!

**Many: Christ is born**

**All: that the house of the Lord may be filled!**

*\*Please rise*

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**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.

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**Focus Statement:** In God's mysterious ways, the assurance of salvation made perfect through the suffering of God's servant, the experience of evil does not undermine faith, and the violence we have known and perpetuated is overcome by God's emerging kingdom. So let us proclaim the mystery that fills the house of the Lord – Christ is born!

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**\*TODAY**

- **Beverages and snacks** available after the worship service.
- No Sunday School today.
- No Open gym tonight.

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**Remember in Prayer**

**Sarah Hiebert, in Royal University Hospital.**

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**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 25<sup>th</sup>. Each Sunday, through to Epiphany, we will progress in exploring the mystery, as penitence peels away the barriers to understanding.

\*Please have all submissions for January's **newsletter** in to the church office by Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.

\***Committee Chairpersons are asked to submit reports** for the Annual Meeting Report Book to Diana Buhler by Tuesday, January 7. Also, the 2013 closing date for accounting purposes will be Jan. 3.

\*Doug and Adeline Cox are delighted to announce **the marriage of Chelsea Cox to Andrew Hecker** on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

\***Blanket Making for MCC** will take place at the church on January 20, 21 and January 27 & 28.



### **Prayer Requests for Sunday, Dec 29:**

\*Come, awake to the mystery that in Christ all kinds of people are one! May God's saving mystery shine in and through us.

\* An alternative telling of the Christmas story: Steve Heinrichs, Director of Indigenous Ministry for Mennonite Church Canada, offers an insightful version of the Christmas story from an Indigenous perspective. You can listen or download it from [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2252](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2252).

### **\*Ministry Notes for Sunday, Dec 29**

Because of your generous donations, Mennonite Church Canada is able to send ministry workers on various assignments around the world. Thank you for helping us to build the global church. We invite your prayer for our workers all year round, but especially during the Christmas season when so many are far from home. Learn more with Witness Worker Update: [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2161](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2161)

### **TODAY'S SCRIPTURE LESSONS:**

#### **Isaiah 63:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> 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 favour to the house of Israel that the Lord has shown them according to God's mercy, according to the abundance of God's steadfast love. <sup>8</sup> For the Lord said, 'Surely they are my people,

children who will not deal falsely'; and God became their saviour <sup>9</sup> in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but God's presence that saved them; in God's love and in God's pity the Lord redeemed them; The Lord lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

#### **Matthew 2:13-23**

<sup>13</sup> Now 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.' <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

<sup>16</sup> When 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. <sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup> '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.'

<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> '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.' <sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But 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. <sup>23</sup> There 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.'