

**\*MCC Connects:** MCC in Canada: A 50th Anniversary Conference at the University of Winnipeg, December 13 & 14, 2013. Free admission, register on site. For further details go to: <http://mennonitestudies.uwinnipeg.ca/events/>

**\*A Buncha Guys Christmas Concert** will be at Shekinah Retreat Centre on Friday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. Tickets are only \$5 (& kids under 12 are free) and an offering will be taken to support Shekinah Retreat Centre. Tickets are available from McNally Robinson, Russ Regier (249-3650) or the guys. (John and Rhonda Gascho's son Jem is one of the "Guys".)

**\*Mennonite Disaster Service seeking volunteers for rebuilding in High River, AB**

Come and help rebuild High River! MDS is scheduling weekly groups (Tuesday to Saturday work weeks) beginning January 2014 for work in High River. Please call Chantel Runtz in the Winnipeg office to book. Volunteers are also still needed in Staten Island, NYC and other locations. Call 1-866-261-1274 Food and accommodations provided.

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Worship Leader: John Reddekopp  
Song Leader: Michelle McKinnell  
Accompanist: Diana Buhler  
This week's Nursery Care: Jennifer Rowan  
Next week's Nursery Care: Diana Buhler  
Sound: Abe Braun  
Ushers: Dick Braun, Carl Martens-Funk

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The Osler Mennonite Church, Box 129, Osler, Saskatchewan S0K 3A0		
Vol. LIV	December 8, 2013	No. 50
Gordon Allaby, pastor		
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website: <a href="http://omchurch.org">http://omchurch.org</a>		



## OSLER MENNONITE CHURCH

Osler, Saskatchewan  
A Welcoming Christian  
Community for Peace

10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
December 8, 2013

*O, the mystery of God's dwelling  
Advent Two ...in our relationships!*

Welcome & Announcements

### INVITING THE MYSTERY

Chiming to worship and silent reflection

#### **Call to Worship**

One: Come and welcome one another in the name of Christ!

**Many: Let us awake to peace!**

One: Live in harmony and join your voices in song.

**Many: Yes-let us with one voice glorify God.**

One: In Christ, we see the confirmation of God's promise:

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

#### **Invocation**

**\*Hymns: Blue/HWB #184 "Hark! The glad sound!"**

**Purple/SS#11 "No wind at the window"**

#### **Confession and lighting the Advent Wreath**

One: The coming of Christ brings peace. Let us pause to remember the God who brings harmony from dissonance and and speaks life into our dead places. Let us confess the violence of our fractured relationships. The second Advent candle is the candle of peace.

**Many: In this light, we receive forgiveness,  
knowing that God dwells with us in our relationships.**

Sharing  
Discipline of silence and Prayer of the Church

ENGAGING THE MYSTERY

Children's Time Kathryn Janzen

**Hymn: Blue/HWB #180 "The angel Gabriel"**

Offering and Offertory music  
Offertory Prayer

Old Testament: Isaiah 11: 1-10  
Gospel lesson: Matthew 3:1-12  
Lesson from the Epistles: Romans 15:4-6  
Dramatic reading Jake Buhler family

CELEBRATING THE MYSTERY

**Hymn: Blue/HWB #182 "Oh, how shall I receive thee"**

Sermon: "Relationship" Gordon Allaby

**\*Hymn: Blue/HWB 195 "It came upon a midnight clear"**

\*Benediction

*\*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 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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**Advent One Focus Statement:** In God's mysterious ways, death blossoms into new and abundant life, the dissonance of violence resolves into the harmony of God's created order, and the presence of enemies becomes an opportunity to restore relationship rather than to take up arms. So let us seek harmony that we may abide in the house of the Lord – *there is peace!*

**\*TODAY**

- **Beverages and snacks** available after the worship service.
- **Sunday School for all ages** begins at 11:15am.
- **Choir Practice** in the sanctuary, begins at 11:15am
- **Floor hockey** tonight at 7:00pm.

**THIS WEEK**

- **Wednesday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm** – Church council meeting
- **No Free Friday this week.**
- **Saturday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm** – **Youth** – Mystery Supper and Christmas party

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**Remember in Prayer**

**Tena Friesen, at home, recovering from surgery.  
Ruth and Wilf Buhler and family, following the death of Ruth's  
sister-in-law.  
Sarah Hiebert, awaiting medical treatment.**

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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.

\*Adam B., Katherine P., Emily N., Eugene P. and Cheryl H. for creating our **advent banner** at the front of the church. It's great to have talented artists sharing their gifts with us!

\*The **MDS Update** for Dec 5, 2013 is now posted on the far bulletin board.

**\*RJC Christmas Concert** - RJC will present its annual Christmas Concert on Friday, December 20 at 7:00 pm in the school auditorium. Join us as we celebrate the Christmas season with music!

**\*Thank You!** MDS in Canada now owns two bunk trailers that each sleep 10 persons. These trailers will allow us to house volunteers in the clean-up phase of disaster situations, and accommodate volunteers when other accommodation is limited! We are grateful for those who have made this acquisition possible.

### **Canadian Mennonite University [cmu.ca](http://cmu.ca)**

\*Graduating from high school and looking to travel and serve others? Investigate the **CMU Outatown** program. OT is an opportunity to learn about God, make lifelong friends and travel to one of three international locations: Guatemala, South Africa and Burkina Faso. Space is limited. [www.outatown.com](http://www.outatown.com) View a Burkina Faso wrap-up video at [www.tinyurl.com/OTburkina2013](http://www.tinyurl.com/OTburkina2013)



### **Prayer Requests for Sunday, Dec 8:**

\*Thank you God, for dwelling in our relationships with mystery and love, helping us to forgive each other, start over, and live in peace. (taken from *The Mystery of God's Dwelling*)  
[www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2164](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2164)

### **Ministry Note for Sunday, Dec 8**

*\* Plants that feed fish that feed plants? That's the focus of new kid-friendly, eco-friendly, projects in the Global South. Give your kids the gift of mission, grow the global church, and help sustain families all at the same time. Watch this kid-friendly video on Aquaponics at [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2192](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2192) and then participate!*

\*Come join **the Christmas choir!** Rehearse today and each Sunday at 11:15am in the sanctuary. The choir will sing once during Advent, December 22nd during the worship service, and on Christmas Eve as part of the Sunday School program.

\* Copies of an **Advent-At-Home devotional** resource from Mennonite Church Canada is available in the foyer for families. Please help yourself to a copy of *"The Mystery of God's Dwelling"*.

\*Missions and Service Committee is again collection food for **Christmas hampers**. Please bring your donations to the serving room by Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Home baked goods more than welcome!

**\*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 tree 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, 2:30pm:** The Station Singers will be presenting **the Messiah by Handel** with full orchestra at Rosthern Mennonite Church, with conductor Duff Warkentin. Guest soloists are Robert Dick, Lisa Hornung, Barbara Milner and Matt Pauls. Get tickets from choir members, at the door or call the Station Arts Centre at 232-5332. Tickets: Adults \$20 Students \$10 and Kids 12 & under \$5.

**\*RJC Choir Concert**, December 15, 7:30 pm at Knox United Church, Saskatoon. RJC Chorale, Women's choir and guest performer SONRISA will present a Christmas Concert in Knox United Church, 838 Spadina Crescent East. Admission is free; a collection will be taken in support of RJC. Everyone is welcome.

## TODAY'S SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

### Isaiah 11: 1-10

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup>The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

### Matthew 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'<sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."'

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?' <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume 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. <sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

### Romans 15:4-13

<sup>4</sup>For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; <sup>10</sup>and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; <sup>11</sup>and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; <sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.'<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**\*RJC WINTER THEATRE** - Friday & Saturday, January 17 & 18, 7:30 pm in the Pit Theatre. The Theatre Arts Class will present four short plays and a Musical Theatre excerpt from "Matilda - The Musical." This is the final project for the class, and looks to be a very entertaining evening. Tickets are \$10. Call or email RJC (306 232-4222 or [office@rjc.sk.ca](mailto:office@rjc.sk.ca)) to reserve your tickets.