

- Pray for the Maliwan Mennonite Church in Khon Kaen, Thailand, and for Christine and Tom Poovong as they give leadership to this congregation. Pray that believers who have come to faith in the last couple of months grow to become a strong support for this group and a blessing to their communities.

- Praise God for the 12 farming families that began the six-month training by the Inclusive Development Consulting Team of PeaceBuilders Community and Coffee for Peace. Pray for Joji and Dann Pantoja and their colleagues as they plan and train.

If you would like to add or remove any prayer requests, please contact the church office.

Artist Statement – Margruite Krahn

In the fall of 2020 violinist Karl Stobbe invited me to create an art piece for Heinrich Bieber's Passacaglia. This is the final piece from Bieber's Mystery Sonata's and is an *Ode to the Guardian Angels*. Karl dedicated this piece to all our front line workers during this time of pandemic.

A couple of things to note which may help to understand what is happening in the painting as I interpret the music and its intent. Murmurations- starlings swoop and swirl in formations as they gather towards dusk. This coming together distracts any predators before they settle for the night. The Red-winged black birds were flocking by the thousands along the Buffalo Creek this past September. I happened to see a Red tailed hawk soaring above the black birds, but as fast as it came, it disappeared. The white cut- out birds represents the feminine, and protect the flock from the predator.

A special thank you to Al Schritt, and to Lori Dueck, Simon and Rosie for joining me in this venture.

Altona Mennonite Church

Vision

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

Purpose

We seek to know God through Jesus, the center of our faith.

We seek to follow God in community, through worship, fellowship, and interpreting the Scripture from a Christ-centered point of view, in the Anabaptist tradition.

We seek to obey God by working toward peace and reconciliation, in the spirit of Jesus, reconciling all people to God, to each other, and to the world around them.

Deep calls to Deep Lent 2021

The world of isolation and virtual connection has become our reality. Suddenly the wilderness of Lent is all too real, as we are stripped of our usual surroundings, activities, and circles of relationship. In these months we along with the world experience both deep grief and invitations to a new spaciousness of time, as we needed to release so much of what usually fills our lives. The Scriptures for this season of Lent are filled with stories, songs, and promises that calls us to identify what is essential, what really matters, who we are at our core, and what God asks (and doesn't ask) of us. In the Scriptures and the traditions of Lent, we find a scrubbing away of the excess to get to the core of our Christian journeys and of ourselves. Lent 2021 becomes a season for renewed questioning of what we have discovered to be the deepest and truest parts of our lives and our journeys with God.

The call to go deeper can be frightening or overwhelming when we feel we are not ready and do not know what we will find. We keep much of our pain in our depths. The theme "Deep calls to deep" (Psalm 42:7) arouses in us God's calling out from a deeper place than the areas that we might think we can plan and control. God's call echoes in a deep place within us; a place where the words of love spoken to Jesus at his baptism dwell: "You are my Beloved; with you I am well pleased." might be lived deeply throughout Lent.

~ Adapted from "Deep calls to deep" *Leader* Winter 2020-21

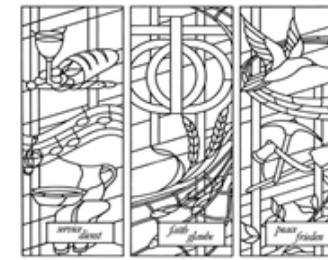
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The Lenten theme for 2021 is DEEP CALLS TO DEEP.

The worship committee has chosen to use paintings as part of the visual enrichment for this theme. The two abstract paintings are by a Chilean woman, Lucy Regueme. She has entitled the green painting, "Land is our livelihood" and the orange one, "When sharing the bread with the hungry, your light will shine in the darkness".

Margruite Krahn's paintings are titled: Experimental Lakes, Ontario - 2006, Red Pine Stand, Dryberry Lake, Ontario - 2000, I travel along a path that is unknown to me, I travel between fear and hope... - 2018

Thanks to Harry Wiens for contributing four of his paintings and to Margruite Krahn for contributing the one.



Altona Mennonite Church

Sunday School – Adults & Children: 10:00 am
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 am

VOLUME LX No.10

March 7, 2021

Deep in the changing sky: Called to deep wisdom

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Prayer of Invocation VT # 861

Seeking Wisdom in God's Creation

(adapted from Psalm 19)

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God;
And the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

**Many: Day to day pours forth speech,
And night to night declares knowledge.**

One: There is no speech

Yet the voice goes out through all the earth,
And their words to the end of the world.

**Many: In the heavens you set a tent for the sun . . .
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
Its circuit to the end of them;
Nothing is hid from its heat.**

One: The law of the Lord is perfect . . . sure . . .

Clear . . . true and righteous.

The fear of the Lord is pure.

**Many: God, clear us from hidden faults;
Teach us to trust you.**

**All: Let the words and meditations of our hearts
Be acceptable to you, O Lord,
Our rock and redeemer.
We call out to you,
As you call us to deeper wisdom.**

AMC Contact information:

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Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Seeking Wisdom in the Order of Life

Exodus 20: 1-17

Hymn VT #497 Hallelujah! Fairest Morning!

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Many: Deep calls to deep.

We call to you from the depths of our hearts.

One: We confess when we have settled into sameness,
Forgetting the rhythms of the heavens,
Ignoring the rhythms of justice.
Into the eyes of a neighbor,
Into your Word that still lives.

Silence

Deep calls to deep.

You call to us from the depth of your love.

Many: Calling us to deep wisdom.

We come to you, God.

Called to Deep Wisdom

Matthew 7: 24 – 27; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Hymn VT #196 Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

Sermon "The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool." Dan Kehler

Hymn SJ #36 Long before my journey's start

Prayers of and for the people

Sending Blessing

Sung Blessing: VT #838 The Peace of the Earth

Contemplation and Reflection

Passacaglia, by H. Bieber,

presented by Karl Stobbe and Margruite Krahn

Worship Leader: Dave Regehr

Musicians: Hildie Regher, Mary Costen, Elaine Loewen, Ken

Loewen, Dave Regehr

Recording engineer: Nathan Loewen

Birthdays: March 8 – Nicole Wood, Ryan Schwartz; March 9

– Paul Hiebert, Felicity Mullet, March 10 – Irv Giesbrecht;

March 12 – Bryson Loewen

Anniversaries: March 10 – Albert & Sylvia Klassen

Worship & Meeting Events at AMC

March 10 10:30 am Zoom Coffee

7:30 pm Leadership Council

March 14 Worship Service - Fourth Sunday of Lent

Theme: Deep in the Wilderness: Called to deep healing

Scripture: Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-21; Ephesians 2:1-10;

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22 *Speaker(s):* Susie Fisher *Worship*

Leader: Margruite Krahn *Musicians:* Loren Brault, Gina Enns

Sound: Kevin Neufeld

March 21 Worship Service – Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 28 Worship Service – Palm Sunday

Information re Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday services will come in the next week or two.

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- From the treasurer:

Thank you again for supporting the work of the Church.

You may contribute online if you bank at Access (using your 7-digit phone number as your account number) make an e-transfer to amchurchdonations@gmail.com, or send or bring a cheque to AMC (Box 1237, Altona, R0G 0B0)

WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Considering MCI for the 2021-22 school year?

New students who submit an application by March 15th will share in \$25,000 of available tuition support. One lucky applicant will also receive their first year of tuition FREE! For more information visit www.mciblues.net/admissions/new-student-incentive/ or email sophiegerbrandt@mciblues.net our Student Recruitment Associate,

- Camps with Meaning Summer Staff applications are on the CwM website. Visit www.campswithmeaning.org and follow the Summer links.

- **Looking for a get-away? Camp Assiniboia has beautiful family cabins** that are available for individuals or groups who live in the same household. For rental information, please contact Linda Dueck 1-204-864-2159 ext. 2, or email: carentals@campswithmeaning.org

- **Mennonite Women Manitoba announced its new name and logo this week.** Check out their FB page, [Woven](https://www.facebook.com/Woven), to see their new logo and postings. Email woven.mcm@gmail.com to ask to be added to their Email List to receive Book Club and Conversation Circle announcements.

- CMU's **Xplore 55+ Enrichment program** offers courses exploring dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it – all without assignments or exams! **Eight online courses are offered on Wednesday mornings from March 3 – April 7** Go to www.cmu.ca/xplore for information and to register.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Greg Costen is recovering at home after a fall. He has a cracked vertebrae and is in a neck brace. Pray for healing and patience.

- Jim & Marlene Dyck are settling in at Katherina Courts where they will be until their house is repaired. They are grateful for the prayers, emails and phone calls they have received. They are doing well.

- Pray for Pastor Dan as he resumes full time pastoral duties.

- Pray for Ken & Marianne Braun and Mike Tarnick who are at Eastview.

- Ken Hamm is Ken is back in Health Science Center (since Feb 21), now waiting for test results. He is stable and starting to eat. Pray for continued return of strength and peace.

- Pray for all those for whom mental health makes daily life a struggle. The current situation increases anxiety for many.

- Pray for those who experience physical pain, and for friends and family who help with their care.

- Many of our church family have other family they are concerned about. Pray for healing, strength and calm for all.

Prayer for Our Community

- Pray for ALL the teachers, students and staff as they navigate all the regulations and requirements.

- Pray also for the Health Care Providers.

- Pray for Doug Klassen (MCCanada's Executive Minister) and for church leaders at all levels of our conference.

- Michael Pahl is the new MCManitoba's Executive Minister.

Prayer for the World

- The MCCanada Palestine-Israel Network requests prayers that the elections scheduled for March 23 be fair and free for all citizens of the state of Israel (i.e., not including the occupied Palestinian territories), both for Jewish Israelis and for the Palestinian minority. We ask that God will guide the elections so that justice, equality and peace may come to the land.