

## **PRAYER FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

- Pray for all teachers and students during this school year. The changing restrictions make it difficult to create a learning environment.
- Pray for all the Health Care Providers.
- Pray for Doug Klassen (MCCanada's Executive Minister) and for church leaders at all levels of our conference.
- Pray for Michael Pahl, our MCManitoba's Executive Minister.
- MCI has 4 International students waiting for VISAS to come to Canada to study. They requests prayers for this.

## **PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD**

- **Please be in prayer for the people of BC-** Intensive rainfall over the weekend has closed all major highways leading into and out of Vancouver and Fraser Valley, flooding in lower areas has meant evacuations for many people, other people have been stranded away from home because of impassable roads. MCBC has one church (Yarrow) in an evacuated area. Some other churches are dealing with flooding in basements and leaking roofs.
- **Ongoing violence in Ethiopia** - As you hear news reports about the increasing violence in Ethiopia, please keep the Meserete Kristos Church in your prayers. This sibling in the global Mennonite World Conference needs our prayers for safety, unity and peace.
- **Palestinians face continued occupation** – consider ways to help - As we approach November 29, the United Nations Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, please pray for all living in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem. In addition to the ill economic and health effects of the pandemic, Palestinians continue to suffer under Israel's military occupation of their lands through home evictions, demolition of homes and orchards, incarceration of children as young as 12 and the killing and injuring of protesters. Please pray that Israeli leaders respect rights and freedoms for all, and consider giving fair-trade Palestinian products this Christmas. Visit <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/pin> for more information.

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

"remember the children", a sculpture by Ken Loewen, was created to acknowledge the findings of Indigenous children's graves and the trauma experienced at residential schools.

## **"Loose the Chains of Injustice" a space for reflection – a call to peacebuilding**

The words of Jesus in Luke 4:18-19 speak the heart of his ministry and the heart of the ministry of the Church that carries the presence of Jesus in the world:

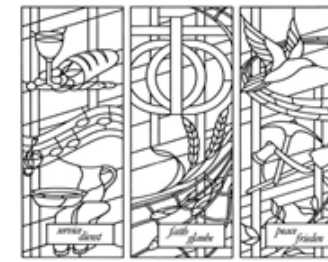
*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor;  
to proclaim release to the captives,  
recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord."*

For the coming weeks a space has been created in the church foyer for reflection and prayer as we continue to seek the path forward to live in Truth & Reconciliation.

The art installation, "Loose the Chains of Injustice," by Ken Loewen, both guide, and open a path to deeper reflection and prayer. You are invited to come prior to the Sunday morning worship service, or at other times during the week. Let this space, as it echoes Jesus' reference to Isaiah 58, prepare us for the coming season of Advent. God is with us, and God calls us to be a people of shalom in our world.

### **From The Pastor: A Season of Learning**

While our fall theme *A Season of Learning* is drawing to a close, the ongoing work of Reconciliation remains. The search for the forgotten children of Residential Schools continues as more land is searched for unmarked graves. We are mindful and pray for all who are still in the fearful grip of the aftermath of violent colonisation. During this *Season of Learning* we have grown in wisdom and understanding; we have joined in a small part of the overall work of God in this world. Our prayers in this season of learning have borne fruit, "Show us your ways, O Lord, teach us your paths. Guide us in your truth and teach us, for you are God our Savior, and our hope is in you all day long." Our task as ones who believe in the God of love is to continue to seek truth in a spirit of reconciliation. We need to be always present in the humble space of learning, for this is where true wisdom arises. We need to continue to be gentle with our neighbours, have a passion for truth, and pray for the courage to call out racism, prejudice and discrimination in all its forms. And at all times seek to know the earth and its inhabitants as 'all our relations' so that we might learn anew how to be agents of peace in the web of life that is held together by the Great Mystery of love.



# Altona Mennonite Church

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

VOLUME LX No.47

November 21, 2021

## ***A Season of Learning*** ***What would Zacchaeus do? – TRC Call to Action #92***

### **Gathering**

Prelude  
Welcome and Announcements  
Hymn VT #223 Bless'd Be the God of Israel

### **Call to Worship** (inspired by Psalm 146)

Happy are those whose hope is in God,  
maker of heaven and earth--

#### **for God keeps faith forever!**

God executes justice for the oppressed  
and gives food for the hungry.

#### **God sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind.**

God lifts up those who are bowed down.

#### **God watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow.**

People of God, sing praise to the One who is your help—  
**for God keeps faith forever!**

### **Opening Prayer**

Faithful God, you draw near to us in our joy and in our grief,  
in our hope and in our despair.

When we are bowed down, you raise us anew.

We turn to you now in search of your healing touch.

God of compassion and love, move among us this hour.

#### **AMC Contact information:**

Pastor: Dan Kehler [amcpastordan@gmail.com](mailto:amcpastordan@gmail.com) 204-324-6773

Office Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 9:30 am to Noon

Secretary: Lori Hiebert: C: 204-324-5952

Email address: [altonamennonite@gmail.com](mailto:altonamennonite@gmail.com)

Website: [altonamennonitechurch.ca](http://altonamennonitechurch.ca)

Custodians: Dale Klassen 204-324-7458 Sandra Klassen 204-324-1475

*Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.*

Open our eyes, dispel our fears,  
and show us the real life you have to offer.  
We pray this in the name of the Risen One,  
Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

~ posted on the United Church of Christ's **Worship**  
**Ways** website. <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/>

Scripture Reading: Micah 6:6-8  
Hymn VT #207 What does the Lord Require of You?

### Listening

Children's Time  
Scripture: Deuteronomy 24:17-21; Luke 19:1-10  
Hymn VT #800 With My Voice Alone  
Sermon Climbing down out of the tree Pastor Dan Kehler

### Responding

Hymn VT #791 Let Justice Flow Down  
Congregational Prayer  
Hymn VT #540 Will You Come and Follow Me  
Benediction  
Postlude

Worship Leader: Elaine Loewen  
Musicians: Dave & Hildie Regehr  
Recording Technician: Nathan Loewen

### TRC #92

*We call upon the corporate sector in Canada to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as a reconciliation framework and to apply its principles, norms and standards to corporate policy and core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources. This would include, but not be limited to the following:*

*i. Commit to meaningful consultation, building respectful relationships, and obtaining the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples before proceeding with economic development projects.*

*ii. Ensure that Aboriginal peoples have equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities in the corporate sector, and that Aboriginal communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects.*

*iii. Provide education for management and staff on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the UNDRIP, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.*

### **WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC**

Nov. 22 **7:00 pm Decorating for Advent – Please bring snacks for a time together after the decorating.**

Nov. 23 7:30 pm Leadership Council

Nov. 28 First Advent Sunday

10:00 am Coffee and Discussion Group

11:00 am Worship Service

*Theme:* Dare to imagine God's song!

*Speaker:* Music morning *Scripture:* Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18 *Worship Leader:* Andrea Hildebrand *Musicians:* Marilyn Houser Hamm and others *Recording:* Loren Braul

Dec. 5 10:00 am Coffee and Discussion Group

11:00 am Worship Service – 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent

**Birthdays:** November 23 – Lil Gerbrandt; November 26 – Karey Hildebrand

### **AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Join us next Sunday as we begin the Advent series "Dare to Imagine". We begin with Dare to Imagine God's Song, led by Marilyn Houser Hamm and other musicians. We will celebrate with the new hymnal.

- Update on the contact information for Don & Ang Enns:

Don – 204-324-4320 [tallgrass\\_farm@yahoo.ca](mailto:tallgrass_farm@yahoo.ca)

Ang – 204-324-4046 [ang\\_enns@yahoo.ca](mailto:ang_enns@yahoo.ca)

No more land line.

- The Central Manitoba Youth Choir has released a video in lieu of their annual fall tour. The first song "Ambe" is written by Andrew Balfour, a Winnipeg-based composer of Cree descent. Loren Hiebert is the accompanist. The link is: <https://youtu.be/JcLbPJ-SG00>

### **WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Levi Froese, the new chaplain at Eastview/Gardens is asking for more musical components as part of the spiritual care programs. If you are interested in sharing your gifts of music, please email him at [levijohnfroese@gmail.com](mailto:levijohnfroese@gmail.com) to let him know.

- YFC Taco Drive Thru Fundraiser, Nov. 24 at the Pioneer Center, from 4-7 pm By donation

- **Find the perfect locally-made gift at the Christmas Craft and Quilt Sale for MCC!** Shop and support MCC's sewing kits and material resources. **Saturday, November 27, 9:00am – 4:00pm** at Bethel Mennonite Church, 465

Stafford St, Winnipeg. All COVID-19 protocols apply, masks and proof of vaccination required.

- **Break the Bank-uet 2.** Camps with Meaning Online Fundraising Event. Join camp staff for music, updates, a celebration of Summer 2021 ministry, and of course, breaking the bank. Go to [www.campswithmeaning.org/banquet](http://www.campswithmeaning.org/banquet) to watch the video.

- **Prepare the Way! Advent Afternoon @ Assiniboia**

You are invited to bring your friends and family to Camp Assiniboia for an afternoon of harp music, singing, drama, and more. Saturday, Dec. 4th, 1 pm - 4 pm. More info to follow soon.

- **The Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund** is now accepting referrals for Christmas Hampers. These referrals can be called in to 204-324-7167. When calling in referrals please have the following information: name of referral, number of children in the family with age and gender of child, physical address, mailing address and phone number. Deadline for referrals is noon on December 10. Just a friendly reminder that the referrals must live in the R.M. of Rhineland. Donations can be hand delivered to Pembina Valley Pharmacy, Access Credit Union - Gretna, Altona or Plum Coulee locations or by mailing the donation to Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund, Box 2255, Altona, MB R0G 0B0.

- **MCI is hiring a part-time Prep Cook** to start immediately. For more information on the job duties and requirements, please visit or contact Ryan Potter, Director of Finance, at [ryanpotter@mciblues.net](mailto:ryanpotter@mciblues.net)

- **November 30 is Giving Tuesday.** MCI invites you to contribute to their Dormitory Lounge ReFresh. It was built in 1993 and needs some renovation after 3 decades of students have made the space their home.

- **Visit MCI's Facebook page** to see a "day in the life" at MCI.

### **PRAYER AND PRAISE**

- Steven Wiebe is requesting prayer for him and his family. He is very concerned about Emily and how she lives with her disability. Also the family is still going through emotional struggles at the loss of Tim.

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

- 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 people they are concerned about. Pray for healing, strength and calm for all.