

## **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.

## **PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD**

- **Prayer for Burkina Faso** - Calixte Bananzaro, president of the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Burkina Faso, has shared that terrorists have chased habitants in the northwest regions of the country from their villages, stolen their livestock and burned their stores of grain. Pray for an end to the violence in Burkina Faso.
- **Mennonite World Conference Indonesia** - Please keep the leaders and staff of Mennonite World Conference in your prayers as they plan for the July 2022 gathering in Indonesia amidst uncertainty of worldwide travel. They will decide in February 2022 how those meetings will take place, on site or online. Pray for strength, grace and wisdom as they find ways for us to be church together in this way.

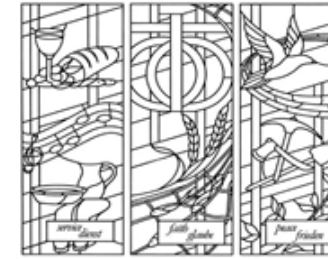
*If you would like to add or remove any prayer requests, please contact the church office.*

## **From The Pastor:**

### **Advent to Epiphany Theme - Dare to Imagine.**

While 2021 started with hope and positive resolve, the year has been again shaped by pandemic realities that caused conflict, struggle, remorse and grief. While there are signs of recovery, so much has been put on hold or turned upside down. While the situation has caused a kind of forced limbo, might we be able to see it as liminal time. Liminal time is the time in-between what we know and what is uncertain. It is emerging from darkness into the light. It is moving from uncertainty to hope. It is a time when we need to listen and respond to God's presence with new ears and renewed hearts and minds.

As Advent marks a new church year, can we *Dare to Imagine* a path forward with God toward God's good dream for our world. Rooted in our lives of faith and our trust in the Spirit, and arising from our engagement with the Scripture texts, the theme *Dare to Imaging* allows us to speak aloud our laments of things lost, share confessions of wavering faith, and express new hopes for coming days. It is an invitation to look for a new language to express our faithfulness. Renewed energy to engage and honor the imagination of our children. Find fresh courage to move beyond our comfort zones. And to raise our voices as we sing our praise to God. Each week's scripture readings will help us *Dare to Imagine* God's song, God's embrace, God's goodness, God's face, God's robe, and God's dance. Advent is upon us. Together let us *Dare to Imagine* a future shaped by God's desires for God's good creation.



# Altona Mennonite Church

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

VOLUME LX No.50

December 12, 2021

## ***Third Advent - Dare to imagine God's Goodness!***

### **IMAGINING GOD'S GOODNESS**

Prelude

Hymn VT #259 To Us a Child of Hope Is Born  
Call to Worship

Candle Lighting / O Little Town of Bethlehem

### **Candle Litany**

Leader: We light a candle of hope. And we imagine:

**People: God's righteousness, God's steadfast love,  
God's justice.**

Leader: We light the candle to see God's goodness in us,  
among us.

**People: Imagine that . . . we are God's wonders,  
blessed wonders.**

Hymn VT #276 Solemn Stillness  
Welcome and Announcements

### **RECEIVING NEW HOPE**

#### **Confession and Assurance**

Leader: A friend once said children grow taller at night—  
while at rest—bones quietly stretch, and bit by bit their  
bodies grow.  
Trees grow silently, too—  
from deep inside—energy is released.  
Branches reach for the light.  
People can grow silently, too.

#### **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.*

**People: We confess that all too often we stifle the growth God inspires deep inside of us, preferring the immediate, the good enough, the comfortable.**

Leader: In Advent—O God—cause us to get up on our tiptoes, lean forward, and extend our gaze.

**People: Surely God, who caused the righteous Branch to spring up, will enliven our imaginations in this season of hope.** (*silence*)

Leader: The kingdom of God is near.

Listen—can you hear it?

Look—can you see it?

Our God says, "Surely the days are coming—they are already here!"

Hymn VT #210 O Come, O Come, Immanuel

Children's Time

Hymn VT #216 Lo, How a Rose

Scripture Jeremiah 33:14-16, Luke 2:1-5

Message Courage to Hope Pastor Dan Kehler

### RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE

Hymn VT #710 This is My Song

Prayers for the World

Benediction

Hymn VT #828 There's a Wild Hope in the Wind

Postlude

Worship Leader: Marilyn Houser Hamm

Musicians: Loren & Lori Hiebert, Kevin Neufeld, Cayden Wood

Candle Lighter: Elliot Rempel

Recording: Dale Klassen

### WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

Dec. 19 9:30 am Coffee and Discussion Group

11:00 am Worship Service – 4<sup>th</sup> Advent

*Theme:* Dare to imagine God's face! *Speaker:* Pastor Dan Kehler *Scripture:* Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; 1 Thess. 3:9-13; Luke 21:24-36 *Worship Leader:* Ang Enns *Musicians:*

Dave & Hildie Regehr *Recording:* Nathan Loewen

Dec. 21 7:00 pm Longest Night service

Dec. 24 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service

(Will need to show vaccination card to attend)

Dec. 25 No Christmas Morning Service this year

Dec. 26 11:00 am Worship Service

January 2, 2022 11:00 am Worship Service

**Birthdays:** December 16 – Elizabeth Falk

**Anniversaries:** December 17 – Dan & Crystal Kehler

### AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thank you to Shaun and Sidney Hildebrand, Elliot and Mary-Grace Rempel, Leo and Frederick Dyck, Simon and Rosie Braul, Cayden, Mason, and Finn Wood for their creativity in decorating the Advent wreath. Thanks also to Margruite Krahn and Karen Martens for their leadership.

- Vaccination Cards are required for attendance at AMC. They will need to be seen anew for the Christmas Eve service.

- **From the treasurer:** We are nearing the end of the second year in which Covid has touched our lives. The Pandemic has touched many areas of our lives, including our church life and its finances. Yet you have continued to give generously, and so AMC has continued to function, and to contribute to the wider work of the church. Now, we come to the usual crunch; with about 3 weeks left in the year, we need almost \$18,000 to meet all our expenses and commitments. We ask you to consider giving an extra gift in the next weeks. Thank you.

- **All who attend AMC may receive a subscription to Canadian Mennonite.** The biweekly magazine is delivered by mail and email. Subscriptions are paid for collectively through Mennonite Church Manitoba. To start a new subscription or to change your delivery preferences (to receive print, digital or both), please contact Lori Hiebert at [altonamennonite@gmail.com](mailto:altonamennonite@gmail.com) by December 30.

### WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Christmas at CMU** – Watch this year's Christmas at CMU program from the comfort of your own home. Christmas favourites performed by current CMU instrumental and choral ensembles, this is our gift of glad tidings and joy to you! Visit [cmu.ca/christmas](http://cmu.ca/christmas).

- **Handel's Messiah** performed by the CMU Festival Chorus and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra on December 15 at 7:30 PM. Visit [wso.ca](http://wso.ca) for more information. To watch online (for only \$10) visit [mywso.tv/products/handel-s-messiah](http://mywso.tv/products/handel-s-messiah).

- The Longest Night service, December 21, 7 pm is being held at AMC this year. If you grieving the death of a family member or friend or any other loss, you are welcome to attend. Proof of double vaccination will be required.

- In response to the Nov 18 and 19 arrests of Wet'suwet'en land defenders and elders attempting to stop construction of a natural gas pipeline across their unceded territory, MCM's Climate Action Working Group invites us to donate to the legal defense fund of those arrested.

Donations can be made at:

<https://go.rallyup.com/wetsuwetenstrong/Campaign/Details>

- **Mennonite Church Manitoba** invites applications for two full-time positions: "Director of Mission Engagement" and "Director of Leadership Ministries". Visit the MCM website for the job description. [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/get-involved](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/get-involved)

- Camp Assiniboia is hiring kitchen helpers. For more info contact Lauren Gervais

[cakitchen@campswithmeaning.org](mailto:cakitchen@campswithmeaning.org) 204-799-5005. For other job opportunities, visit [www.campswithmeaning.org/news](http://www.campswithmeaning.org/news)

### PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Vic Penner has been moved from HSC to Misericordia and remains in hospital. Pain is still being managed. His age and cancer have curtailed any hip surgery. The family is grateful for your prayers.

- Mark Sawatzky remains in a Calgary hospital. Testing continues. He is undergoing physiotherapy and his walking is improving slowly. Praise the Lord. Thank you for your prayers.

- 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.