

PRAYER FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- Pray for all teachers and students during this winter break from the school year. The changing restrictions make it difficult to create a learning environment. On-line learning resumes for the time being.
- 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

- **New Witness workers on their way to Ethiopia this January** - Join in praise and prayer with Witness workers Werner and Joanne De Jong as they make their way to Ethiopia to serve with the Meserete Kristos Seminary on January 16, 2022. After waiting the fall semester for visas, they are finally able to travel.
- **Vaccines finally available in northeast Thailand** - After months of waiting, vaccines are now readily available in the Issan northeast area of Thailand where Witness workers Tom and Christine Poovong live and serve. Praise God that people can get this help as the Omicron variant catches hold in the area.
- **Pray for training of church leaders in Angola** - As part of Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission, leaders of the Mennonite Church of Angola have asked for prayer for the church's leadership training school which prepares pastors and other church workers for ministry. Pray for encouragement for participants and that they will be blessings to the church and to their communities.
- **Conflict at Wet'suwet'en continues** - Please pray for Wet'suwet'en water protectors who are currently asserting their sovereignty in the face of yet another large-scale mobilization of militarized police. On Jan. 4, Wet'suwet'en water protectors executed a nonviolent, strategic retreat to avoid arrest and violence at the hands of dozens of militarized RCMP. Take action by following [Gidimt'en Checkpoint](#) on social media and watching a recent [Mennonite Church Canada webinar](#) about solidarity with Wet'suwet'en.

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

From The Pastor: Sensing the Gospel

"We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life ..." (1 John 1:1)

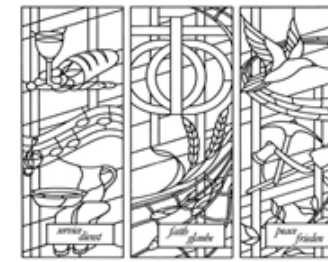
In Jesus Christ, the salvation God provides cannot be reduced to an idea or abstraction. Salvation happens, instead, in human flesh. Indeed, God arrives as human flesh. Moreover, people encountered Jesus in their own bodies. These were real people in real contact with a real man from Galilee. Even today, we encounter God and God's salvation in embodied ways — in our bodies' abilities to perceive familiar realities and to interpret new ones.

~Matthew L. Skinner is Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary

The words of John and the commentary by Matt Skinner provide the starting point in AMC's winter theme of *Sensing the Gospel*. One of the things that the pandemic has reminded us of, is that we experience life through our bodies. We talk of COVID weight gain, COVID hair, and COVID fatigue. One of the symptoms is loss of taste and smell. Loneliness is caused when we cannot be physically present with our friends and family. The stories of family not allowed to be present as a loved one dies are heart breaking. While a screen may provide a level of connection it fails as a way of being present in the room to provide support for the dying and the grieving.

Sensing the Gospel invites us to think about Jesus' ability to make God known in tangible, sensory ways. It allows us to reflect on who we are as ones who experience all of life in bodily interactions. It challenges us as we seek to understand how we bear witness to the gospel. It gives us space to learn to encounter God among us and to know Christ through our bodies.

This preaching series was planned when omicron wasn't known to exist. It was hoped that it might help us reconnect with the community of God's people as we gathered in body once again. It doesn't feel right that we are meeting virtually. May we be ever mindful of the gift it is to worship in one space with every body who is there.



Altona Mennonite Church

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

VOLUME LXI No.2

January 9, 2022

IMAGINING GOD'S ROBE

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn VT#273 Arise, Your Light Is Come!

Psalms 148 Litany

Leader: Alleluia! Praise Yahweh from the heavens!

Praise God in the heights. Praise God, sun and moon.

All: Praise God, all you shining stars!

Leader: Praise God from the earth, sea creatures and ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and mist.

Sing praise to God, mountains and hills.

fruit trees and cedars, small animals and flying birds.

Let them praise God's name.

All: Let all creation praise the name of Yahweh, whose name alone is exalted.

Leader: Praise God's name!

All: Alleluia!

Opening Prayer

Hymn HWB #221 Hail! the bless'd morn (Star of the East)

RECEIVING GOOD NEWS

Hymn VT#86 You Are Exalted

Scripture Reading:

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Luke 2:41-52

Hymn VT #267 & 268 What Child is This/Helpless and Hungry

AMC Contact information:

Pastor: Dan Kehler amcpastordan@gmail.com 204-324-6773

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

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

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

Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

Message Clothe yourself in love Pastor Dan Kehler

RESPONDING

Hymn VT #715 Longing for Light

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Prayers for the World

SENDING

Hymn VT #258 Love Has Come

Benediction

Hymn VT #71 Praise God (Doxology) vs A

Postlude

Worship Leader: Andrea Hildebrand

Musician: Marilyn Houser Hamm

Recording: Nathan Loewen

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

SERVICES WILL BE PRE-RECORDED FOR NOW

January 11 7:30 pm Leadership Council Meeting

January 12 7:15 pm Worship Committee Meeting

January 14 Deadline for AGM Reports

January 16 Worship Service

Theme: Sensing the Gospel: Touch *Speaker:* Pastor Dan Kehler *Scripture:* Luke 7:11-15; Reb. 21:1-4; Psalm 118:15-17 *Worship Leader:* Elaine Loewen *Musician(s):* Sylvia Klassen, Gina Enns

Recording: Loren Braul

January 23 Worship Service

Birthdays: January 10 – Karen Martens; January 14 – Frederic Dyck; January 16 – Sylvia Klassen

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- From the treasurer:

Good news from the treasurer! Thanks to all your generous donations, we think we will have sufficient funds to meet all our expenses and obligations. For the first time in 3 years we will be able to submit the full budgeted amounts to the Conference and our other commitments. This is exciting, and we are most grateful for your faithful giving in this difficult year. Thank you!

WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Join MCC Manitoba! We are looking for a [Constituency Relations Coordinator](#) who thrives on connecting with people and building meaningful relationships. In this role, you will deepen engagement and broaden awareness of MCC's relief, development and peace work with church communities and other groups. The position is halftime with a flexible home office base. Apply online at mccmb.ca/openings.

- **Mennonite Disaster Service Canada** is looking for an Accountant to join our Winnipeg staff team. We are hoping to fill this half time position in the new year. First review of applications will take place on Jan 3rd. For information on how to apply and for a job description please visit our website (MDS.org – 'About' – 'Employment').

- Collecting stories of people's experiences with Spiritual Direction. If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact Laura Funk, Spiritual Director in Residence at Mennonite Church Manitoba. LFunk@mennochurch.mb.ca

- **Mennonite Church Manitoba** invites applications for the position of "Director of Leadership Ministries". Visit the MCM website for job description. www.mennochurch.mb.ca/get-involved

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Jean Tarnick is in BTHC after surgery for a broken hip and more recently, a perforated stomach. She will be there a while for rehab. Pray for patience and healing.

- 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.

- Please keep Mark Sawatzky in your prayers. He was discharged from the hospital and is back home. We hope and pray things will go well. Pray also for Sarah and Murray who are here.

- 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.