

Prayers for the World

- Please pray for the people in Ukraine. This week, they were invaded by Russia. They also continue to deal with rampant COVID-19 cases as well as rising inflation making access to basic goods and services more difficult and more expensive.

- **Training in Thailand** - Witness workers Tom and Christine Poovong work with lay church leaders, many of whom have little or no training. Pray that they will be able to respond to the requests for training in ways that will answer the needs of Thai leaders. Praise God for these leaders and their families as they take on this responsibility. To donate to ministry in Thailand, visit mennonitechurch.ca/thailand.

- **Mentoring young leaders in Philippines** - Lakan and Lakambini (Dann and Joji Pantoja), Witness workers in the Philippines, mentor young leaders who have the vision to carry their ministry of peacebuilding and reconciliation on the island of Mindanao into the future. Pray that these new leaders would be granted wisdom, strength and joy as they follow Jesus in difficult circumstances. To donate to ministry in the Philippines, see mennonitechurch.ca/peacebuildingphilippines.

- **De Jongs must leave Ethiopia** - Werner and Joanne De Jong, Witness workers serving in Ethiopia at Meserete Kristos Seminary, have left Ethiopia due to visa complications. They plan to stay in Macedonia for a week, while they re-apply to enter the country and stay for the rest of the semester. Please pray for peace for them in this discouraging situation. To donate to ministry in Ethiopia, visit mennonitechurch.ca/ethiopia.

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

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.

From The Pastor: Seeking God's ways

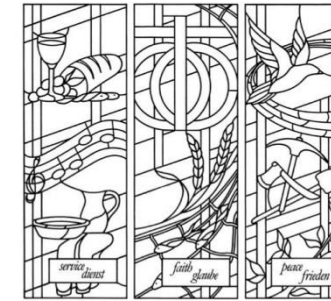
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. —Isaiah 55:8

The Bible texts for each Sunday in Lent 2022 reveal a truth about the ways of God. The trouble is that in many ways God's people get it wrong. Scripture after Scripture is about how people think God offers one thing (privilege), but what God really offers looks quite different (inclusion); how we think the world works one way (scarcity), but really it works a different way (abundance); how we think power means one thing (control), but it is really found in something else (solidarity). This is what the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he says, "God's way is not our way."

When we look at scripture through the lens of Jesus life affirming teaching, rejection of power structures, humble suffering and sacrifice, we begin *Seeking God's Ways*. Lent is a time to repent—to turn from our ways and recommit ourselves to the ways of God as revealed in Jesus. Within this theme of *Seeking God's Ways* we find space and encouragement to explore the many ways our congregation is being called to greater faithfulness.

RESOURCE FOR WEEKDAY SPIRITUALITY

Lenten Guided Prayer is a seven-week resource prepared annually by Mennonite Spiritual Directors of Eastern Canada using Leader's Lenten Scriptures and theme. Participants practice contemplative prayer to become more aware of the Spirit of God moving in our lives; participants may meet in small groups to share. For more information and to order for use in your congregation, search "Lenten Guided Prayer" at CommonWord (www.CommonWord.ca).



Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXI No.9

February 27, 2022

Sensing the Gospel: Smell

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Hymn VT 40 In Thy Holy Place We Bow

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Praise – adapted from

"Calling on God" by Peter Bankson & Deborah Sokolove

Hymn VT 177 All Things Bright and Beautiful

HEARING

Scripture Psalm 141:1-22; Corinthians 2:14-16

Hymn VT 527 Bless the Arms That Comfort

Scripture John 12:1-3

Message Fragrant Grace Pastor Dan Kehler

SHARING GOD'S STORY

Hymn VT 721 Christ Be in Your Senses

Prayers of the People

Leader: Lord in your mercy People: Hear our prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn VT 811 Use Us, God

Postlude

Worship Leader: Lori Hiebert

Musicians: Loren & Lori Hiebert

Recording: Dale Klassen

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

Email address: altonamennonite@gmail.com

Website: altonamennonitechurch.ca

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

Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

March 6 11:00 am Worship Service – 1st Sunday of Lent
Theme: From security to generosity *Scripture:* Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Luke 4:1-13; Romans 10:8b-13
Speaker: Pastor Dan Kehler *Worship Leader:* TBA
Musician(s): Mary Costen, Marilyn Houser Hamm *Recording:* Nathan Loewen
March 8 7:15 pm Worship Committee meeting
March 13 11:00 am Worship Service – 2nd Sun. of Lent
1:00 pm AGM
March 20 11:00 am Worship Service – 3rd Sun. of Lent

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A few changes to the directory:

Marne Mierau Friesen's new email is marnejill@gmail.com

Mick Friesen's is mickfriesen29@gmail.com

Ray and Doreen Mierau have added a land line 204-542-0796

Ken & Elaine Loewen's new email keloew69@gmail.com

- **AGM moved to March 13** and will be held in the sanctuary to allow for a bit more spacing. Report books are on the lobby table, one per household. Reports are also online on our website.

- As we move into the new year, please remember that a new budget will be presented at our AGM. You may contribute online if you bank at Access Credit Union (using your 7-digit phone number as your account number), make an e-transfer to amchurchdonations@gmail.com, or send a cheque to AMC (Box 1237, Altona, MB, R0G 0B0). Thank you for your continued generosity.

WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENT

- YFC – The Station is currently seeking to add a new staff member to lead our outreach/ and young women's ministry programs. We are hoping to hire the right candidate by July 1, 2022. See the poster on the bulletin board for information.

- The Gardens on Tenth is hiring an accounting and payroll clerk. This is a full-time position, with a competitive salary and comprehensive Benefit Package. For full job description and requirements, see www.gardensontenth.ca

- **Registration is open for all of our camps** – day, overnight, farm, outtrip, ADV – we are so looking forward to being together this summer! Staff and volunteer applications are also available – we need you too. www.campswithmeaning.org

- **Camp Assiniboia** invites applications for the "Facilities Manager" position. Visit www.campswithmeaning.org/news for more info.

- **Afternoon of Equipping - Congregational Care.** - Offering a tasting of stories, teachings, inspiration and connection. Over the 2 hour Zoom event you will have opportunity to choose from 12 different topics, all connected to Congregational Care. Mar 5. 2:00-4:00 Please see the MCM event page for all the options and for free registration. www.mennochurch.mb.ca/events

- Join the Day of Action for a Just Transition: March 12 We need a Just Transition to a sustainable future which prioritizes Indigenous people and workers in the energy sector. Here's an opportunity for churches to advocate for one. Gather a group, write a letter to your MP, deliver it to their office on March 12. Here's a helpful toolkit: <https://350.org/just-transition-day-of-action/> Contact Josiah Neufeld (jpaulneufeld@gmail.com) of the MCM Climate Action Working Group.

- Join the Nationwide Virtual Choir for Mennonite Church Canada Gathering 2022. Instructions and files at www.mennonitechurch.ca/gathering2022 Submissions held open until March 1.

- **Training in Peaceful Direct Action.** As Mennonites we are increasingly being asked to speak up for justice, drawing on our heritage as peacebuilders. On Saturday, March 19 from 10am-1pm, join members of many different MCM churches for a 3-hour virtual training session with Community Peacemaker Teams. Participants will learn de-escalation skills and tips about preparing for non-violent protest, interacting with police and counter-protestors, and practicing self-care. All are welcome! [Register here](#). Contact allegra@cpt.org with questions or to include your church as a sponsor. Sponsors of this CPT training session include: Hope Mennonite (Wpg); Home Street Mennonite (Wpg); Sargent Avenue Mennonite (Wpg); Seeds Church (Altona); Fort Garry Mennonite (Wpg)

- **Leaders of Mennonite Church Canada** are calling on the members, congregations and regional churches of Mennonite Church Canada to respond to the **climate emergency**. This document (available at www.mennonitechurch.ca/climate-action) includes six initiatives that "reflect our working commitments as a nationwide church." Also included is a recommended reading list – <https://www.commonword.ca/go/2809>.

- Earl Reimer is retiring from his position as Director of Development for the Eden Foundation as of March 31, 2022. Anyone interested in applying will find the Director of Development position posted on our website at www.edenhealthcare.ca/category/careers.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Jean Tarnick was transferred to the Altona Hospital after a decision to not continue with rehab. Pray for her and her children as they take the next steps for Jean's care.

- 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.

Prayer for Our Community

- Pray for all teachers and students in our community.

- 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.