

- **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, visit mennonitechurch.ca/ethiopia.

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

Prayer for the War in Ukraine - Carol Penner

God of hope,
we pray to you when hope is scarce
as our world convulses with the horror of war.
You alone know the extent of the crimes committed in Ukraine:
the people murdered, the homes and infrastructure destroyed,
the way violence comes as a calamity,
cutting a swath through the world.
Why is power concentrated in the hands of so few?
How can we make this war stop?
You alone know a way out of this quagmire of evil.
Help us find it.
Awaken those who dismiss this as someone else's problem.
Give world leaders wisdom as they impose sanctions,
looking for diplomatic and economic ways to end this aggression.
Raise up resistance to war in Russia itself.
Protect the people of Ukraine,

who are reeling from the trauma of invasion.
Open the arms of neighbouring countries
to take in refugees.
In times like these,
fill us with resolve rather than hatred.
Help us believe that justice will prevail,
that crimes will be prosecuted,
that peace can be found
even in the roar and rubble of war. Amen

From The Pastor: Seeking God's ways

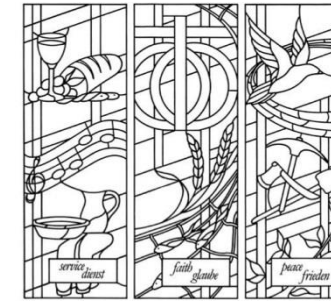
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. —Isaiah 55:8

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.10

March 6, 2022

First Sunday of Lent

"From Security to Generosity"

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord." -ISAIAH 55:1

GATHERING IN PRAISE

Prelude

Cong. Hymn VT #764 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues
Welcome & Introduction to Lent 2022

Call to Worship

Leader: Together we seek the way of God.

Women: Through the wilderness of Lent,

Men: Through the wilderness of life.

Leader: We crave the safety of God's shelter.

Women: the cool comfort of the divine shadow,

Men: the security of the holy fortress.

Leader: God offers the care of angels,

Women: the gentleness of creation,

Men: the protection of love.

Leader: God is generous to all who call on the holy name.

ALL: so come, let us seek God's way of generosity.

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Sung Invocation VT #309 Fill Us with Your Feast

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.

LISTENING FOR A VOICE

Scripture Reading Ps. 91:1-2,9-16; Romans 10:8b-13

Solo Give Me Jesus Mary Costen

Jesus Confronts his Tempter Adaptation of Luke 4:1-13

Message - The First Fruit of the Ground Pastor Dan Kehler

RESPONDING

Time of Reflection "Letting Go...."

Prayer of Confession (*adapt. from ISAIAH 55*)

Leader: Holy One,
we seek you while you may be found.

People: We call upon you while you are near.

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God,
for our thoughts are not your thoughts
and our ways are not your ways.

People: For give us for seeking security.

Lead us into your way of generosity.

Leader: As we walk with Christ on this Lenten journey
let us see your way more clearly.

ALL: and follow. your way more faithfully.

Cong. Hymn SS #63 Herr, fühl mich neu / God, fill me now

Prayers for the World

Cong. Hymn SS#56 Unless a grain of wheat

SENDING

Benediction

Leader: From where we are to where you need us,

ALL: Jesus, now lead on.

Leader: From the familiarity of what we know
to the wonder of what you will reveal,

ALL: Jesus, now lead on.

Leader: To transform the fabric of this world
until it resembles the shape of your kingdom;

ALL: Jesus, now lead on.

Leader: Because good things have been prepared
for those who love God;

ALL: Jesus, now lead on.

Cong. Hymn SS#35 Thou, O Christ, my Lord – vs. 1,2,4,5

Worship & Music Leaders: Mary Costen, Marilyn Houser Hamm

Scripture Readers: Elliot Rempel, Greg Costen

Musicians: Mary Costen, Marilyn Houser Hamm, Kevin Neufeld

Recording: Nathan Loewen

Adaptation of Luke 4: 1-13 from Stages on the Way-
WORSHIP RESOURCES FOR LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER, *Iona Community and the Wild Goose Resource Group. Used with permission.*

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

March 8 7:15 pm Worship Committee meeting

March 13 11:00 am Worship Service – 2nd Sun. of Lent
Theme: From fear to compassion *Scripture:* Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Luke 13:31-35; Phil. 3: 17-44 *Speaker:* Ray Hamm *Worship Leader:* Norma Thiessen *Musician(s):* Dave & Hildie Regehr *Recording:* Loren Braul

March 13 **1:00 pm AGM**

March 20 11:00 am Worship Service – 3rd Sun. of Lent

March 23 7:30 pm Leadership Council Meeting

Birthdays: March 8 – Nicole Wood; March 10 – Irv Giesbrecht; March 12 – Bryson Loewen

Anniversaries: March 10 – Albert & Sylvia Klassen

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **March 13 – 1 pm AGM. Bring a bag lunch.** The AGM will take place in the sanctuary.

- 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

- **Respond to the crisis in Ukraine.** MCC is responding to the crisis in Ukraine through its local partners. Russian military forces have invaded the country with missiles striking major cities and casualties continuing to grow. Your prayers and donations will help partners scale up their work, providing relief and trauma healing for vulnerable and displaced people. Donate today at mcccanada.ca/ukraine.

- **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.

- **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>.

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.

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

- Please pray for the people in Ukraine. 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.