

- Annual assembly for Colombia Mennonite Church -

Pray for the annual assembly of the Iglesia Cristiana Menonita de Colombia planned for March 18-21 in Cachipay, Colombia. Pray for President Yalile Caballero Vargas and other leaders as they plan for this gathering.

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

Prayer for Ukraine, by Rick Cober Bauman, Executive Director of MCC Canada.

Loving God, Creator of all peoples and source of all love.
We are saddened.
We are saddened by the unleashing of horror and destruction in Ukraine.
We are angry.
We are angry that lives are shattered, homes are levelled, and innocence is trampled.
We are dismayed.
We are dismayed that again the guns of war have drowned out the talks for peace.
And we pray.
We pray that hard hearts of conquest will be softened.
We pray that the very best practices of peace will prevail among leaders.
We pray gratefully that your Spirit of healing and hope is present
For victims suffering,
For soldiers fighting,
For leaders deciding.
And we are committed.
We are committed as your people, as disciples of your gospel of reconciliation, to wage peace as we are able in Ukraine, and in all your good and lovely creation.
All this we pray in the name and healing spirit of Jesus.
Amen.

From The Pastor: Seeking God's ways

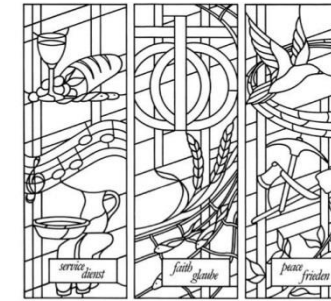
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. —Isaiah 55:8

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.11

March 13, 2022

**Second Sunday of Lent
"From Fear to Compassion"**

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

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Cong. Hymn VT #10 Here in This Place

Call to Worship

Leader: Together we seek the way of God

People: As disappointment oppresses and violence threatens

Leader: we come to ask: Whom shall we fear?

People: We come to be reminded of God's power and to be led more deeply into God's love.

Leader: We long to gather under the wings of Christ, as a mother hen,

All: and to learn the holy way of compassion.

Prayer of Invocation

Cong. Hymn VT #190 The God of Sarah Praise

LISTENING

Scripture Readings: Genesis 15:1-5; Luke 13:31-35;
Psalm 27:1-6, 13-14

Message Let Your Light Shine; Let Our Light Shine

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.

RESPONDING

Cong. Hymn VT #437 The Lord Is My Light

Lenten Prayer of Confession (adapted 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: Forgive us for living with fear.
Help us live out compassion.**

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

All: and follow your way more faithfully.

Prayers of the People

SENDING

Cong. Hymn VT #808 Between Darkness and Light

Benediction

Cong. Hymn VT #832 The Lord Lift You Up

Speaker: Ray Hamm

Worship Leader: Norma Thiessen

Musicians: Dave & Hildie Regehr

Recording: Loren Braul

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

March 20 11:00 am Worship Service – 3rd Sun. of Lent
Theme: From earning to receiving *Scripture:* Isaiah 55:1-9;
Psalm 63:1-8; Luke 13:1-9; 1 Cor. 10:1-13 *Speaker:* Dan
Kehler *Worship leader:* Marilyn Houser Hamm *Musician(s):*
Gina Enns, Sylvia Klassen *Recording:* Kevin Neufeld
March 23 7:30 pm Leadership Council Meeting
March 27 11:00 am Worship Service – 4th Sun. of Lent
Member welcome

Birthdays: March 15 – Marlene Wiebe; March 17 – Ashlyn
Loewen

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Harry and Susan Klassen are excited to announce the arrival of two more great grandchildren. Payton Adalynn, daughter of Angus and Carly Klassen, little sister to Isla, born February 18th, 2022 and Kasper Harry, son of Madison and Kyle Ross, born March 9, 2022. Congratulations to all!

- As we near the first quarter of our 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

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

- **War and Peace:** Don't miss this special live virtual visit on Wednesday, March 16 at 7 pm. Join us and hear from former MCC staff in Ukraine, Colombia, North Korea (DPRK) and our United Nations and Peace & Justice office directors, sharing about what peacebuilding looks like in the midst of conflict. Register at mcccanada.ca/mcc-webinar-series.

- **Upcoming mobile Blood Donor clinic:** Thursday, MARCH 24th at Altona - Rhineland Pioneer Centre, Main Floor Hall 227 10th Ave NW, Clinic time: 1:00 - 7:00 pm. Please call 1-888-236-6283, or go on-line to book your appointment - NO WALK INS PLEASE.

- **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 is in the Altona Hospital. She is gathering strength, able to walk a bit. 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.

- **Canadian pastors join ministry in Thailand** - Pastor couple Khampan and Tipauan work closely with Witness workers Tom and Christine Poovong to support and develop leadership within a network of 44 congregations and over 60 outreach groups. Pray for them as they travel to visit congregations and train pastors.

- **De Jongs able to finish term teaching** - Witness workers Werner and Joanne De Jong were granted a three-month visa to finish the semester teaching at Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia. They are thankful for your prayers and support. They continue to pursue longer-term visa options with the help of their hosts.