

**- Poovongs mentor leaders in food production**

Pray for the development of sustainable, organic food production by small groups and families in Thailand, who are part of Friends of Grace Church Association. Pray for Witness workers Tom and Christine Poovong as they help develop both spiritual and income-generation leaders in this ministry.

*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**

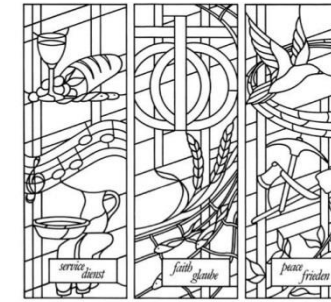
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. —Isaiah 55:8

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](http://www.CommonWord.ca)).



# Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXI No.12

March 20, 2022

**Third Sunday of Lent  
"From Earning to Receiving"**

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

**GATHERING**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Together we seek the way of God,  
Whose ways are not our ways,

**People: Whose thoughts are not our thoughts,**

Leader: Today we accept God's invitation to the feast,

**People: Where there is water in the desert,**

**And delightful food to share,**

Leader: Let us gratefully receive the abundant gifts of God

**People: Without money, and without price, for all.**

**ALL: Let us praise God and sing for joy!**

Hymn of Praise VT 34 We Praise You, O God Our Redeemer

Prayer of Invocation

**RECEIVING THE WORD**

Puppet Skit – Lessons in Receiving

Hymn VT 168 Peace to You

Scriptures: Psalm 63:1-8; Luke 13:1-9

Message Giving a Fig Pastor Dan Kehler

**AMC Contact information:**

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

*Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.*

Prayer of Confession (adapted from Isaiah 55:1-9)

Leader: Gracious God,

May we seek you as you continually seek us,

**People: We call on you, for you are near;**

**Have mercy on us, O God,**

Leader: We struggle to find your ways;

Our thoughts are not Your thoughts;

**People: Forgive us for living in fear;**

**Release us to live compassion.**

Leader: Teach us to pray as Jesus taught us.....

**ALL: (Our Father, ....).**

### **RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE**

Hymn VT 161 I Sought the Lord

Praying for the World

Hymn VT 808 Between Darkness and Light

### **SENDING**

Benediction - based on I Cor. 13

Hymn VT 613 God Be with Us

Postlude

Worship Leader: Marilyn Houser Hamm

Musicians: Gina Enns, Sylvia Klassen

Recording: Kevin Neufeld

Puppet Show Kids: Elliot and Mary Grace Rempel, Simon

Braul, Fredric and Leo Dyck, Cayden and Mason Wood

### **WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC**

March 23 7:30 pm Leadership Council Meeting

March 27 11:00 am Worship Service – 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Lent  
Member welcome

*Theme:* From exceptionalism to inclusion *Scripture:* Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; Luke 15:1-3; 11b-32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

*Speaker:* Dan Kehler *Worship leader:* Ang Enns

*Musician(s):* Lori & Loren Hiebert *Recording:* Dale Klassen

April 3 11:00 am Worship Service – 5<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Lent

April 10 11:00 am Worship Service – Palm Sunday

April 15 Good Friday service with Communion

April 17 Easter

**Birthdays:** March 20 – Marlene Dyck; March 24 – Ken Loewen, Sarah Sawatzky, John Thiessen

**Anniversaries:** March 25 – Greg & Lorraine Heinrichs

### **AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 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](mailto: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](http://mcccanada.ca/ukraine).

- **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](http://www.campswithmeaning.org)

- **Camp Assiniboia** invites applications for the "Facilities Manager" position. Visit [www.campswithmeaning.org/news](http://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](http://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.

- **Witness workers on the move** - Witness workers Lakan and Lakambini are moving to a new home in the Philippines, after living and ministering from the same location since 2014. Pray that their new space will be adequate for their needs and a blessing to their ministry.

- **China experiences another wave**- Another wave of COVID restrictions is sweeping across China, resulting in the closing of small house churches. Pray that leaders will have wisdom to know how to care for the believers and to encourage them to love and peaceful living in a difficult time.