

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.
- **Myanmar conflict continues** - As we watch with horror the images of Ukrainian refugees fleeing bombing and burning buildings, please continue to pray also for the continued bombings and atrocities of the Myanmar army on its own people. Pray for Anabaptist brothers and sisters in the Chin state.
- **Colombian church feeds Venezuelan refugees** - Many congregations within the Iglesia Cristiana Menonita de Colombia (IMCOL) are feeding, housing and caring for refugees from Venezuela. Pray that God will provide what the Colombian churches need to meet the physical and spiritual needs of these new neighbours.
- **Prayer for elections in ministry countries** Important elections are upcoming in Colombia and Philippines, and possibly in Thailand later this year. Pray for peace in the process of choosing new leaders. That God will "let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." Pray for and send messages of encouragement to the Witness workers and our siblings in faith in these places. (Send messages to jhanson@mennonitechurch.ca.)

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

From The Pastor:

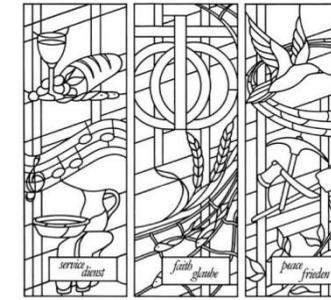
Imprecatory Psalms – a response to the war in Ukraine

I've always struggled with what are called Imprecatory Psalms. These are the psalms that call on God to enact justice when evil seems to have the upper hand. An example is Psalm 7:14–16, "Behold, the wicked man conceives evil and is pregnant with mischief and gives birth to lies. He makes a pit, digging it out, and falls into the hole that he has made. His mischief returns upon his own head, and on his own skull his violence descends" (ESV). But now I am beginning to see their place in scripture.

This week, pictures of the bombed apartment of a 96 year old holocaust survivor were making the rounds on social media. You have to look hard to see what little remains of this innocent elderly person. Another picture shows a father holding the blond hair of his son who lies lifeless on a gurney with a shroud stained red with blood covering his body. All of this suffering caused by one man's ferocious appetite for power mixed with paranoid delusion railing against a country that has no desire for war.

The imprecatory psalms name evil. They are a reminder that people of great power are capable of unconscionable acts of evil. We see this in Ukraine where Russian President Putin is destroying the lives of the weak with apparent impunity. A response is needed when we are so graphically reminded that this is the world we live in. Our hearts cry is for judgment. Our souls rail against the wickedness. We wonder why God does not act to bring justice when we see such horrific malevolence. Imprecatory Psalms give us words to express our anger and name our indignation. They give us a means to articulate our confused and conflicted feelings. They are an outlet for prayers that we might not ordinarily pray. They allow truth to be manifest in our lives that is difficult to hear. In them we find our hope; that God has not abandon God's beloved creation and whose work in the world is as real as the evil we witness.

Thus, I weep for all who suffer the devastation of war with the Psalmists;
Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help,
as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place.
Do not drag [them] away with the wicked, with those who do evil,
who speak cordially with their neighbors but harbor malice in their hearts.
Repay them for their deeds and for their evil work;
repay them for what their hands have done
and bring back on them what they deserve. Psalm 28:2-4



Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXI No.14

April 3, 2022

Fifth Sunday of Lent "From Scarcity to Abundance"

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

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn VT #36 Let Us Build a House

Call to Worship:

Leader: Together we seek the way of God,

**People: who makes a way in the sea
and provides rivers in the desert.**

Leader: God fills our lives with love and beauty
as sweet fragrance fills the air.

People: We live within the abundance of God,

Leader: so let us laugh and shout for joy

All: as we worship God together.

Prayers of the People

Hymn VT #182 I Sing the Mighty Power of God

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126

Hymn: VT #416 Beyond a Dying Sun

Scripture Reading: John 12:1-8; Philippians 3:4b-14

Sermon Rigorous Piety or Lavish Generosity Pastor Dan

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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Website: altonamennonitechurch.ca

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

Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

RESPONDING

Responsive Reading:

Leader: Your ways, O God, are higher than our ways.

People: Your thoughts are higher than our thoughts.

Leader: We seek God's ways.

All: Lord, move us from our scarcity mentality into your abundant life.

Hymn VT #546 There Is a Line of Women

Lenten Prayer of Confession (Isaiah 55 adapted)

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 believing the myth of scarcity.
Help us live into your abundance.**

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

All: and follow your way more faithfully.

Offering

Hymn VT #849 We, Your People, Sing Your Praises

Benediction

Postlude

Worship Leader: Elaine Loewen

Musicians: Loren Braul, Marilyn Houser Hamm

Recording: Nathan Loewen

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

April 5 7:15 pm Worship Committee Meeting

April 10 11:00 am Worship Service – Palm Sunday

Theme: From Power Over to Power With *Scripture:* Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Luke 22:14-23:55; Phil. 2:5-11

Speaker: Ray Hamm *Worship leader:* Ray Hamm *Musician(s):*

Mary Costen, Marilyn Houser Hamm *Recording:* Loren Braul

April 15 10:30 am Good Friday service with Communion

April 17 Easter

April 24 11:00 am Worship Service

May 1 11:00 am Worship Service

Birthdays: April 3 – Bretlyn Loewen

Anniversaries: April 3 – Karey & Andrea Hildebrand; April 4 – Ray & Doreen Mierau

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **AMC Needs You...** to join the Worship Committee as they are in need of two members! AMC also needs you to join the Recording team. If you have any questions regarding either of these important opportunities or are willing to get involved right away, speak to Pastor Dan regarding the worship committee or Kevin Neufeld regarding the recording. THANKS!

- As we are in the first quarter of our year, please remember that a new budget was 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

- Gardens on Tenth is having a DRIVE BY SOUP & PIE event on April 7. See poster on the bulletin board.

- **What is a sustainable diet?** Germinating Conversations and Knox United Church, Brandon invite you to attend a conversational event featuring four local farmers with varying perspectives and practices related to sustainability and food production. Attend in person at Knox United Church, 451 18th Street, Brandon on Thursday, April 7 at 7pm or watch the livestream at [youtube.com/c/TheKnoxKonnexion](https://www.youtube.com/c/TheKnoxKonnexion).

- The docu-drama . . . and When They Shall Ask, will be shown in Neuberghal Commons Barn 5013 Road 1West, at 7:30, Friday, April 8. Admission \$10, with family rates. It tells the story of the Mennonites' sojourn in Russia from 1788 to the mid 1900's. For more information, call/text 204 324 4115 or send email to neuberghalheritagefoundation@gmail.com

- **Spring at CMU**, April 10, 7:00 CDT online. Engage with the CMU story hearing reflections from CMU students, faculty, and alumni. Choral performances by CMU's ensembles. Visit cmu.ca/springatcmu.

- **Join MCC in response to the crisis in Ukraine.** Russian military forces have invaded Ukraine with active shelling, airstrikes and other hostilities targeting cities across the entire country. For the latest updates on MCC's relief response, visit mcccanada.ca. Join us in [prayer](#) and donate 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 is hiring for the following positions:** Summer Head Cook, Casual year-round Head Cook, and Kitchen Assistant. For more information, contact Lauren Gervais at cakitchen@campswithmeaning.org.

- **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>.

- **Good Friday through the Senses - Stations of the Cross** involving taste, touch, smell, sound, and sight. Choose from multiple 2 hr blocks, April 15 and 16 at the MCM Office. Visit www.mennochurch.mb.ca/events for more info and free registration.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Jean Tarnick is back in her own apartment! Pray for a smooth transition as she navigates back to home life with added homecare.

- 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.