

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.)

- **Indigenous delegates seek justice at Vatican** In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission called on the Pope to issue an apology to the survivors of residential schools, their families and communities for the Catholic Church's role "in the spiritual, cultural, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of First Nations, Inuit and Métis children in Catholic-run residential schools." This week, a delegation of First Nation, Metis and Inuit persons meet in Rome with Pope Francis, to seek that apology and more. Pray that truth and justice may flow from these meetings; meetings that could nurture significant healing amongst both Indigenous peoples and the larger body of Christ.

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.

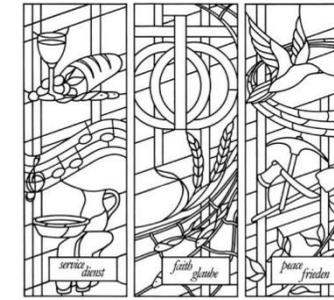
This week, pictures of the bombed apartment of a 96 year old holocaust survivor were making the rounds on social media. You have to look hard to see what little remains of this innocent elderly person. Another picture shows a father holding the blond hair of his son who lies lifeless on a gurney with 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.15

April 10, 2022

Palm Sunday

"From Power Over to Power With"

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

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Children's Processional

Hymn VT 313 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Children's Time

Hymn VT 314 Holy Lord

Scripture: Luke 19: 28-42

Prayer of Confession (Luke 19)

Leader: Lord Jesus, we are a fickle people, quick to turn away.

All: We are quick to flock to you when all is well, but we are prone to scatter when there is opposition or criticism.

Leader: Too often we have kept silent before you, afraid to proclaim your praise.

All: It is easy to join the crowd as you ride triumphantly into Jerusalem— singing our joys and expectations, dancing our hopes and dreams.

AMC Contact information:

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Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Leader: It is far more difficult to stand by you
as the crowd cries for your crucifixion.

**All: Forgive our weakness when we turn away.
Strengthen us for the journey ahead
as we relive your suffering and death,
that we might stay beside you to the end.**

Leader: Give us the courage to shout our hosannas,
not only today, but each and every day. Amen.

Hymn VT 309 Fill us with your Feast
Scripture: Psalm 31: 9-16
Special Music The Heart of God
Scripture: Philippians 2: 5-11
Message: Sharing Power, Sharing Land Ray Hamm

Special Music I Looked Up
Prayers of the People

Hymn VT 581 Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song
Benediction
Postlude

Worship Leader: Mary Costen
Musicians: Mary Costen, Marilyn Houser Hamm
Special Music: Mary Costen, Ainsley and Felice Mariani
Recording: Loren Brault

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

April 15 10:30 am Good Friday service with Communion
Worship Leader: Greg Costen *Musicians:* Dave & Hildie Regehr
Speaker: Dan Kehler *Recording:* Kevin Neufeld
April 17 9:30 am Easter Breakfast – see announcement
11:00 am Worship Service
Theme: "From Certainty to Openness" *Scripture:* Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; John 20:1-8; 1 Cor. 15:19-26
Speaker: Dan Kehler *Worship leader:* Andrea Hildebrand
Musician(s): Lori & Loren Hiebert *Recording:* Dale Klassen
April 24 11:00 am Worship Service
Farewell for Pastor Dan Kehler
May 1 11:00 am Worship Service with guest from the
Mennonite World Conference Young Adults Team

Birthdays: April 16 – Kareena Loewen

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Easter breakfast is happening! Please bring eggs, paska, pre-cut fruit. There will be a serving table, and volunteers are needed to help clean up.

- We will be dipping into our line of credit to make our first quarter donations. 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

- **The Mennonite Centre in Ukraine** is grateful to be able to continue serving the people in Ukraine. Our staff in Molochansk are still able to prepare meals and distribute food hampers to local people. We are also able to connect with trusted individuals and agencies in Ukraine who are bringing supplies from Europe and western Ukraine to eastern Ukrainian cities where the war has destroyed so much. On their return trips they bring refugees to places of safety. They do this in the midst of severe danger. Just a few of these include our maintenance person, the pastor of the Molochansk Mennonite Church, and a former member whom we know well. We are grateful for so many generous donors and for your continued prayers. The most recent newsletter is on the bulletin board.

- **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.

- **MCM Delegates for MC Canada Gathering 2022** Mennonite Church Manitoba is looking for delegates to attend the MC Canada Gathering in Edmonton, July 29-Aug 1. We need 11 general delegates to represent MCM at delegate sessions and 3 Young Leaders Experience participants (age 17-21) to take part in a delegate program geared for them. Registration, accommodation, and travel costs will be covered. Please see www.mennochurch.mb.ca for more info, and contact office@mennochurch.mb.ca if you are interested.

- **Registration is open for all of our camps** – day, overnight, farm, outtrip, ADV – we are so looking forward to being together this summer!

- **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.

- **Join a compassionate community of Manitobans helping to end hunger!** Sponsor an acre of Manitoba farmland through Grow Hope to provide food and agricultural training for people in places like India and Haiti. Your gift will multiply with every \$1 growing to as much as \$5! Visit mccmb.ca/growhope to learn more and join us.

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.

- 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.