

Prayers for the World

- As we lament the ongoing hostility between Israelis and Palestinians, let us continue to pray for those working for a future that ends the deep and longstanding injustices that lie at the root of the crisis. The Palestine-Israel Network has provided prayers of lament and intercession: <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/article/16090>

- **Praise God for volunteers in South Korea** - Join Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park, Witness workers in South Korea, in praising God for volunteers who spend time in training and volunteer facilitating circle process in Restorative Justice in school and community settings through the Chuncheon Community Peace Centre, South Korea.

- **Bethlehem Bible College** continues its ministry despite the violence going on around it. Join them in prayer for peace.

From the Pastor

Advent Greetings!

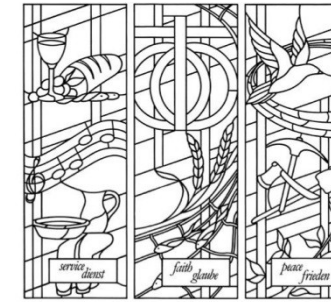
The theme for this year's Advent worship series is *How Will We Know?* The planning committee who wrote the material for Leader Magazine wrote the following in their introduction to the Advent resource packet: "*We observed together that too often, questions in the church are cast aside, and those who ask them are left feeling alone and lonely. But Advent is a time to lean into our questions. To wonder and wander and wait together for the Messiah, the Christ child, the Light.*"

Taking inspiration from the Advent hymn 'Poor of the Earth' (which we'll be singing today), which repeatedly asks "How will I know?", the planning committee decided not to look for definitive answers or platitudes, but instead lean into the ways that our faith invites us to sit together, to discern the times, to watch and wait, and to trust that we will know when we know, and that even when we have questions and doubts, God is still with us; still then, God is working.

Each week the theme expands the 'How will we know?' question, and the children's features will bring in our senses as we explore our questions, preparations, and waiting during this season.

The visuals on stage are minimal – you will notice the tree is not even in the sanctuary! (Forgive us) The manger is the centrepiece, and as we move from darkness to light throughout the 4 weeks, the candlelight will grow progressively. We hope the sights, sounds – and even tastes and smells – offered over the next 4 Sundays will foster an atmosphere of wonder this Advent.

This week we pray for Sargent Avenue Mennonite Church in Winnipeg. We give thanks for Janet Peters, who joined the ministry team this fall, and that Jonathan Muehling no longer has to juggle all the ministerial responsibilities at SAMC. We pray for this time of transition in their congregation to a model of co-lead pastors.



Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXII No.43

December 3, 2023

How will we know?...How Long?

Prelude *Of the Father's Love Begotten*
Maranatha, come / Come Light of the Word

Welcome

Hymn VT 215 Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: O God, tear open the heavens and come down
So that the mountains would quake at your presence.

High voices: No one has heard,

Low voice: no ear has perceived,

**People: no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for you.**

Leader: No one knows when the time will come.

People: How long must we wait?
(pause)

All: Together we wait.

Prayer of Invocation

Advent Candle Lighting

One: Come, Emmanuel.

The world is over-full of things that do not satisfy.

We watch and prepare, for divine presence to shake our complacency.

AMC Contact information:

Pastor: Rev. Erika Enns Rodine C: 204-963-5764

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday, 9 am – 4 pm

Email address: erika.altonamennonite@gmail.com

Secretary: Lori Hiebert: C: 204-324-5952 Church: 204-324-6773

Office Hours: Thursday 9:00 am to Noon

Email address: altonamennonite@gmail.com

Website: altonamennonitechurch.ca

Moderator: Loren Brault: C: 204-995-5347

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

Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

~candle is lit~

**All: A spark of hope lights the way—
Clearing our vision and renewing our minds
To recognize God's glory in our midst.**

Hymn VT 213 Poor of the Earth
Children's Story
Offering *I Wonder as I Wander* arr. Fred Bock
Scripture Reading Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 and Mark 13:24-37
Sermon – Erika Enns Rodine
Hymn VT 239 He Came Down
Communion
VT 23 Come, Walk with Us
STS 16 Peace before Us
Pastoral Prayer
*Lord in your goodness, we give thanks.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

Hymn VT 810 Go, My Friends, in Grace, vs1,2, 3
Benediction, followed by vs 4

Worship Leader: Ang Enns
Musicians: Gina Enns, Edna Zacharias
Candle Lighters: Rob & Peggy Martens
Scripture Reader: Marge Friesen
Technician: Dale Klassen

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

December 3 – 7 pm Taize Advent Service
December 10 – 11:00 Worship Service with Communion
Theme: How will we know?...What now? *Scripture:* Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2,8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8
Speaker: Erika Enns Rodine *Worship Leader:* Lori Hiebert
Musicians: Loren & Lori Hiebert *Technician:* Kevin Neufeld
Dec. 12 – 4:30 pm Leadership Committee Meeting
Dec. 17 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Greg Costen
Dec. 21 – Longest Night Service
Dec. 24 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine
- 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 31 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Music Morning

Birthdays: December 9 – Loren Hiebert

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **TONIGHT at 7 pm** – Join us for a Taize service of prayer and worship, Scripture, Music and Silence led by Ray & Marilyn Houser Hamm, and Susie Fisher.

- During advent we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Rhineland Area Food Bank each week during the offering time. Financial donations welcome. Please contribute items from this list of essentials. AMC Youth will collect during the offering time.

Canned vegetables Canned meat & fish
Canned soups, vegetable, chicken noodle, tomato
Canned fruit Canned beans in tomato sauce
Pasta, KD, Mr. Noodle & pasta sauce Rice (small bags)
Oatmeal & non-sugar cereals Peanut butter
Juice (powdered)

- A reminder that the **10:30 am AMC Coffee** sign up sheet is on the wall near the office door. Feel free to volunteer!

WIDER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund** - Where we provide gifts for kids and food gift cards for families in need. For Referrals 431-342-0525 Nov 8-Dec 8
Deliveries will be Dec 16 between 9a-noon (If there are no children then a food gift card will be mailed) Or email Rhinelandesf@gmail.com for the link to sign up online.
Monetary donations can be sent to PO box 2255, Altona, R0G 0B0 or drop off at Pembina Valley Pharmacy or Access Credit Union in Altona, Gretna, Plum Coulee.

CONFERENCE or MCC RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **MCI is seeking a host family for a male student** in gr. 12 from Hong Kong. Hosting dates are Dec. 15-17th and Dec. 22-Jan. 7th. There is a \$600 stipend available for hosting over the Christmas break to help take care of our students. For more information, please reach out to mci@mciblues.net or call 204-327-5891.

- **December 8 - CMU Press Christmas Gathering** – Meet a few authors, enjoy refreshments, and pick up recent CMU Press books at special Christmas prices. 1:00–3:00 PM in Marpeck Commons.

- **December 15 or 16 - CMU Festival Chorus** and the WSO perform Handel's Messiah on Friday, December 15 and Saturday, December 16 at 7:30 PM at Knox United Church. Purchase tickets at my.wso.ca/events/messiah2023.

- **December 17 - Faith and Life Choirs Christmas Carol sing "My Soul Magnifies the Lord"**. Sunday December 17, 2023. 3:30pm at Bethel Mennonite Church. Featuring poetry by Sue Sorensen and monologues by Arlyn Friesen Epp.

- **Choose gifts that change lives.** Sometimes the best gifts are ones that you can't simply pull off a shelf. This Christmas, we invite you to explore all the ways that you can share gifts of comfort and joy for the world. Visit mcc.org/Christmas to see what gifts would delight your loved ones and inspire them to see the change they could spark across the globe.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Pray for Erika Enns Rodine, Josh, Freya and Sigga.
- We pray for the seniors in our congregation: Marianne Braun who is at Eastview; Jean Tarnick who is in her suite at Gardens on Tenth Manor, Bill Loewen at The Gardens, Harry & Susan Klassen at Golden West, Marlene Plett at Katherina Courts and others who are not named.
- We pray for those who are grieving.
- We pray for those whose mental health and physical health make employment and daily life a struggle.
- We pray for the family care-givers.
- We pray for those in transition/who have moved to a new home.

Prayers for Our Community

- Pray for all teachers and students as they learn and teach.
- Pray for all the Health Care Providers.
- Pray for the church leaders at all levels of our conference.
- Pray for MCI.
Praying for MCM congregations: Let's pray for Jubilee Mennonite Church (Winnipeg) as they navigate a new season of church life after adopting their affirmation statement last year and hiring their new lead pastor, Janessa Nayler-Giesbrecht, this September. Pray for their affiliated ministry, Community Roots, as they provide important programs and resources to their community and partner with Jubilee to bless those that come in the church doors.