

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

- **Wendy Kroeker and Gordon Zerbe teaching in Indonesia** - Pray for Wendy Kroeker and Gordon Zerbe as they contribute to courses and workshops related to New Testament, Peace Theology, and Peace Education. There are working at Duta Wacana Christian University (UKDW), Yogyakarta, Indonesia interacting with over 350 students in the faculty of theology made of 12 Protestant denominations. Your donations toward International Resource Workers <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resource-workers> help to pay expenses to respond to the requests from global companions to share resources in particular areas of need.

- **Japanese and Chinese Mennonite Leaders to meet** - Pray for God's peace and love to dominate the meeting of several Japanese and Chinese Mennonite leaders (names withheld) that will be meeting this month to deepen relationships and for mutual support. Praise God that political differences can be overcome as we together sit at the feet of Jesus! Celebrate the Lunar New Year (Feb. 17) by breaking down walls that divide us. (Photo credits: Bev Epp)

- On Wednesday morning, we awoke to heartbreaking news: a community, Tumbler Ridge, BC, has suffered the devastating impact of violence as an individual used a firearm to take the lives of 9 others and injured 25 others. We grieve the lives lost. We pray for God's healing presence to surround all who have been traumatized. And we bear witness to our hope—that God's light still breaks into the deepest shadows of our world, a world in which such violence should never be possible. May Christ's peace hold us as we lament, pray, and seek a more life-giving way forward together.

From the Pastor

LENT-EASTER 2026: DWELLING IN DISSONANCE

Ours is a world of urgency, a digital age of immediate gratification. We rush to resolution. We binge watch. We speed to shave minutes off the GPS's ETA. We retreat into silos of sameness and scapegoat those who disagree with us. We skip from Palm Sunday to Easter. Our temptation to seek relief from the dissonant uncertainty of life's liminalities might be heightened this year. This is, after all, a historical moment when many of us feel caught up in forces beyond our control, such as the culture wars, military conflict, political polarization, power grabs, forced deportations, funding cuts, climate crises,

ecological devastation, nuclear proliferation, and economic hardship.

We encounter the 2026 Narrative Lectionary Readings for Lent in this context: a slow, intentional journey through the second half of the gospel of John. After the first week's reading (John 11) we will spend the rest of Lent exploring John's Holy Week narratives.

Most years, the season of Lent is meant to prepare us for Holy Week. This year, the entire season of Lent is framed by the experience of Holy Week, inviting us to linger in the intensity of the final week of Jesus' life, to dwell in the dissonance.

John's version of the story of Jesus reflects more on who he was and is, on his divinity, and on how his disciples, then and now, might make sense of Jesus' life and death.

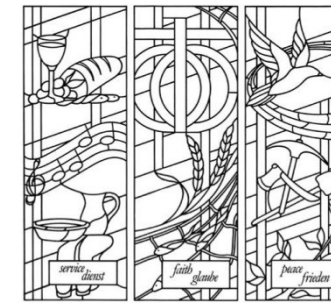
As you explore each week's Narrative Lectionary text, we invite you to ask, "What is the dissonance in this passage?" In music, dissonance occurs when two or more notes strike the listener as discordant. Our ear instinctively knows the note that will bring resolution and wants the dissonance to resolve to something more harmonious.

Similarly, we might be tempted to rush through the discord within these Lenten texts, anticipating the already-and-not-yet resolution of Easter. Can we receive the gift of the dissonance: the sense of both/and in all this seasons' stories and in our world, the knowing and not knowing, the tension between how things are and how one wants things to be? Can we pause on the threshold between loss and glory? Can we lament in the liminality, accept ambiguity, and lean into longing as we sense God at work (and sometimes not visibly at work) in these passages and in our world?

Ultimately, can we stay in the hard places with Jesus and linger throughout Lent at the edge of our understanding, so we might more fully remain open and present to the hard places and the mysteries we face today?

We, the writing team of Leader's Lent-Easter 2026 resources, are honoured to journey with you through the depth and challenge, the discord and grace of these texts. May we dwell in dissonance together, grateful for the gifts that come by, lingering in the Holy Week with the gospel of John, with God, and with the Spirit of Christ that connects us all.

- From Leader Magazine Winter 2025-26 Edition (Lent-Easter)



Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXV No.7

February 15, 2026

Prelude *From a Distance / He's Got the Whole World*

Welcome

Hymn VT 767 God Loves All His Many People

Hymn VT 566 We Will Follow Jesus

Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer of Invocation

Hymn VT 5 All People That On Earth Do Dwell

Time for the Young & Young at Heart

Lighting a Candle of Vigil VT 1044

Hymn VT 653 Nothing Is Lost on the Breath of God

Sharing & Congregational Prayer

Time of Reflection – In Christ There is No East or West
(HWB 306)

Scripture Reading - Romans 12:3-8

Meditation - Marta Bunnett-Wiebe

Hymn VT 374 There Are Many Gifts

Benediction

Hymn VT 849 We, Your People, Sing Your Praises

Postlude *Let There Be Peace on Earth arr. Porter Heaps*

Worship Leader: Erika Enns Rodine

Musician(s): Edna Zacharias

Technician: Dale Klassen

AMC Contact information:

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

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Moderator: Ang Enns C:204-324-4046

Past Moderator: Loren Braul: C: 204-995-5347

Custodians: Ethan Franz C:204-304-2296 Rheanne Julien C: 204-914-9591

Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

February 21 – RRVFA Scholarship Event

February 22 – Worship Service -Lent 1 – Dan Kehler

Theme: Love and Grief, Glory and Belief

Scripture: John 11:1-44 *Worship Leader:* June Schwartz

Musician(s): Loren Braul, Gina Enns *Technician:* Kevin Neufeld

March 1 – Worship Service – Lent 2 - Erika Enns Rodine

5:00 pm Progressive Supper

March 8 – Worship Service – Lent 3 – Erika Enns Rodine

March 13 – 15 – AMC Retreat at Camp Koinonia

March 15 – 11:00 am – Coffee in basement

March 22 – Worship Service – Lent 5 – Erika Enns Rodine

March 29 – Worship Service – Palm Sunday, AMC at Eastview and Gardens – Erika Enns Rodine

Anniversaries: February 20 – LeahAnn & Al Rodine

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

-**March 1**, 5 pm – Progressive Supper. Sign up Sheet in the lobby. Join us either as a diner or host! Deadline for sign up is February 22.

- **AMC Retreat March 13th-15th.** Sign up sheet in the lobby. Check out the good times we had last year-photos in the lobby! Deadline to sign up is March 1st. Arrive to Camp Koino anytime after 7:00PM on Friday. Relax on the shores of Max Lake! Main lodge has family style rooms with en suites. Activities available are cross country skiing, snowshoeing, nature walks, toboggan run, ice skating. Planned activity for AMC Bingo and Prayer Flags. Main lodge has oodles of space and light for puzzling, reading, games, and other activities you would like to bring for a weekend of rest, rejuvenation and community. Cost \$125.00/adult and \$50.00/child. Hope to see you there!

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

From the Treasurer:

- Your 2025 Donation Tax Receipts are in your mailboxes. If you have any questions, see Marnë Mierau Friesen.

- Ways to Give at Altona Mennonite Church:

- cash or cheque in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary

- online bill payments through Access Credit Union

- etransfer to amchurchdonations@gmail.com

Thank you for your donations as we continue to be church together!

COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Altona United Church** (45 3rd Ave SE) invites us to join them for their Lenten services:

• Ash Wednesday Service, February 18, 7 pm

• Lenten Bible Study "Journey Through Lent" – Tuesdays – Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

• An Evening of Prayer "From Ashes to Grace" – Wed. April 1 @ 7 pm

We will be worshipping together on Good Friday.

CONFERENCE or MCC RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **MCM Annual Gathering will be held March 6-7** at Bethel Mennonite Church. The theme is "See, I Am Doing a New Thing!" **We are allowed 4 delegates for the meeting. Please let Erika Enns Rodine or Lori Hiebert know if you wish to be part of the discussion on a new Vision and Mission statement for MCM.** Delegates need to be registered by February 13.

- **First Mennonite Church in Winnipeg is 100 years old!** Our celebrations will officially kick off in September, 2026. To help us commemorate adequately, we are holding a fundraising social, Tuesday, February 17, 7:00 p.m. at Trans Canada Brewing, 1290 Kenaston Blvd. Tickets are \$45 in advance, or \$50 at the door. Space is limited! Included in the ticket price is TCBs delicious pizza! To purchase tickets, or for more information, email office@firstmennonitechurch.ca.

- **CMU Discover Day** – Join us for the full day or the afternoon of Friday, February 27 to discover what it is like to be a CMU student. Tour the CMU campus, attend a sample lecture, meet professors and current students, and have lunch and treats on us! For more information and to register, visit cmu.ca/discover-days.

- **CMU Open House** – Prospective undergraduate students of all ages are invited to drop in on Thursday, February 19, 5:00-8:00 PM to experience CMU's academic programs, student supports, and community life at their own pace. Visit cmu.ca/openhouse for more information.

- **Face2Face at CMU: Being Peacemakers for a World of Surging Polarization** – You are invited on March 11 at 7:00 PM to Marpeck Commons or via livestream for an opportunity to explore how faith-driven empathy can bridge deep cultural divides with Dr. Chris Rice and faculty from CMU. Visit cmu.ca/face2face for more information and the livestream.

- **Camps with Meaning summer staff** application portal is open. www.campswithmeaning.org/staff

- **Summer camp registration** is open for kids Gr 1 to Gr 12. www.campswithmeaning.org

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Jean Tarnick is at Eastview Place. She is finding the days long as she can't move independently. She welcomes visitors.

- Bev Barton is back at home. There are still tests to be done. Pray for calm.

- We pray for the seniors in our congregation:

Marianne Braun at Eastview; Bill Loewen and Elizabeth Falk at the Gardens; Harry & Susan Klassen at Golden West, and others who are not named.- We pray for all who are living with ongoing health concerns.

- We pray for those who are grieving, for those whose mental health and physical health make employment and daily life a struggle, for those in transition, for those who have moved to or are waiting to move to a new home. We pray for the family care-givers.

- Friends and family are invited to a worship service celebrating Laura Sue Dueck's life on Saturday, February 21, at 10:30 am EST at Hyattsville Mennonite Church, 4217 East-West Hwy, Hyattsville, MD 20782, and live-streamed via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86900690127?pwd=1YQ8v0PWNI7iNqpcC6AXDLNPNVBZDNB.1> Meeting ID: 869 0069 0127 Passcode: 213647