

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

- **Global Companion of the Month: South Africa** - As we embrace a posture of companionship in the global church, an Anabaptist group called Iziko Lamaqabane in South Africa is stepping up to that commitment and offering to walk with us. In addition to their ministry of working with urban peace and justice practitioners in South Africa to "heal colonial wounds, disrupt systemic violence and cultivate faith formed by and expressed in liberative praxis", the Iziko leaders are gifted in facilitating pilgrimage learning experiences. Mennonite Church Canada is working in partnership with Iziko Lamaqabane to explore the long history and legacy of colonialism and apartheid in South Africa through one of these pilgrimages. For more information:

<https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/international-witness/pilgrimage>

- **Partner with our Global Companions** - As we enter a new year, Mennonite Church Canada invites you to join us in walking the path of faith with our global companions. Mennonite Church Canada's Global Companions program strengthens relationships with international church partners—learning together, sharing resources, and encouraging one another to live into God's call. Read more: https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/winter_campaign_2026

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.

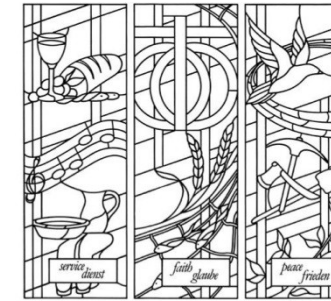
As you explore each week's Narrative Lectionary text, we invite you to ask, "What is the dissonance in this passage?" In music, dissonance occurs when two or more notes strike the listener as discordant. Our ear instinctively knows the note that will bring resolution and wants the dissonance to resolve 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.9

March 1, 2026

Lent 2 – Obvious and Hidden

Welcome & Announcements

Call to worship

One: Welcome Lent.

Welcome mystery.

All: Welcome actions that surprise.

One: Welcome answers that add more questions.

All: Welcome strangeness to our eyes.

One: Welcome awkward moments

All: that are holy moments too.

One: Welcome the words of Jesus:

All: "Now go do as I do."

Prayer

Hymn VT 540 Will You Come and Follow Me

Scripture Reading: John 13:1-17

Children's time

Confession poem

Hymn VT 778 Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

Sermon

Rev. Erika Enns Rodine

AMC Contact information:

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

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

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Moderator: Ang Enns C:204-324-4046

Past Moderator: Loren Brault 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.

Reflection & Offering
Hymn VT 456 Oceans

Sharing & Congregational Prayer (SS 164)

Lord in your goodness, hear our prayer
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Hymn STJ 98 All Will Be Well
Sending blessing

Worship Leader: Andrea Hildebrand
Musician(s): Paul & Margrute Krahn
Technician: Loren Brault

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

March 3 9:00 am Contemplative Prayer Time
March 8 – Worship Service – Lent 3 – Erika Enns Rodine
Theme: Submission and Power *Scripture:* John 18:28-40
Worship Leader: Norma Thiessen *Musician(s):* Lori & Loren Hiebert *Technician:* Nathan Loewen
March 10 – 4:30 pm Worship Committee meeting
March 11 – 6:30 pm Leadership Council meeting
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

Birthdays: March 5 – Lori Franz

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **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 Marnè 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

- **YFC Taco Tuesday fundraiser**, March 3 from 5 – 8 pm, at Pioneer Center, entrance by donation. All food gluten free.

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

- Lenten Bible Study "Journey Through Lent" – Tuesdays – 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

- **Singing Resistance** – You are invited on March 2 at 7:00 PM to Marpeck Commons for the second community-wide singing resistance event in solidarity with Minneapolis. Visit cmu.ca/events for more information.

- **MCM Monday. March 2**, 7:30-8:30pm on Zoom. MCM Finances: preparing for Gathering 2026 with Michael Pahl. www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays for the the Zoom link.

- **MCM Annual Gathering will be held March 6-7** at Bethel Mennonite Church. The theme is "See, I Am Doing a New Thing!" Report book for the Gathering 2026 can be found on the web page: www.mennochurch.mb.ca/gathering

- **Join Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity** as we learn more about the impact of residential school denialism. Hear from speakers Niigaan Sinclair and Sean Carlton as well as the work of the National Indigenous Residential School Museum. March 10, 7-9pm at Charleswood Mennonite Church.

- Face2Face at CMU: Being Peacemakers for a World of Surging Polarization

We are delighted to welcome Chris Rice to Manitoba in March. Chris Rice is an MCC alumnus, co-founding director of Duke Divinity School Centre for Reconciliation, writer, and global networker. Join us at these events to hear him share about "Reconciling All Things".

- *Being Peacemakers for a World of Surging Polarization* Wednesday, March 11, 7 p.m CMU Marpeck Commons, 2299 Grant Ave., Winnipeg

- *Stories of Hope for Justice and Healing*

Thursday, March 12, 7 p.m., MCC Manitoba, 140 Bannatyne Ave., Winnipeg

- *Building the Beloved Community in a Time of Division*

Saturday, March 14, 7 p.m., Neuberghal Commons Barn, Neuberghal

For more information go to mcc.org/manitoba and scroll down to events.

- **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.