

Scripture Readings

John 17 (NRSV)

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵ I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

²⁰ “I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that

the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ “Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Bethel Announcements

What a joy it was last Sunday when, after five long months, some of us were once again able to physically gather in our church sanctuary to worship our Lord. Those present saw this joy in the eyes of people and, no doubt, those who chose to participate on-line, felt it as well. Thanks to everyone who participated directly in this service for making our worship experience so meaningful. Thank you as well, to all those who worked so carefully to develop the protocols necessary to help ensure the health and safety of all who entered our building. These protocols seemed to be appropriate based on the Aug. 23 trial run but will be carefully reviewed again after this coming Sunday’s worship service. Please be aware of the following: only the main church doors will be used; masks will be required; physical distancing must be observed; ushers will register people when they enter the building; ushers will direct people to their seats; there will be no access to the coat racks, mailboxes, nursery area, or the library; all washrooms are available for use; at the end of the service, ushers will direct people to the exits; there will be no coffee fellowship or socializing in the building. *[A detailed list of protocols is available from the church office.]*

The online services will continue to be held at 10:00 am as usual, and all are welcome to join in 'real time' to worship together or to view the service during the following week. Contact the church office for details of how to access the live-stream.

Adult Education | How might Bethel's experience during this time of COVID change the church going forward? This is the topic for the first Adult Ed session on Sept. 13; all three pastors will share their thoughts. This discussion may take place in person or on Zoom, to be decided on and announced soon.

Partners in Ministry

Mennonite Church Manitoba

mennochurch.mb.ca

Camps with Meaning would like to thank all of our churches for supporting us through people and prayers this summer. We were able to connect with our staff body and with a good number of campers. It was good to be together, to play together, to worship together, and to grow together! | This was a summer full of change and opportunity! We held 5 one-day Pop-up camps in July, with 78 campers attending. In August we ran 2 week-long camps at Camp Assiniboia, accommodating 81 campers. A huge thank you goes out to our staff and volunteers. See details at: <http://www.campswithmeaning.org/>

Mennonite Church Canada

mennonitechurch.ca

MC Canada weekly online worship services conclude Sept. 6 | Join Foothills MC on Aug. 30, and Morden MC on Sept. 6. All the services since March 22, when this began, are available on the Mennonite Church Canada webpage: <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/worshipservices>.

Canadian Mennonite University

cmu.ca

CMU is preparing for on-campus and virtual hybrid learning this fall. Sixteen students from Ontario and one student from the US are presently in 14 day self-isolation on campus, in preparation for Sept. 9 classes to begin. Please keep staff, faculty and students in your prayers as campus re-opens safely in the coming weeks. Details of CMU's learning and living framework can be found at: www.cmu.ca/2020-21-framework
An outdoor Convocation, celebrating graduates who completed their degrees in April, was held on the grounds of CMU on Aug. 26. Maximum grouping sizes, physical distancing and masks did not detract from celebrating the degree completion of 91 students, 58 of whom were present at the event. We are deeply grateful for the contributions that these students will make in church and society.

Thank you to all who donated to the Lebanon Crisis. As of Aug. 24, MCC across Canada has raised over \$250,000 to be matched by the Canadian government. Relief efforts will focus on emergency food and hygiene supplies. Donate at donate.mcccanada.ca/cause/lebanon-crisis.

Pastoral Care and Domestic Abuse workshop in Morden, Oct. 22, 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Registration of \$40.00 includes lunch. Capacity is limited, please register by Oct. 16, at mccmb.ca/Events.

Other

On the Level, August edition, is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In this issue, you can read how MDS volunteers with Early Response Teams are working in Iowa, engineers roll up their sleeves in West Virginia, and how MDS is cautiously planning for a few projects this fall. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/2YhWGfK>.

Lindenwood | *Lindenwood Villa* suite available; church open house Aug. 30, 2-4 pm; contact Dave Watson at 204-782-1535. *Second suite* available; church open house Sept. 1, 5:30-7:00 pm; contact D'Anne Hansen, 204-979-0432. | *Lindenwood Estates* suite available; church open house Sept. 1, 6-8 pm; contact Maureen Urbanovich, 204-594-2289.