

Scripture Readings

Mark 10:17-31 (NRSV)

¹⁷ As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’”

²⁰ He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.”

²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

²⁸ Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹ Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

Bethel Announcements

Our in-person worship services will continue until further notice. BERT met this week to review the results of the two trial runs on Aug. 23 and 30 and to make certain minor changes to the worship services protocols. In their view, the revised protocols are appropriate to help ensure the health and safety of all who entered our building.

Our ushers are very important to help carry out our worship protocols and to ensure that the flow of people in and out of the sanctuary is efficiently and effectively maintained. Our Usher Committee co-chairs tell us that **we need more ushers** for these services. If you wish to help out with this, please contact the church office.

Please be aware of the following: only the main church doors will be used; masks must be worn; 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 when to exit – the folks using walkers or wheelchairs will be the last to exit; 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 available 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.

Bethel Women in Mission | The meeting scheduled for Sept. 14 is cancelled.

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. At this point, the plan is to have this “hybrid” discussion in person and on Zoom simultaneously, starting at 11:15 am. There will be a further announcement about this next week.

Library Update | *Menno Moto*, by Cameron Dueck, tells the story of the author’s 45,000-kilometre motorcycle trip to visit Mennonite communities in Central and South America. Dueck tries to connect his own Mennonite experience to that of the people he meets on his journey. | *Blessed Are the Unsatisfied*, by Amy Simpson, was added to the library at the request of the Bethel Care Committee. Simpson claims we often assume loneliness and dissatisfaction are symptoms of spiritual failure. Her book explores why they might be signs of a healthy faith.

Partners in Ministry

Mennonite Church Manitoba

mennochurch.mb.ca

Camps with Meaning | *Seven staff members* received temporary lay-off notices effective Sept. 1. Unfortunately, Camp Assiniboia has had a significant number of rental group cancellations due to Covid-19. During this lay-off period some staff will work reduced hours and others will work on an as-needed basis when rental groups come. It is our intention to return everyone back to back to their position if and when it is feasible to do so. Please keep everyone in your prayers as we navigate through this transitional time. | *Key to returning staff to work* will be increasing rentals at Camp Assiniboia. The camp is available to small groups and families who wish to come and enjoy our beautiful facilities & trails. View the brochure and rates at <http://www.campswithmeaning.org/rentals>. For rental information, please contact Linda Dueck at 204-895-CAMP or carentals@campswithmeaning.org. | *Camp Koinonia* plans to fix basement issues in the lodge: excavate the dirt around the basement, straighten the walls, add weeping tile, insulate, add a heated cement floor, and more. We will start on Sept 14 and need some volunteers throughout the project. If you are interested in helping please contact Matt Heide at 204-534-8268 or campkoinoniamatt@gmail.com.

Mennonite Church Canada

mennonitechurch.ca

MC Canada weekly online worship service | Join Morden MC in their homes and backyards Sept. 6, as they share their worship service with our nationwide community of faith. Drawing on lectionary texts, the service focuses on the relationship between "the law" and "love." Through song and story, readings and meditation, may we be drawn afresh into Jesus' way of love: <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/worshipservices>. This will be the last weekly shared nationwide service for the time being. Thank you to all the congregations who shared their worship with us over these past few months.

Prayers for African churches | Our partner in ministry AIMM (Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission) asks us to pray for our African brothers and sisters in this time of Covid-19. Pray that those struggling to find resources to buy food and those needing medical attention find what they need. Pray that hospitals and medical staff will still provide care to the best of their ability even though ventilators and other important medical tools are almost nonexistent in most African countries.

Xplore: At the Intersection of Faith and Life, A CMU 55-Plus Enrichment Program. Xplore courses examine dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it—all without any assignments or examinations! Because of COVID-19, Xplore is moving online via Zoom, thus making all courses available widely across the country. View course, tuition, and registration information at: cmu.ca/explore.

Portable CMU 2020-2021, offered by CMU faculty, is a resource that can enliven the church's imagination, faith, and witness. This year, 38 unique Portable opportunities are available, all of which are available via Zoom and thus easily accessible across the country. View course information and costs at cmu.ca/portable.

Mennonite Central Committee**mccmb.ca**

We Are All Treaty People Celebration | Tune into UMF's radio station in the afternoon of Sept 27 to hear a variety of speakers share about what Being Treaty means to them. Find out more at mccmb.ca/Events.

MCC United Nations Office Online Student Seminar, Nov. 5-6. Inequality defines our current time – in health, economics, and racial injustice. Explore the intersection of global inequality, UN public policy, and faith-based advocacy in this seminar. To apply, contact Joanna Hiebert Bergen at 204-261-6381 or email advocacy@mccmb.ca.

Other

Lindenwood Villa | Church open house, Sept. 13, 1:00-2:00 pm, public 2:30-4:00 pm. For more info, call D'Anne Hansen, 204-979-0432.