

Call to Worship

One: God, we are here at the water's edge, casting off from shore

Many: into unknown waters.

One: With fear and trembling, we drop our oars,

Many: letting them go, trusting the sea.

One: God, we trust the signs of your covenant: the ark through the
water, the waters of baptism,

Many: the bow in the clouds and the dove from the heavens.

All: We call to you as you called us deeper into steadfast love.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Many: Deep calls to deep. We call to you from the depths of our
hearts.

One: We confess when we have stayed too close to the surface,
avoiding you, avoiding our neighbours. We confess when
we have felt in over our heads. Needing you, needing our
neighbours. We reflect on what keeps us from deep
relationship.

(Silence.)

One: Deep calls to deep. You call to us from the depth of your love.

Many: Calling us to deep relationship. We come to you, God.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 9:8-17 (NRSV)

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹² God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and

remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”¹⁷ God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Mark 1:9-15

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

Education

Adult Ed | Feb. 28 and Mar. 7: CMU portable *Can reading be a spiritual discipline?* Paul Doerksen, Associate Professor of Theology.

Bethel Announcements

The church building is still closed | Anyone planning to enter the building must first contact the church office to make an appointment. ***A mask must be worn the entire time you are in the church building.***

Thursday Morning Coffee Time | Join Pastoral Intern Kim Rempel for a Zoom coffee time every Thursday morning from 10:00-11:00 am. We will begin with a brief devotional, and then take time to chat and catch up. In the spirit of coffee time, you're encouraged to make yourself a hot (or cold) beverage to enjoy. This is a "drop in" time, so feel free to come and go as your schedule allows. Contact the church office for the Zoom link.

Bethel Kidz Club | We are excited to announce that we are moving BKC online! BKC Online will be a once a month gathering from February until April 2021. If you are in grade 5-7 join us for a fun evening of Zoom Scavenger Hunt-Around-The-House, a craft and a story time on Tuesday, Feb. 23. Feel free to invite your friends! For more details email Pastor Valerie: valerie@bethelmennonite.ca .

All Volunteer Visitors and ALL congregants are invited to join an Educational Session on Zoom. Topic: *"Alone Together: Caring for Ourselves and Others Experiencing Loneliness"* on Tues., Feb. 23, at 10:30-11:30 AM. Our speakers are Vernelle Enns Penner (Chaplain at Pembina Place) and Tara Brousseau-Snider (Counsellor, Recovery of Hope). All are welcome, on behalf of the Caregiving Committee. Contact the church office for the Zoom link.

Bethel At Work Phone Directory 2021 | If you would like your name and address to be included, or if your information is not correct, please contact Lois Bergen in the church office: office@bethelmennonite.ca or 204-453-2199. The deadline to respond is **Feb. 28**.

Bethel has 11 delegates who will attend the Zoom annual sessions of Mennonite Church Manitoba on Saturday, Mar. 6: "Rooted in Christ, Reaching Out in Love".

Community Life/Hospitality Committee is planning a group Jets watching party done with the aid of Zoom. Set aside Sat., March 13 to watch the Jets play the Maple Leafs. Consider joining the fun, oh yes there are more details. But they will come at a later date.

Witness Committee | We have an exciting opportunity to continue our refugee work with Jubilee Mennonite Church to help bring the last members of the Rohingya refugee family to Winnipeg. The Witness Committee is looking to form a Refugee Committee of about four people to help continue this work. The Refugee Committee will be asked to help with fundraising efforts as well as connect with the Jubilee Settlement Team to support the family once they arrive. If you feel called to join the Refugee Committee or want to know more, please contact the Witness chairperson, or the church office.

Library Update | *Making Believe: Questions About Mennonites and Art*, by Magdalene Redekop, was purchased for the library because of the enthusiastic recommendation of several Bethel members. A Mennonite renaissance of sorts began in the 1970s in literature, visual art and music. Redekop's book examines this movement. She argues that while there is no such thing as Mennonite art there are some shared commonalities in the work of artists with a Mennonite background. Redekop's book is not only an academic critique. She has woven many personal stories into the text as well. *Please call the church office to make an appointment to access the library.*

Partners in Ministry

Mennonite Church Canada

mennonitechurch.ca

Lent Resources | For Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, and Holy Week: commonword.ca/go/2213; Lenten Guided Prayer from Mennonite Spiritual Directors of Eastern Canada – commonword.ca/go/2221.

Lent At-Home devotional guide for families, from Mennonite Church USA. See: commonword.ca/go/2240.

Prayer requests | *Pray for Ruthie & Myrrl Byler* sent jointly by International Witness and Mennonite Mission Network to support Anabaptist training in Asia. | *Pray for groups meeting in Colombia and Canada* to work on ideas for bringing our churches into closer relationship. Pray for a decrease in the violence threatening rural Colombian congregations. | *Pray for Allegra Friesen Epp* (Home St. MC) as she begins a joint internship with MC Canada and Christian Peacemaker Teams' Turtle Island Solidarity Network, relating to churches, CPT partners and Indigenous solidarity groups. See details on these and other stories at: mennonitechurch.ca/events/featured .

Mennonite Church Manitoba

mennochurch.mb.ca

Amplifying Jesus: Sunday night worship ...is a 6 week series of Lent Worship Services for MCM Youth, starting Feb. 21, 8:00 pm. Hosted by Kathy Giesbrecht, these half hour services will include: special guests, songs, art, and prayer. Contact kgiesbrecht@mennochurch.mb.ca .

Break Every Yoke | MCM and First MC are co-sponsoring a conversation on the Church and General Basic Income. More information at: firstmennonitechurch.ca/break-every-yoke/.

Westgate Mennonite Collegiate

westgatemennonite.ca

Discover Westgate | Fun Online Event for Grade 8s Feb. 23 at 6:30 pm. Register at: 204-775-7111 or lh@westgatemennonite.org.

Canadian Mennonite University

cmu.ca

Virtual Open House | Feb. 24, 4:00 pm. Register at cmu.ca/virtual-open-house.

Face2Face | *Who Cares? The elderly among us...* A global pandemic is shining a light on our assumptions about the elderly among us. Join us on Zoom for a panel conversation. Wed., Feb. 24, 7:00 – 8:30 PM (CST)

Xplore 55+ Enrichment program offers courses exploring dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it. Eight online courses are offered on from March 3 – April 7. See: cmu.ca/xplore.

Positions available | *MCC Keewatin Furniture Thrift shop* is hiring a Truck Assistant. Information at: mccmgr@shaw.ca or 204- 694-3669. | *MCC is looking* for an outgoing person to coordinate peacebuilding and advocacy activities in Manitoba. See: mccmb.ca/openings.

Take the sting out of winter's chill by joining the Great Winter Warm-up from the comfort of your home. Throughout February, we're celebrating all things comforters - from the compassionate people who donate blankets to the families who receive them. Learn how you can participate at mccmb.ca/GreatWinterWarmup.

Spirit of MDS Fund announces new round of grants | In response to pandemic needs across Canada, last year MDS Canada made 81 grants worth over \$100,000 to Canadian congregations to help them serve people impacted by the virus in their communities--things like food, emergency assistance for rent, medical and other expenses, and for PPE. A new round of grants has been announced; if your church could use financial help to assist people in your community in the spirit of MDS, go to [2021 Spirit of MDS Fund for COVID-19-related needs - Mennonite Disaster Service](#) for more information and an application form.

2020 MDS Canada Annual Report is at: mds.mennonite.net/mds-canada-2020-annual-report/.

2021 MDS Annual Celebration was held online on Feb. 6, celebrating the work of MDS volunteers in bringing hope to those impacted by disaster. The recording of the event is at: mds.mennonite.net/annual-celebration/. Come be inspired by stories of unexpected opportunities and unexpected blessings as we look back on a year unlike any other.