

Call to Worship

One: God, you ask us to set our minds on you, to walk before you and be blameless.

You teach us what matters, and you do not hide your face from us.

Many: With each step along the path, we are transformed into who you made and called us to be.

One: God, you teach us that when we lose our life, we save it.

Many: With each step along the path, we hope against hope in your promises.

One: God, you say you will make us exceedingly fruitful, that you will bless us.

Many: With each step along the path, we take up our cross and follow you.

All: We believe your everlasting covenant is to be God to us, and that we will live forever.

We call out to you, as you call us deeper into this covenant.

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 on the edges.

Not listening to each other.

Not taking the path you show.

We confess when we have strayed from the way.

Silencing suffering.

Forfeiting life.

(We name the forces that keep us from deep commitment.)

Deep calls to deep.

You call to us from the depth of your love.

Many: Calling us to deep commitment.

We come to you, God.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 17:1-7 (NRSV)

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ² And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³ Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴ “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You

shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

Mark 8:38 – 9:1

³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

¹ And he said to them, “Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.”

Education

Adult Ed | CMU portable: *Can reading be a spiritual discipline?* Paul Doerksen, Associate Professor of Theology. Feb. 28, Part 1; March 7, Part 2. For preparatory readings and the Zoom link, contact the church office.

Bethel Kids Connecting invites your children to join us for a weekly virtual gathering for the season of Lent. The plan is to gather every Sunday at 11:15 am over Zoom for a 30 minute session, beginning Sunday (Feb. 21) for 7 weeks (until April 5). With the intention of emulating an in-person gathering, each session will include a game, story, scripture verse, prayer time and craft tutorial. Similar to Advent, we are preparing craft bags with supplies for each week’s activities. If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Valerie at valerie@bethelmennonite.ca.

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.***

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 Mennonite Church, February 28, 2021

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 Women in Mission will not be able to meet in March. However, let's join together this month to reflect on the theme "My Cup Overflows with God's Blessings." Consider keeping a record of your thoughts and prayers and put them in a cup for possible sharing when we can gather again. As you are able, continue to mail or bring your offerings to the church office - clearly designated for Bethel Women in Mission.

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 events:

- *Jets viewing party:* on March 13, join others from Bethel through Zoom to watch the Jets play the Maple Leafs. Those interested will get questions about how they think the game will go. We can compare answers after the game. Game starts at 6:00, Zoom will start at 5:45. Call the church office for details.
- *Play Bethel Bingo:* starts on March 15 and continues for the following two weeks. Everyone who is interested will receive two cards and get daily emails or phone calls on the latest numbers that are picked. Call the church office for details.

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.

Carter Early Learning Centre is pleased to announce that the start-up funding in the amount of \$100,000 for the school-age expansion is approved and received in full. Upgrades and modifications to the Lower Lounge are in progress. At this point an early April opening date is anticipated. The tremendous support from Bethel to serve our neighbours is gratefully received. I will keep you posted as the project progresses, but if you have questions please contact the church office.

Library Update | Richard Toews' latest novel, *The Quiet in the Land*, is set in Russia in 1917. Johann Toews, the son of a Mennonite pastor, is trying to resolve the contradiction between the Biblical principles he has been taught and the way his community treats the Russian peasants around them. In his quest for justice, Johann makes a dangerous decision. *Please call the church office to make an appointment to access the library.*

Thank you to the **Volunteer Visitors and others** who joined the Educational Session on Zoom, Topic, "*Alone Together: Caring for Ourselves and Others Experiencing Loneliness*" on Feb. 23. Our speakers were Vernelle Enns Penner (Chaplain at Pembina Place) and Tara Brousseau-Snider (Counsellor, Recovery of Hope). They provided interesting stories, insight and tools for dealing with loneliness. The session was recorded; contact the church office for the link. Be safe and care for yourself and one another, *Evelyn Leferink on behalf of the Caregiving Committee.*

Partners in Ministry

Mennonite Church Canada

mennonitechurch.ca

Praise God for four recent teacher training events for the Congo Literacy Project, held in Mutena, Kamiji, Kamayala and Bitá. Pray that 80 newly trained teachers would have the courage and determination to begin literacy classes in their respective congregations. The literacy project is supported by International Witness and Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission.

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.

Amplifying Jesus: Sunday night worship ...a 6 week series of Lent Worship Services for MCM Youth, started Feb. 21, 8:00 pm. Contact kgiesbrecht@mennochurch.mb.ca .

Break Every Yoke | On March 24, MCM and First MC are co-sponsoring a conversation about working towards a just and dignified society. Speakers include David Driedger; Winnipeg Centre MP Leah Gazana; and author, John Clarke. See: firstmennonitechurch.ca/break-every-yoke/.

Canadian Mennonite University**cmu.ca**

Music at CMU Webinar | Explore the options and possibilities that music studies at CMU afford. March 3, 4:00 pm. Register: cmu.ca/webinar .

Social Justice Fair - Menno Simons College | Learn about important local social justice causes and initiatives. March 10, 11:00- 2:00. Info at: msc.studentservices@uwinnipeg.ca .

Conrad Grebel University College**uwaterloo.ca/grebel/**

2021 Bechtel Lecture | March 11, 7 pm EST: “Blackness, whiteness and the Anabaptist ‘Imagined Community’”. Information at: bit.ly/3nVDgjR. Register at: bit.ly/38RJDAj.

Mennonite Central Committee**mccmb.ca**

The MCC Manitoba offices on Plaza Drive and Henderson Hwy remain closed to the public. Donations can be made by phone, online or mailed in. Please contact us at manitoba@mccmb.ca or 204-261-6381.