
Scripture Reading

Psalm 19 (NRSV)

- ¹ The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
- ² Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.
- ³ There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;
- ⁴ yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
- In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
- ⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
- ⁶ Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.
- ⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;
- ⁸ the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;
- ⁹ the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
- ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.
- ¹¹ Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
- ¹² But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.
- ¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
- Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.
- ¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

- ¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”
- ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and

Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Isaiah 29:13-14

¹³ The Lord said: Because these people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote; ¹⁴ so I will again do amazing things with this people, shocking and amazing. The wisdom of their wise shall perish, and the discernment of the discerning shall be hidden.

Sirach 1:1, 4-6, 16-20

¹ All wisdom is from the Lord, and with him it remains forever.
⁴ Wisdom was created before all other things, and prudent understanding from eternity.
⁶ The root of wisdom—to whom has it been revealed? Her subtleties—who knows them?
¹⁶ To fear the Lord is fullness of wisdom; she inebriates mortals with her fruits;
¹⁷ she fills their whole house with desirable goods, and their storehouses with her produce.
¹⁸ The fear of the Lord is the crown of wisdom, making peace and perfect health to flourish.
¹⁹ She rained down knowledge and discerning comprehension, and she heightened the glory of those who held her fast.
²⁰ To fear the Lord is the root of wisdom, and her branches are long life.

Education

Adult Ed | [March 7, Part 2](#). CMU portable: *Can reading be a spiritual discipline?* Paul Doerksen, Associate Professor of Theology. In preparation, please read the stories found at: <https://www.bethelmennonite.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/A-good-Man-and-Revelation-BMC.pdf>. **Zoom link:** contact the church office.

[March 14](#): Shane Loney, the co-founder of several social enterprises in Manitoba including BUILD, Aki Energy and Aki Foods, will share his vision and work in developing social enterprises with the indigenous community.

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, until April 4. 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.***

Thursday Morning Coffee Time | Join Pastoral Intern Kim Rempel for a Zoom coffee time every Thursday morning from 10:00-11:00 am. 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.

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 church office.*

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. Contact 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 (deadline is Mar. 14) and get daily emails or phone calls on the latest numbers that are picked. Contact the church office for more information.

Library Update | Bethel Church member Esther Matz has published a new book called *Death of A Tycoon*. Lawyer Vivian Clarke and Indigenous RCMP officer Bruce Hathaway develop a strong bond of love and trust as they team up once again to solve another murder mystery. At the same time, they are busy championing the needs of marginalized youth in their small community of Pineview. The Bethel Library also has Esther's first book in the Pineview series, *Death of A Judge*. Please call the church office to make an appointment to access the library.

Partners in Ministry

Mennonite Church Canada

mennonitechurch.ca

The [Mennonite Church Canada Palestine-Israel Network](#) requests prayers that the elections scheduled for March 23 be fair and free for all citizens of the state of Israel, both for Jewish Israelis and for the Palestinian minority. We ask that God will guide the elections so that justice, equality and peace may come to the land.

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.

Mennonite Church Manitoba

mennochurch.mb.ca

Amplifying Jesus: Sunday night worship ...a 6 week series of Lent Worship Services for MCM Youth, 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/.

Camp Assiniboia has beautiful family cabins that are available for individuals or groups who live in the same household. Rental info: Linda Dueck 1-204-864-2159 ext. 2; email: carentals@campswithmeaning.org.

Woven (Mennonite Women Manitoba new name) | FB page: [Woven](#).
Email woven.mcm@gmail.com to be added to their Email List to receive Book Club and Conversation Circle announcements.

Awesome KidMin Conference Mar. 12 &13. Sponsored in part by MCM and MennoMedia. Great opportunity to take in some inspiring workshops and main sessions! Details at: <https://www.awesomekidmin.com> Contact Kathy Giesbrecht for further information and encouragement to attend!

Canadian Mennonite University **cmu.ca**

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

Pre-Professional Studies at CMU webinar | Mar. 10, 4:00 pm. CMU prepares students exceptionally well to meet all admission requirements for studies in law, medicine, dentistry, education, social work – and many more. Register: cmu.ca/webinar .

Graduate School of Theology and Ministry Webinar | Mar. 23, 7:00 pm. Hear from faculty and students in the program, and learn about generous scholarship and bursary opportunities to support your interest. Prospective students who attend the webinar and submit a GSTM application by May 31 will have their application fee waived. Register at: enrolment.cmu.ca/register/gstmwebinar.

Other

Canzona presents: *Kaffee und Kuchen: An afternoon of German Hymns*. This online event is available now until April 5. Tickets at canzona.ca. Admission by donation. | Warm up your singing voices and join Canzona as they bring your favourite German hymns into your home at this live-streamed sing-along event! Enjoy an afternoon of singing with your bubble mates as Canzona and special guests lead German hymns in four-part harmony. When you register for your ticket, you will receive a customized PDF hymn book and streaming link by email.