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## Scripture Reading

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### Mark 1:4-13 (NRSV)

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

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## Education

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**Adult Ed** | [May 2, 9, 16, 30](#): Madeleine Friesen will lead a series introducing the *Voices Together* hymnal. | For more details, please consult the Adult Ed link on the Bethel website.

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## Bethel Announcements

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**From Bethel Church Council** | Effective Apr. 28, Bethel has revised its building use protocols to be consistent with the new government guidelines. • Access to and use of the church building must be booked in advance with the administrative assistant. • Only the main entrance will be used. • In-person services remain suspended. • No more than 10 people will be in the building to produce the live-streamed service. • All individuals will be required to wear a face mask at all times while inside the building, and maintain physical distancing. • Use of hand sanitizers is mandatory. • See the complete details of the April 28, 2021 protocol updates on Bethel's website, or call the church office to receive a copy sent to you by mail.

**Bethel Women in Mission** will sadly not be able to gather for our annual Mother/Daughter/Friend Banquet in May. This month you are encouraged to reflect on the theme "My Cup Overflows with Song"! As you are able, continue to mail or bring your offerings to the church office. Thank you.

**Kids Connecting** | Bethel Kids, you're needed to help create a Children's Story for Adults! Kids Connecting is planning to meet every two weeks for about 45 minutes and participate in an Echo Drama to further explore a Bible story. Who: YOU - Bethel Kids! What: Kids Connecting! When: May 2, 16, 30 and June 13 from 11:15 am-12:00 noon. Where: Zoom! (email pastor Valerie for the link). Why: To connect with your friends through conversation, drama and art while learning more about Jesus! For more information, contact pastor Valerie at: [Valerie@bethelmennonite.ca](mailto:Valerie@bethelmennonite.ca).

**The Carter school-age expansion project** is progressing well. The lower lounge is looking beautiful and refreshed. Inspections are underway for Occupancy and Licensing. A realistic opening date at this point is June 1, but it could be earlier. Fifteen families are excited to have their children begin when the doors open. Filling to 25 will proceed gradually over the following months. We look forward to inviting you all to a grand opening, likely virtual, shortly after operations begin. Stay tuned for updates. If there are questions please contact the church office

**Volunteer Opportunity** | We are looking at launching a virtual version of our **Harrow Reading Program** this spring. If you are comfortable with technology (Google Meet), can spare a half hour a week, and would be interested in listening to a student from Harrow School practice their reading skills, please contact Pastor Kathy.

**Library Update** | At the request of Bethel members, two books by Shaun Loney have been added to the library. *Beautiful Bailout* describes a new model of cost-effectively funding social enterprises that Loney claims will allow us to leave behind for good the growing child welfare crisis, soaring health care costs and epidemic incarceration rates. In *An Army of Problem Solvers*, Loney unveils his plan for reconciliation. This includes investing in utilities that sell renewable energy, implementing a basic income guarantee and transforming local food economies.

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## Partners in Ministry

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### Mennonite Church Canada

mennonitechurch.ca

**Rising virus cases in Ethiopia** in the midst of complicated ethnic division are affecting the ministry of Meserete Kristos Church. We pray for God's peace to reign and unity within the church to be strengthened.

**The Maliwan Church in Khon Kaen, Thailand**, welcomed four baptisms on Easter Sunday. Thank God for this growing group of Jesus followers who share life together in worship, income-generation work, discipleship training and community service. Pray for Witness workers Tom and Christine Poovong as they provide leadership and mentoring to this group.

### Mennonite Church Manitoba

mennochurch.mb.ca

**Please pray for our MCM sibling church, Living Word Church in Cross Lake.** Cross Lake First Nation has been hit hard by COVID over the past year, with several hundred cases and seven deaths. As the community has been under a stay-at-home order, the church has not met since October and they have not been able to gather virtually. Pray for vaccinations to happen quickly, for the ongoing health and safety of community and church members, and for the future of the church post-COVID.

**Camps with Meaning** staff are breathing a sigh of relief. Manitoba Health has cleared our "pop-up" regional day camps for this summer. Visit the [CwM Registration and Rates page](#) to learn more about these camps.

**Campers are registering** for summer camps; this means we also need staff and volunteers! Kitchen and maintenance help, camp pastors and health officers are needed for one-day pop-up camps in various locations and week-long day camps at both camps: [campswithmeaning.org](#) Summer.

### Canadian Mennonite University

cmu.ca

**Ready, Set, Register!** This webinar, for all who have applied and been admitted for Fall 2021, will introduce students to university systems, including sometimes confusing language like 'credit hours', 'prerequisites' and 'academic terms'. May 5, 4:00 pm. Register at [www.cmu.ca/webinar](#).

**One week Spring Intensive Course Options!** CMU is offering great options through the spring, beginning on May 3. *All courses are available in hybrid format* (both in person and online). For registration and more information, go to: [www.cmu.ca/intensivecourses](#).

**Virtual Spring Bursary Fundraiser** is on May 18. Every year we rely on donations from our generous community to raise funds for the bursaries. We have a number of events planned this year including a virtual program, an online prize raffle, torte raffle, and gourmet pick-up meal. Go to [westgatemennonite.ca](http://westgatemennonite.ca) to learn more about how to make a donation and help support our students and their families!

**Mennonite Central Committee****mccmb.ca**

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**Sponsor an acre of Manitoba farmland with Grow Hope** and help provide food and agriculture training for people in places like Cambodia and DR Congo. Plus, every \$1 you give can grow up to \$5! Info at: [www.mccmb.ca/GrowHope](http://www.mccmb.ca/GrowHope) or call Simone at 204-261-6381.

**Due to the new public health orders**, the spring MCC Golf Yard Sale is postponed until further notice. Stay tuned for future updates.

**Other**

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**Eden Health Care** | “It is with considerable regret that Eden has accepted the resignation of our Chief Executive Officer, Kym Kaufmann. Kym will now become the Deputy Minister in Manitoba’s new ministry, “Mental Health, Wellness and Recovery.” Kym leaves Eden with an excellent staff, strong systems, and expanding services. Eden has initiated a search, and we seek your support, particularly in prayer, as we search for Eden’s next leader. Further details and application processes are on Eden’s website: <https://edenhealthcare.ca/chief-executive-officer/>.”