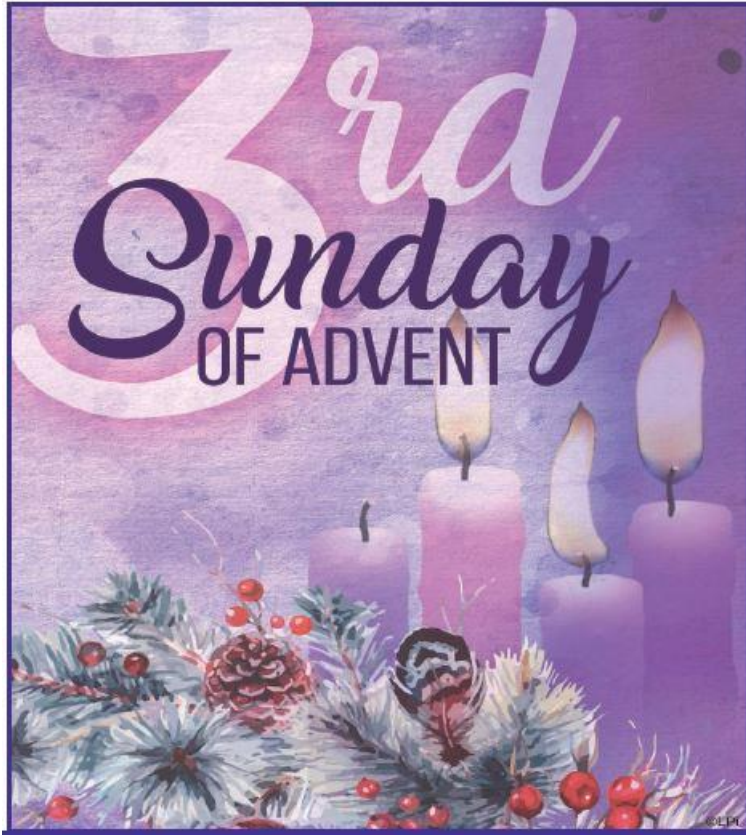


*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



Sunday, December 13, 2020

Worship Service

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH OF ALTONA

December 13, 2020

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt-Richert

Worship Leader: Josh Janzen

Prelude Music: Jacob Friesen-Stoesz

Music: Various Recorded Artists

Children's Story: Amanda Wiens

Candle Lighters: Larry & Teresa, Erin and Emilee Hamm

"The Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the broken-hearted ... and to comfort all who mourn."

~ Isaiah 61: 1-2

Prelude Music

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship and Prayer

Candle Lighting

Song **The Angel Gabriel**

Moment in Mission

Children's Story

Song **O little town of Bethlehem**

Scripture **Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11**

Meditation **"The Joy of the Lord's Anointed"**

Song **Hark, the glad sound**

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Song **As we go, we go in peace**

Our worship service will be available on the church website
Sunday morning [abchurchcommunity.ca] at 10:30am.

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Bill Driedger, Helen Schulz, Anne Braun, Hilda Wiebe, Elizabeth Doell, Waldo Schulz at Altona Health Centre; Anne Kehler at Notre Dame de Lourdes Hospital.
- ~ **Thank you** for all your expressions of sympathy through prayers, calls, cards, food and flowers, at the passing of our mother Eva Toews.
~ Don & Grace Fehr
- ~ **This week our "Moment in Mission"** highlights Mennonite Central Committee's Christmas giving options. <https://mcccanada.ca/christmas#!> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DeusgDk7AwU>.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada:** Advent meet-and-greet with Bethlehem Bible College. Join a live online gathering to hear from representatives of the West Bank's Bethlehem Bible College (BBC). Tuesday morning, Dec. 15, 11am, EDT. The one-hour gathering is with BBC president Jack Sara and Community Outreach director Shireen Awaad Hilal. A Q&R will follow with hosts Jeanette Hanson, director of International Witness, and Doug Klassen, Executive Minister of Mennonite Church Canada. The event is sponsored by the Mennonite Church Canada Palestine-Israel Network in collaboration with International Witness. Registration is free: write to mcmfriendsofpalestine@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

WORSHIP CALENDAR:

- Dec 20 - 4TH Sunday of Advent - Isaiah 11: 1-10
- Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Dec 25 - No Worship Service
- Dec 27 - Christmas Celebration - Isaiah 52: 7-10

Donations for the church can be dropped off at Don and Grace Fehr's home at **85 Martin Crescent**. Place your donation in the designated box and then ring the doorbell. PLEASE NOTE THEIR NEW ADDRESS, and don't leave your donation at Don and Grace's old house.

YEAR-END donations: Deadline date for year-end donations is **12 noon on December 31**. Any donations received after 12 noon will be receipted for the year 2021.

Year end donations can be dropped off at the treasurer's home (see above); as well, Susan will be at the Church Office on December 29, 30, and 31 (9am-noon and 1pm-3pm) and you may bring your donations to the church. Ring the South Ed. Wing doorbell and Susan will meet you at the door.

2021 Donation Envelopes can be picked up from the church. Ring the doorbell and Susan will meet you at the door. Note: If you live at Buffalo Apts or Garden On Tenth your envelopes will be delivered.

FROM the PASTOR: Josh Janzen

The holiday season around Christmas can often be a time of busyness and stress. However, this Christmas season the source of stress is more likely to be disappointment. But just because many of the things we look forward to will look different this year, that doesn't mean we can't still nurture our relationships with loved ones and make meaningful memories this year. I recently read an article from the Fuller Youth Institute and in it there are four suggestions to limit the stress and disappointment.

1. Grieve and be grateful - It is good to acknowledge the highs and lows of life. The author's family has a tradition during the month of December to name a gift that each person is grateful for. This year, her family has updated the tradition to include things that they are missing. It is okay to feel conflicted during the holidays this year. There are still lots of things to celebrate, yet there is much we are missing out on.

2. Serve the isolated - Here the author shares a quote from Reggie Joiner: "a kid may get over what I teach them but they will never get over what God does through them." Brainstorm as a family and find creative ways to care for those in our community that need it. It could be something as simple as dropping of some baked goodies as a care package!

3. Connect digitally and intentionally with relatives - The present reality of the virus in our Province and in our communities makes it very clear that we shouldn't be having those traditional big family gatherings this year. But we still have the possibility of connecting by technology like Zoom or Facetime. And if technology isn't one of your strongest abilities, no worries! Getting a handwritten letter in the mail is something very special and intentional in meaning.

4. Do what your family does best - the author of this article notes that it can be really easy to get caught up in comparing what your family does during the Christmas season with another. She says that this year especially, do what your family does best. If your household is a musical family, grab some instruments and sing Christmas carols. If your family is a hockey family, make your own rink at home. If your family loves playing in the snow, then go outside and build all kinds of cool snow creations!

Jr & Sr Youth

- Youth family check-ins, see email.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona 117 2ND Street NW Altona, MB R0G 0B1
Web Page Address: abchurchcommunity.ca Office: 324-6717 E-mail: office@abchurch.ca
Worship Services available online at: abchurch.libsyn.com Facebook: ABC community
Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324-5990 cell 1-204-771-3406 marktd@abchurch.ca
Assoc Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 virginiagr@abchurch.ca
Assoc Pastor of Youth Min: Josh Janzen, 204-502-1991, cell 1-402-631-3481 joshj@abchurch.ca
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 amandaw@abchurch.ca

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Wednesday Night Worship at 7 pm.** We will gather every Wednesday on ZOOM during Advent to listen to scripture, Advent readings, pray, share about our lives and where we find joy right now. The Zoom link will be in the Friday bulletin email.
- **Christmas vacations and Office hours:**
Pastor Mark will be on vacation from December 21 to December 28.
Pastor Virginia will be on vacation from December 28 to January 4.
The Church office will be closed December 25 – 28 and January 1.
- **Commission Chairs:** reminder that reports for the Annual Report Book are due by December 23, 2020.
- **We consider** reading and books to be essential. If you would like to access the church library and sign out books, you may call the church office to arrange a time. We ask that you wear a mask and hand sanitize when visiting the library.
- **The Mitten Tree Project** is happening. New or home knit mittens, toques and scarves collected through the **Mitten Tree project** will be donated to Union Gospel Mission in Winnipeg. All donated items are greatly appreciated and much needed at UGM. To donate your items, call Amanda Wiens 204-324-6719 to arrange drop-off or pick-up.
- **Thank you** for your generosity. We have now exceeded the expenses for Angel Tree Project!
- **The pastors** are working from home during critical code red. You are welcome to be in touch by phone or email. Susan will be in the office so you are also welcome to call the church. The facility will be closed to visitors during the critical code red period.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **We are grateful** that Rudy Franz has begun his role as Spiritual Care Provider for Altona Health Centre and Gardens on Tenth Apartments. Let's pray that God works through Rudy to provide comfort and peace during a challenging time.

Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba – manitoba@mccmb.ca

- **Give** the perfect Christmas gift . Protect a family from COVID. Help prevent the spread in vulnerable communities. This gift makes it possible for MCC partners around the world to purchase and distribute soap, disinfectant and other hygiene items to families in need. Purchase your Christmas Giving gift at mccmb.ca/Christmas or call 204-261-6381.
- **You** are invited to join MCC in supporting the Government of Canada's legislation being tabled in Parliament this December around the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples [UNDRIP]. MCC believes that passing a legislative framework to implement UNDRIP is an excellent step toward ensuring human rights of Indigenous Peoples are respected and honoured in Canada. We invite you to contact Minister of Justice David Lametti and your MP to urge them to fulfill the

government's commitment to reconciliation by making every effort to bring this legislation to Royal Assent. Visit mcccanada.ca/take-action .

- **University students**, curious about how MCC advocates to the Canadian government? Learn about the Ottawa Office and how MCC is reshaping Canadian aid policy to create lasting change. Learn more and apply at mccmb.ca/Student-Seminar.
- **Apply** for SALT today. Serving and Learning Together is a year-long, cross-cultural service experience, whereby Christian young adults from Canada & the U.S. serve internationally in a variety of positions in fields such as education, agriculture, healthcare, technology, peace and more! Visit mccmb.ca/SALT to register.

Canadian Mennonite University – cmu.ca

- **CMU** is still taking applications for Winter Term 2021. Apply at www.cmu.ca/apply to become a full or part time student. To take a course for audit or extended education: www.cmu.ca/extended. Undergraduate course offerings: www.cmu.ca/timetable and available Graduate courses: www.cmu.ca/gradcourses.
- **Dec 16, 6pm - Wednesday Webinar, Study Business at CMU.** CMU offers a Bachelor of Business Administration, along with other business degree options, preparing students for careers in business and not-for-profit organizations. Business students delve into and specialize in social entrepreneurship, management, accounting, not-for-profit leadership, human resources—all of which open unique career and vocational paths. Tune in to this webinar to learn more! Register at www.cmu.ca/webinar.
- **Christmas at CMU Highlights!** COVID-19 prevented CMU from hosting its annual Christmas at CMU musical celebration. The university is nonetheless sharing selected pieces of an earlier Christmas at CMU program. Be drawn into the spirit of Advent and enjoy the music - at www.cmu.ca/christmasatcmu, launched on **Fri, Dec 18 at 7pm.**

Mennonite Disaster Service - ecomunications@mds.mennonite.net

- **MDS** has suspended most of its fall projects due to rising cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. While planning continues for winter projects, we are monitoring the situation and will resume work when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, MDS has the following volunteer opportunities.

Mennonite Church Canada – office@mennochurch.ca 888-6781

Mennonite Church Manitoba – mennochurch.mb.ca 204-896-1616

- **Dec 13, 4pm - Voices Together Dedication and Launch:** Register for the free, online launch event at <http://voicestogetherhymnal.org> It will start with a Dedication Service containing plenty of music, followed by an intro to the project from Project Editor, Bradley Kauffman, followed by Q&A with the committee.