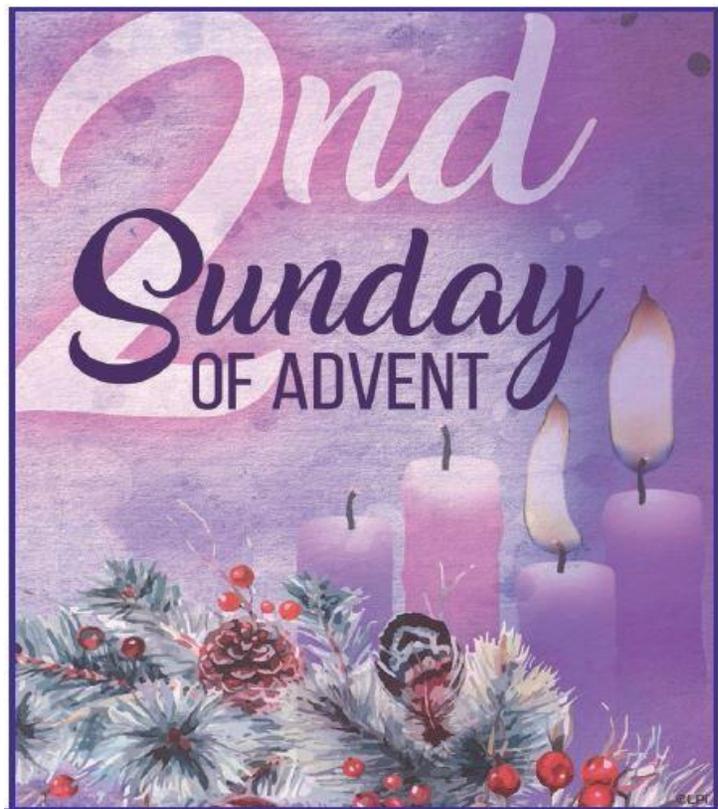


*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



Sunday, December 6, 2020

Worship Service

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH OF ALTONA

December 6, 2020

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Worship Leader: Jolene Friesen-Stoesz

Prelude Music: Julia Wiens **Music:** Various Recorded Artists

Children's Story: Kristin Falk

Candle Lighters: Mark & Lisa, Shelby and Carter Penner

"A voice of one calling: 'In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.'"

~ Isaiah 40: 3

Prelude Music

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship and Prayer

Candle Lighting

Song **Magnificat**

Children's Story

Moment in Mission

Song **Comfort My People**

Scripture **Isaiah 40: 1-14**

Meditation **"A Powerful Comfort"**

Song **Comfort, Comfort O My People**

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Song **Joy to the World**

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

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Hilda Wiebe, Elizabeth Doell, Waldo Schulz at Altona Health Centre, and Anne Kehler at Notre Dame de Lourdes Hospital.
- ~ **Condolences** to Don & Grace Fehr, family and the extended family, at the passing away of their mother, Eva Toews of Altona, on Dec 1. A private family service was held Friday.
- ~ **Anne Wiebe** [David] of our Church family, passed away November 30. We are invited to join in gratitude for her life, and pray for her family. A private funeral service was held this past Thursday.
- ~ **This week our "Moment in Mission"** comes from the Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund. Things are different this year but they are still finding ways to bring extra cheer to families in our community. To donate visit <https://peminavalleyonline.com/toys-days>. You can view the video on the Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund Facebook page.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada**
Pray for strength and wisdom as PeaceBuilders Community, Inc., together with Witness workers Dann and Joji Pantoj, respond to the disaster of the latest typhoon in the Philippines. Typhoon Ulysses hit the north island of Luzon leaving an entire city submerged with more than 28,000 family homes under water. The PAR teams of Manila and Kalinga are responding. May God's love be shown through them to people in need. [Read more](#) from the Pantoja's blog.

WORSHIP CALENDAR:

Dec 13 - 3RD Sunday of Advent - Isaiah 61: 1-4. 8-11
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 THE NEW ADDRESS, and don't leave your donation at Don and Grace's old house.

FROM the PASTOR: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Here are the 10 books I've read in 2020 that have had the biggest impact on me. This includes fiction, nonfiction and books related to ministry.

A Good Provider Is One Who Leaves: One Family and Migration in the 21st Century. By Jason DeParle

Improvisation: The Drama of Christian Ethics. By Samuel Wells

Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity. By Katherine Boo.

The Story of Art. By E.H. Gombrich

Quietly Courageous: Leading the Church in a Changing World. By Gil Rendel

A Secular Age. By Charles Taylor

American Dirt. By Jeanine Cummins

Evangelism without Additives: What if Sharing Your Faith just meant Being Yourself? By Jim Henderson

The Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching. By Paul Scott Wilson.

How to be an Anti-Racist. By Ibram Kendi.

What are you reading? What books have impacted you recently?

Jr Youth

- Youth at home! Check out the parent email for more details

Sr Youth

- Youth at home! Check out the parent email for more details

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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 hope right now. The Zoom link will be in the Friday bulletin email.
- **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.
- **Angel Tree** - You can still drop your donations off at the church treasurer's house, 85 Martin Crescent. Donations are tax receiptable: if you donate by cheque, write it to Altona Berghaler Mennonite Church, and designate Angel Tree in the memo line; if you donate cash, please include your name and phone number.
- **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

- **Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund** - Donations can still be dropped off at Pembina Valley Pharmacy or Access Credit Unions, or they can be mailed to P.O. Box 2255, Altona, MB. Thank you!
- Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba** – manitoba@mccmb.ca
- **Give** the perfect Christmas gift this season. Protect a family from COVID-19. Help prevent the spread of the coronavirus 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 around the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), being tabled in Parliament this December. 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. If you agree, 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

Canadian Mennonite University – cmu.ca

- **Vacancy:** CMU invites nominations / applications for the position of Vice President External. For info: www.cmu.ca/about/employment President External. For info: www.cmu.ca/about/employment.
- **Dec 9, 6pm** - Wednesday Webinar, *Study Music at CMU*, will speak to CMU's unique commitments in music studies and how they strengthen musical, creative, and analytical skills and open a range of vocational and career paths. Take advantage of speaking directly with Music Professors as you consider next steps for your university learning. Register at www.cmu.ca/webinar.
- **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 go to www.cmu.ca/extended. Undergraduate course offerings here www.cmu.ca/timetable and available Graduate courses at www.cmu.ca/gradcourses.
- **CMU** has released plans for adapting the 2021 Winter Term through the COVID-19 pandemic that include protocols to promote the safety, health and well-being of the learning community, sustain high-quality teaching, and establish new ways for on-campus and commuter students to build connections. Details, including a video message from Cheryl Pauls, CMU President, can be seen at media.cmu.ca/nr-plans-for-winter-term-2020

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