

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



*Sunday, March 28, 2021
Palm Sunday Worship Service*

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

WORSHIP SERVICE

March 28, 2021

Lent 6 ~ Called to deep Hope

*“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.”
~ Philippians 2: 5*

MCM Video

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Music **Holy Lord**

Call to Worship and Prayer

LISTENING

Music **Your love is washing over me**

Children’s Story

Scripture **John 12: 12-16**

Sermon **“Holding on to Hope”**

RESPONSE

Time of Confession

Music **My Hope is built on nothing less HWB 343**

Words of Assurance

Offering Prayer and Prayer of the Church

Music **Everlasting God, On You I Call**

SENDING

Benediction

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert **Worship Leader:** Delores Enns

Children’s Story: Heidi Toews **Scripture Reader:** Julia Wiens

Music: ABC Ensemble

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

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Waldo Schulz at Altona Health Centre, Anne Kehler at Notre Dame de Lourdes Hospital, and Henry and Helen Thiessen at Morris Hospital.
- ~ **Condolences** to Alyssa and Josh Neufeld, and the extended family, at the passing away of father Dennis Penner. A funeral was held on Friday.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada**
In the midst of the worst-yet coronavirus outbreak in Palestine, Bethlehem Bible College (BBC) invites us to pray with them for students, staff, faculty, families and all Palestinians. Pray for healing. Many have succumbed to the disease and hospitals are overwhelmed, especially due to the spread of virus variants. Pray for economic recovery in a situation that is becoming desperate due to long lockdowns, which have decimated the local tourism industry. Pray for vaccines to arrive and become widely available. This has not yet begun in Palestine, except for front-line medical workers.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

Lent 2021 - Deep calls to Deep—God is calling us to go deeper.

[Thurs] Apr 1 - Good Friday Service at 7:00pm
(increased COVID safety measures)

Apr 2 - Good Friday Service at 10:30am

Apr 4 - Easter Service - *Called to deep Living* at 9:00am
(increased safety measures)

- Easter Service – *Called to deep Living* at 10:30am

Good Friday Communion - in both of our Good Friday services we will celebrate communion. You will be invited to pick up the juice & wafer as you enter the sanctuary. If you plan to be participating from home, we invite you to prepare your elements ahead of time.

We are planning 2 Good Friday services and 2 Easter Sunday services. We invite you to check out this website for more information and ask everyone to RSVP - <https://goodfridayandeaster.rsvpify.com/>.

FROM the PASTOR: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Recently our book study group at church resumed our gatherings via zoom. We are reading the book “*The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America.*” This is a fascinating book that packs in way more information than any history book I have ever read, yet does so in a way that is engaging and not boring.

This past week the chapter that we discussed was on the history of residential schools and the government’s attempts to assimilate Native peoples into “white” culture. One of the harder aspects to process in this discussion was the role that Christian churches played in these schools—they ran them for the most part, and did so willingly. It seemed that the foundations of Christianity’s evangelism at the time were a natural framework for assimilation.

Our discussion moved on to the question of how have things changed? Or have they? Are we still evangelising people by telling them they have to leave everything from their own culture behind? Are we still approaching other’s cultures as if we have all the answers and they have nothing to offer us? And are there aspects of our beliefs and theology that we should be reviewing to make sure that the harm that was done in the residential schools is not repeated in a different setting?

Our discussions are rich but seem to bring up even more questions than answers. But these questions are important because they help us engage with our history and reflect on how that impacts our present.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Jr & Sr Youth

- Jr and Sr Youth: as we celebrate Holy Week, I encourage you and your families to join in our Good Friday and Easter services.

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

- **Tuesday morning coffee** – join us at 10am via ZOOM.
- **Over the next few weeks**, we will show a video report from the MCM Annual Gathering held on March 6. This will be shown just prior to our 10:30am worship service. This week's video is a report from Rick Neufeld, Director of Leadership Ministries. (you can view the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljse62CqwsA>)

Please consider filling one of these Commission positions:

Church Council Vice-Chair	- 1 for a 2-year term
Church Council Member at Large	- 1 for a 2-year term
Personnel Commission	- 2 for a 3-year term
Education Commission	- 2 for a 3-year term
Finance Commission	- 1 for a 3-year term
Worship & Music Commission	- 1 for a 3-year term
Home Ministries Commission	- 2 for a 3-year term
World Ministries Commission	- 2 for a 3-year term

To volunteer to serve the church in this capacity contact Byron Loeppky or Stephanie Friesen.

- **We hope** you have been enjoying the enhanced experience with our new visual and audio system. The installation of the system required a slight configuration of the choir loft which has resulted in a surplus of two benches, which are currently being stored at the back of the loft. We are making them available to anyone who can make use of them. Please note: they are heavy! If interested, please contact the church office to arrange pickup.
- **This Easter** the World/Home Ministries Commission is inviting us to make a donation to MCC to help in their efforts to respond to crises around the globe. These funds help provide emergency food to displaced families and support long-term recovery and rebuilding that make a difference for communities for months or years to come. You can make your donation online or put it in a basket which will be set up in the foyer Easter Sunday.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **YFC/The Station Altona** is hiring a full-time female staff for this summer. The role would include planning and running programs and events for girls, Outreach initiatives, and much more. For info contact Sheridan Sawatzky - email sheridan.sawatzky@yfc.ca or call or text 204 304 6521.

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

- **MCM invites** applications for the position of Director of Church Engagement. For info on this 0.5FTE position: mennochurch.mb.ca/news, or contact office@mennochurch.mb.ca.
- **MC Canada invites** applications for the position of Executive Asst. beginning May, 2021. This position is full-time and located in Winnipeg,

MB. Applicants from across Canada are invited to apply. For the full job description go to: <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/article/11096-help-us-spread-the-word-were-hiring>

Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba – manitoba@mccmb.ca

- **With spring on the horizon, MCC's Grow Hope farmers** are starting to work their fields for the planting season, and they need your help. When you sponsor an acre of Manitoba farmland, you're joining a community of people working to end global hunger AND every \$1 you give can grow up to \$5! Join together with your church or small group and create a giving registry to watch your funds grow through the season. The first five churches in Manitoba that sign up for a giving registry will receive a free copy of *Germinating conversations* book! Visit mccmb.ca/GrowHope to find out how to create a giving registry or to access resources such as this interactive guide.
- **Happy Easter from us at MCC!** At Easter, many Ukrainians decorate eggs to give to friends and family as a symbol of new life. Decorate your own by downloading this colouring page at mccmb.ca/stories/colour-your-own-easter-egg.

Canadian Mennonite University – cmu.ca

- **Mar 31, 4pm** - CMU's next **Virtual Open House** - All students, parents, teachers and school counsellors are invited to this virtual open house, an excellent way to orient yourself to a CMU experience. Register at www.cmu.ca/virtualopenhouse.
- **Apr 13, 7pm - Spring at CMU online** at www.cmu.ca/springatcmu . Hear stories from students, faculty, and alumni including a spotlight on Science (Can you spot a good scientist?); CMU Singers' premiere of *Breathe* by Leonard Enns (commissioned by the CMBC class of 1970); and some campus humour. Following the event, participate in an optional Zoom conversation with President Cheryl Pauls and others at 8:00 PM. RSVP to development@cmu.ca by April 9 to receive the Zoom link.

Mennonite Disaster Service - ecomunications@mds.mennonite.net

- The March edition of On the Level is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. To read more go to <https://conta.cc/3rWIj6p>.