

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona
Worship Service

January 22, 2023, 10:30 am

*“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.”*

~ Psalm 107:1

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering and Praise

Music How Great Thou Art VT 436
 Great is the Lord HWB 87

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music Come Thou Fount HWB 521

Offering

Hearing God’s Word

Children’s Story

Music God is so Good

Scripture Matthew 7:7-12

Sermon What is God like?

Responding to God’s Word

Music Nothing is Lost on the Breath of God VT 653

ABC Conversation

Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Music Immortal Invisible God Only Wise VT 98

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck Worship Leader: Terrell Wiebe
Children’s story: Elaine Erb
Music: Hilda Franz

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

~ **Hospitalized:** Shirley Toews and Edna Klippensten are at the Altona Health Centre

~ **International witness:** The Evangelical Mennonite Church Vietnam is experiencing tremendous growth, creating an urgent need for Anabaptist training. Mennonite Church Canada Witness would like to raise \$6000 in 6 weeks to help subsidize 90 new Vietnamese pastors’ travel to attend an Anabaptist Training Conference in Ho Chi Minh City (Feb 8-10). Give at www.mennonitechurch.ca/vietnam. Also, pray for Garry Janzen, Kevin Barkowsky, Nhien Pham as they prepare to teach at the conference and Jeanette Hanson as she prepares to make connections to the wider Mennonite Church. Pray that the Holy Spirit would move, and churches in Vietnam and Cambodia would be encouraged and strengthened in Christ.

~ **We wish a happy birthday and God’s blessing to:**

Grace Harms	Jan. 19	Ruth Kroeker	Jan. 24
Dylann Funk	Jan. 20	Andrew Heinrichs	Jan. 27
Julia Wiens	Jan. 20	Hilda Klassen	Jan. 28
Peter Hildebrand	Jan. 24		

WORSHIP CALENDAR

On Jan 22 we begin a 4-week worship series on the **Characteristics of God**. We will explore the question; What is God like? In preparation, you are invited to reflect on what you think about when you hear the word God, who or what comes to mind?

January 15: Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday

January 22: God is Good

January 29: God is Just

February 5: Music Sunday

February 12: God is Holy

February 19: God is ...

FROM THE PASTOR – Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

I have been thinking about beauty a lot lately. The beautiful hoar frost has helped, as well as my visit to an art gallery over Christmas. But so has the reading that I have been doing about the beauty of the created world. The beauty of a sunrise and the beauty of each individual person whom God has created. The beauty of fellowshiping with other people, worshipping God and celebrating the communion feast are also worthy of mentioning.

For me, appreciating beauty is a joyful and faithful response to God's love made visible around me. It draws my attention to the God who created all things, and it begs me to pause and give thanks. It also stirs me to contemplate the wonder of it all. The wonder that God created a natural response in nature for snow to cling to the tree branches after a fog that makes the beautiful hoar frost we have been enjoying. Or the progression of colours in a rainbow or sunrise that are so pleasing to the eye that I don't want to miss even one. And that artists are endlessly trying to capture and mimic.

I wonder, what place do you give beauty in your understanding of faith? Or how does beauty help you experience or connect with God?

We are visual people, but sometimes we forget to think about how visual cues can relate to our faith. Over the years many churches have used beautiful stained glass windows to stimulate faith in God, others have used banners or paintings. As Mennonites we have tended to be more simple and plain, sometimes to our detriment. I encourage you to pay attention to the world around you, and how or what helps you think about or draw closer to God.

THIS WEEK AT ABC:

- **Sunday school** for ages 3-18 is on Sunday's from 9:15-10:15 am in the basement of the education wing, youth are in south wing.
- **Ventures:** Wednesdays from 7:00-8:15 pm in the church basement.
- **Jr. Youth:** Wednesday from 7:00-9:00. We are going to be discussing what a biblical youth group might look like, playing games and eating snacks. See you there!
- **Sr. Youth:** Thursday from 7:00-9:00. Our first senior youth night! We will be making pizza and talking about what youth will look like this year.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Save the date: Annual general meeting Sunday, February 26.

Mennonite Church Manitoba's annual gathering will be held on March 3-4, 2023, Friday evening and Saturday, at Douglas Mennonite Church in Winnipeg. Our Gathering 2023 theme is "Re-Imagining Church Together." In light of changes in church and society during the past few years, we as congregations and as a regional church are asking questions like, "Who are we?" and "What is God calling us to be and to do now, in this time and place?" At Gathering 2023 we will explore these questions together, drawing on the hopeful promise of Ephesians 3:20-21. You can find more information about Gathering 2023 at www.mennochurch.mb.ca/gatherin

If you are interested in representing ABC at this event, please be in touch with the church office.

Altona's free Community Meal happens on the last Saturday of the month: January 28, 5:00-6:30pm at The Community Exchange (116 Main St). Community Meal is about cooking up community one meal at a time... This is a free meal for everyone, come by yourself or bring some family and friends."

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MCM: Did you know that Camp Assiniboia has an indoor skating and curling rink (camp style) in the riding arena? Come join us for a skate and some "hit, tap, draw" curling action on Sunday, February 5th from 2-5 pm. Hot chocolate and snacks will be provided. Donations gladly received. All proceeds will go to new cross-country ski equipment. Bring your skates and brooms!

MCC: How are empathy, connection and peacebuilding explored through artistic expression? Hear from storytellers at *Unbounded Stories: Storytelling, Empathy, and Peacebuilding* hosted by The Mauro Institute for Peace and Justice and sponsored by MCC. The event is happening on Friday, February 24th from 7 PM at the University of Manitoba's Mauro Centre, Room 225. Don't miss this opportunity to challenge the limitations of your perspectives and engage in meaningful dialogue. Sign up to attend [in-person](#) or through [Zoom](#).

MCI: Join our leadership team! MCI is looking to hire a full-time Director of Finance and Administration. Do you enjoy being a part of a collaborative team? Would you like to directly contribute to the decisions of an organization? Do you excel at engaging with prospective donors and stakeholders? Would you thrive in a youthful school environment? If so, we would love to speak with you! To find out more about this position, or to submit a cover letter and resume, please contact jenniferklippenstein@mciblues.net or visit mciblues.net.

We are also looking for volunteers in MCI's library! In the library, volunteers assist teachers by supervising students using that space for spares or classwork. We are in need of occasional library coverage on Wednesday & Thursday afternoons and morning and afternoon on Fridays. If you are willing to be on a contact list for library supervision or would like more information, please contact librarian Janna Wiebe by calling the school or emailing jannawiebe@mciblues.net.

Pembina Valley Bible Camp presents, "Valley-Tines". A fundraising banquet held on Feb 14th at Pembina Valley Bible Camp filled with fun, food and special guest speakers, Brian & Dorothy Derksen. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at Winkler and Morden Coop food stores or by calling the camp office, 204-246-2008. Free will offering will be taken.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona: 117 2 Street NW Altona, MB, R0G 0B1

Web Page Address: abchurchcommunity.ca **Office:** 324.6717

E-mail: office@abchurch.ca **Facebook:** ABC community

Worship Services available online at: abchurchcommunity.ca

Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324.5990, C 204.771.3406, marktd@abchurch.ca

Assoc. Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, C 304-6119 virginiagr@abchurch.ca

Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries: Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058, C 204.417.8200, terrellw@abchurch.ca