

**BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH OF ALTONA  
WORSHIP SERVICE**

**May 17, 2020**

*Welcome to the  
Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
of Altona*

*May 17, 2020*



*“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.”  
~ John 14: 18-19*

**Sermon:** Josh Janzen

**Worship Leader:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

**Music:** Andrew, Stephanie, Nicholas, Benjamin & Abigail Rempel

**Children’s Story:** Delores Enns

**Scripture Reader:** Gavin Wiens

**Sound Techs:** Jason Driedger, Andrew Rempel, Ben Dueck

Our guiding scripture for today’s time of worship: **John 14: 15-21**

Our worship service will be posted to [abchurch.libsyn.com](http://abchurch.libsyn.com) [Audio]  
[abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca) [Video] first thing Sunday morning.

Sermon Response Discussion: Sunday 11:00 AM via ZOOM.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87461810280>. See below for more information.

**PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER**

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Anne Kehler at Altona Health Centre. Chris Penner is in palliative care at Eastview Place.
- ~ **David P Wiebe**, part of our church family, passed away May 13. We are invited to join in gratitude for his life, and pray for his wife Anne, family and extended family. A private graveside service was held.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada**  
**Pray:** Witness workers getting vegetables to the hungry in Philippines - In response to urban food security issues during the COVID-19 lockdown, Witness worker Joji Pantoja in the Philippines has secured food lane passes that allow vegetables to be transported into the cities from the 400 farmers that work with Coffee for Peace. Pray for Dann and Joji as they organize this social enterprise initiative through their Peace and Reconciliation teams in various parts of the country. Read more about this story [here](#).

## **From the Pastor** – Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

This week I have been feeling the grief and loss that many are going through during this time. And the words of Psalm 13 echo in my mind “How long oh Lord?”

How long must we stay away from our family and friends, refraining from hugs and signs of love and affection?

How long must we stay away from the ill in our community?

How long until we can again worship and praise your holy name as a community together in one place with one voice?

How long will we live in fear; fear for ourselves, fear for our economy and fear for the vulnerable in our midst?

How long must we postpone our celebrations; of birthdays, weddings, funerals and graduations?

How long will COVID 19 disrupt our lives?

As far as I can tell no one, not even the special virologist, can answer these questions. So, we are left to ask our God, *how long?* And in the asking lament that it has already been too long. In the asking we name that these things are important to us and these things are a part of our walk as Christians and followers of Christ.

It is my prayer that we all find ways to lament and name our sadness and losses. May we all find ways to walk through our grief, and may we all find the strength to call on God’s name to be near us in all circumstances.

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **In preparation** for June 7, which would normally be our church picnic Sunday, we are inviting you to share pictures of “*Where you see God.*” These could be pictures from your garden/yard, from nature, of your family, of your latest creation, or anything really that draws your attention to God. Please send them to Virginia [virginiagr@abchurch.ca](mailto:virginiagr@abchurch.ca) to be shared in our worship on June 7.
- **During** this time of separation, if you or a loved one is hospitalized, struggling, or in need of some pastoral care, please be in touch with Mark or Virginia.
- **Previous videos** of worship services are available on our website [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca). Click ‘videos’ to access older recordings.
- **Though** the church doors remain closed, the church continues to operate. We will continue to strive to meet our financial obligations. Please continue your giving. Here are ways you can continue giving:
  - Dropped off at Don & Grace Fehr, 38 Sunflower Crescent.  
A mailbox is located on the front porch...Just drop it in and ring the doorbell - No cash please.
  - Mailed to the church; 117nd Street NW Altona, MB R0G 0B1.
  - Electronic transfer - to set this up, call Don/Grace Fehr 324-5908.

## **Introducing ABC’s Sermon Response Discussions:**

During this time when we are not gathering in person as a congregation, we are seeking ways for us to connect and share in our walk with God. Every Sunday 11:00 AM, the pastors will be hosting ***Sermon Response Discussions*** by Zoom. The link for these gatherings is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87461810280> (the same link will be used every Sunday). Joining the worship service at 10:15 AM will ensure you have enough time to join the discussion.

Our Sermon Response Discussions will be a time for us to engage the scripture and the sermon together. We could think of it as a Bible Study or Sunday School class conversation. The purpose of these discussions will not be praising, criticizing, or rating the sermon. We will focus on growing in faith together as we explore the scripture and the impacts of the sermon. Some questions we may consider for these times are:

- What caught your attention? What did you not understand? What would you like clarification on?
- What did you hear? What was your ‘take away’ from this sermon? What impact will it have on you? How has God spoken to you?
- What are the echoes, connections, or resonances between the sermon and what is happening in our lives and our communities?

Our sermon response times will be facilitated by one of the pastors who did not preach. The pastor who preached the sermon for that day’s worship service will participate in the discussion.

We hope you are able to join us! And be in touch with the church office if you need assistance using Zoom.

## **Sr & Jr YOUTH**

- Youth: In recognition of May long weekend, Zoom Youth Group will be postponed until next week, May 24.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mennonite Church Manitoba** [www.mennochurch.mb.ca](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca) 896-1616

**Mennonite Church Canada** – [office@mennochurch.ca](mailto:office@mennochurch.ca) 888-6781

- "An Accompanied Life" - Text: John 14:15-21. Holyrood Mennonite Church from Edmonton, AB, invites you to join in worship as we consider Jesus' parting words to his disciples, words intended to comfort and strengthen them for the very uncertain days ahead. [www.mennonitechurch.ca/worshipservices](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/worshipservices)

**Mennonite Collegiate Institute** – [info@mciblues.net](mailto:info@mciblues.net) 327-5891

**Canadian Mennonite University** – [www.cmu.ca](http://www.cmu.ca)

- May 20, 2–3pm - CMU continues to offer Wednesday Webinars for prospective students and parents. Upcoming webinar entitled Money Matters. Join others online as you learn how to apply, qualify for CMU grants and bursaries, and access government financial programs (including COVID-19 related opportunities). [www.cmu.ca/campusvisit](http://www.cmu.ca/campusvisit)

- CMU Professor publishes book of sermons. Chris Huebner, Associate Prof of Theology and Philosophy, recently published *Suffering the Truth: Occasional Sermons and Reflections*, a series of 16 sermons and reflections structured around the liturgical calendar. This highly accessible collection speaks into the lives of everyday people of faith, and is available for purchase or loan through the CommonWord Book and Resource Centre. [www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/2/22105](http://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/2/22105) [Note: Chris Huebner is the son in law to Margaret & Melvin Klassen].

**Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba** – [Manitoba@mccmb.ca](mailto:Manitoba@mccmb.ca)

- Join us for an online dialogue with farmers and eaters on food security amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Germinating Conversations is hosting a virtual event on May 21st at 7pm. To learn more or RSVP visit [mcccanada.ca/get-involved/events/germinating-conversations-virtual-event](http://mcccanada.ca/get-involved/events/germinating-conversations-virtual-event) or email [manitoba@arocha.ca](mailto:manitoba@arocha.ca) and a link will be sent to you.
- Grow Hope by sponsoring an acre of farmland and help feed hungry people around the world. Follow this interactive guide to learn about global hunger and what you can do to help: [mcccanada.ca/media/resources/10782](http://mcccanada.ca/media/resources/10782)
- Stay tuned! Later this week you will receive a special invitation to an exciting upcoming MCC webinar. Please forward this announcement to members of your church community.
- Itching to get outside? An MCC partner, SAKALA, has developed a peace education tool that youth are thrilled about—soccer! Watch the video and learn more at [mcccanada.ca/stories/playing-soccer-peace-cite-soleil](http://mcccanada.ca/stories/playing-soccer-peace-cite-soleil). Find more exciting resources and videos to keep you busy at [tiny.cc/Covid-19-Resources](http://tiny.cc/Covid-19-Resources).

**Mennonite Disaster Service -**

- MDS has canceled all scheduled summer projects due to COVID-19.

[Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona](#) 117 2<sup>ND</sup> Street NW Altona, MB R0G 0B1

Web Page Address: [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca) Office: 324-6717 E-mail: [office@abchurch.ca](mailto:office@abchurch.ca)

Worship Services available online at: [abchurch.libsyn.com](http://abchurch.libsyn.com)

Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324-5990/cell 1-204-771-3406 [marktd@abchurch.ca](mailto:marktd@abchurch.ca)

Asst Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 [viriniagr@abchurch.ca](mailto:viriniagr@abchurch.ca)

Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 [amandaw@abchurch.ca](mailto:amandaw@abchurch.ca)

Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry: Josh Janzen, 324-6717, 1-402-631-3481 [joshj@abchurch.ca](mailto:joshj@abchurch.ca)