
Rosthern Mennonite Church

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**Worship Service
March 22, 2020, Number 12**

Worship Leader Denise Epp
Pianist Kathy Luitjens

Prelude

WE GATHER

Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord is our shepherd!
People: **We have everything we need.**
Leader: The Lord leads us beside peaceful waters and right paths,
comforting us through the valleys of despair,
and preparing for us a rich feast.
People: **We have more than we need.**
Leader: The Lord anoints us for healing, strengthening,
gifting and blessing.
People: **Our cups overflow with goodness and mercy.**
All: **We will live in the house of the Lord forever.**

Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise *Be thou my vision* **HWB #545**

Announcements

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Congregational Prayer

Hymn *Just as I am* **StJ #92**

WE LISTEN

Story for all ages Denise Epp

Hymn *Healer of our every ill* **HWB #377**

Scripture Reading John 9:1-41 Pew Bible p. 758
Ephesians 5:8-14 Pew Bible p. 829

Message **“Jesus and germs are everywhere”** Claire Ewert Fisher

WE RESPOND

Hymn *Open my eyes, that I may see* **HWB #517**

Confession

All: **God, we confess that we are quick to judge others and not
Acknowledge our own sins and weaknesses.**

(Silence)

**We confess that we do not always follow your example because
immorality, impurity, and greed are part of our lives,
and obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes come from
our lips. God, we need your light to shine on us to expose the
things we say and do that are not pleasing to you.**

(Pause)

Forgive us our sins.

Words of Assurance

Sending Blessing

Sending Hymn *God be with you* **HWB #430**

PRAISE AND CONCERNS:

In March, the Rosthern Ministerial Association asks us to pray for the Rivers Christian Ministry, and for all who seek sanctuary.

Prayer requests from Mennonite Church Saskatchewan:

Pray for our leaders, medical and emergency people, and others who continue to work to keep us safe as we go through this time of uncertainty and turmoil. May all feel Christ's peace and comfort, knowing he is with us.

The Colombian Mennonite Church ask us to pray for peace in Colombia. Although there has been a peace plan signed with the FARC forces (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia), they report an increase in threats and violence against peasant leaders and pastors in some areas. Pray that God's peace that transforms lives will reign in this region.

In the last few weeks Pastor Siaka Troare from Burkina Faso, chair of the Deacons Commission for Mennonite World Conference (MWC), has been speaking in several places in Manitoba and Alberta. He urges us to pray for peace as terrorist groups randomly kill people gathered in churches, mosques and markets. After a visit from the MWC leadership to pray for groups in Burkina Faso, the head of the military said that this cannot be changed by military force but only by prayer that God will transform the hearts and minds of these groups. Pray that God's power of transformative love will flood this land.

As the COVID-19 emergency begins to ease for Witness workers in China and South Korea, Dann and Joji Pantoja in Mindanao, Philippines report the beginning of their time of self-isolation. They report on the devastating effects

of this pandemic on the poor in the cities. Read their blog post for more information. Pray that God's healing and hope will flow through us to those around us at this difficult time.

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday, 8:00 – 8:30 p.m. – Lenten prayer time

Thursday, 7:00 p.m. – Good Neighbours Food Centre AGM cancelled – reports will be available via email

Next Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – Worship service will again be on line, 5th Sunday in Lent – Ric Driediger speaking

Welcome to:

Rosthern Mennonite Church

Followers of Jesus Christ

Called by God

Empowered by the Spirit

To Grow as a Community of Grace, Joy and Peace

So that God's Healing and Hope Flow through Us to the World

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday School 11:15 a.m.
 Office Hours Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m.- Noon

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Rosthern Mennonite Church Financial Report

March 15, 2020	Actual	Worship service #11		Year to date		
		Weekly Budget	Weekly Surplus/Deficit	Actual	Budget	Surplus/Deficit
Offering	\$ 1,109.00					
Direct deposit	\$ 100.00					
Coffee	\$ 33.00					
BUDGET	\$ 1,242.00	\$ 3,445.00	\$(2,203.00)	\$ 24,806.85	\$ 37,895.00	\$(13,088.15)
School kits	\$ 100.00					
Total	\$ 1,342.00					

Attendance last Sunday: 55

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Rosthern Ministerial has arranged for Rev Dr. Trisha McCarthy from Emmanuel St. Chad to present a two-part educational event for volunteer hospital visitors. This is not just for deacons, but for anyone who has occasion to visit friends or family in the hospital. The seminars will be on April 27 and May 4 from 7-9 p.m. The cost of the course is covered by the Rosthern Ministerial Association. See Larry Epp if you are interested.

The Rosthern Clothes Basket is currently accepting applications until March 23rd for a part-time Shop Assistant. Go to <https://mcccanada.ca/get-involved/serve/openings/shop-assistant-rcb> to view a full job description, and apply. Contact Erica Baerwald at MCC Saskatchewan for further details ericabaerwald@mccsk.ca or (306) 665-2555.

The Good Samaritan Club has challenged the congregation to fill school kits for MCC. See the list of needed items in your church newsletter, or the back of your March calendar. You may also donate money, and supplies will be purchased. This is our last Sunday to collect money and supplies for school kits. Kits will be assembled at a later date.

Good Neighbours Food Centre continues to seek community support to assist people in need. Urgent requests at this time are for peanut butter, non-sugary cereal, dry pasta, canned goods (beans, tomatoes, pasta sauce, soups and stews), and healthy snacks for kids. You may place your donations in the cart in the foyer; we will see they are delivered. Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted – contact the church office if you would like more information.

Are you wondering how COVID-19 is affecting MCC Thrift Shops, Material Resources and local programming here in Saskatchewan? Stay up to date with COVID-19 updates for MCC Saskatchewan by visiting mccsk.ca and clicking on COVID-19 information and updates. We invite your ongoing prayers for all those affected by these extraordinary days.

COMING EVENTS: (may be subject to change)

Mar. 31, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. – Youth Farm Bible Camp annual veneniki supper will not be held here, watch for further announcements.

Apr. 9, 7:00 p.m. – Maundy Thursday service of communion.

Apr. 10, 9:30 a.m. – Good Friday ecumenical ‘Cross Walk,’ beginning and ending here at RMC.

10:00 a.m. – ‘Stations of the Cross’ service, here at RMC.

10:30 a.m. – Good Friday ecumenical service – “The Seven Last Words of Jesus” – here at RMC.

Apr. 12, 9:00 a.m. – Easter brunch, all are welcome, please bring fruit and/or baking. Beverages and cheese will be supplied.

10:00 a.m. – Easter worship service.

Apr. 15, 11:00 a.m. - MCC is excited to introduce a Centennial webinar for donors and supporters. This is a great opportunity to ‘meet’ (virtually) with reps from three of our key Centennial project locations: Lebanon, DR Congo and Chad. Don’t miss out on this unique opportunity to join other supporters from across the country! Stay tuned for more information or call the office to learn more at 306.665.2555.

Lent is often thought of as a dry, desert experience, when our doubts, laments, admissions of failure are more welcome and given the chance to be expressed. Sand, rocks, bare branches, burlap, and the absence of flowers help to show the feeling of the emptiness of this season of the church year. We begin with six purple candles, for the six Sundays of Lent, scattered among a few bare branches. Purple is the liturgical color of repentance. Each week one more candle will be extinguished to the darkness of Good Friday.

In John 12 Jesus speaks of how new life comes from the death of a seed. Seeds planted in baskets among the rocks represent the hope that will spring forth with new life, the resurrection to come. Seeds, like us, nurtured by God’s loving warmth for growth. Seeds, like us, nurtured to produce fruit.