

CHARLESWOOD MENNONITE CHURCH

Sunday, January 3, 2021

11:00 am: **Worship Service** - Online via Zoom (invitation will be emailed) or livestream at
(https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5xlvL4Y4xhZANvkKpN_NCw?view_as=subscriber)

Worship Leader: Joan Fransen

Speaker: Julia Thiessen

Music: Bob & Verna Wiebe, Alisa Wiebe

Technicians: Jonah Huebner, Jeff Friesen

❧ *Christmas II* ❧

On the Road to Radiance

GATHERING

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: In the midst of unemployment, debt, illness, all the hardships of life,
why have you come to worship?

**All: We come because Isaiah reminds us
that no suffering or pain can separate us from God.**

Leader: I hear the Prophet calling, "Arise, shine for your light has come!"
I'm ready for that bright light from God to light my way.
We see that light in Jesus, God-with-Us,
and we recognize that light in our lives, too:
We are all created in God's image:
God's light was born in us as we breathed our first breath.

**All We come to worship to connect God's light in us
to God's light in Christ,
and so illumine the world.**

Leader: What a reason to worship!
How do we recognize that light?
In compassion for all,
in justice for the poor,
in welcome for the stranger
we shine God's light into the world.
So come let us bring the joys and hardships of life to worship
and celebrate that God's light is already with us and within us.

— from *God's Light Within Us: Prayers for the Festival of Epiphany*
written by the Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel,
pastor of Plymouth United Church, UCC, in Spring, Texas

Hymn HWB 219 *Bright and glorious is the sky* (v 1,4,5)

Confession and Assurance

Leader: The prophet speaks of the coming light of God
which calls all the people of the earth to come together
in God's realm of shalom.
Let us confess the ways in which we have rejected
God's vision of wholeness.

**All: God of light and darkness,
we have seen the glimmer of your star-light beckoning to us,
but we have turned away and followed other paths.
We confess that we have not loved you with all our heart,**

**with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
Forgive us, Holy One.
Strengthen our faltering steps
and guide us in your holy way of peace. Amen.**

Assurance (of Pardon)

Leader: Lift up your eyes and see the grace of God poured out into your lives.

**All: The light of God shines through the darkness.
Our hearts rejoice for Christ is in our midst.**

— Rev. Nancy J, on her blog, *wonderings through life and other such nonsense*

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12

Hymn HWB 195 (v 1,4,5) *It came upon a midnight clear*

Gospel Reader's Theatre / Children's Story

Sermon: "We have observed his star at its rising"

RESPONDING

Offering

Pastoral Prayer (Jeff Friesen)

Hymn STJ 95 (v 1-3) *I want to walk as a child of the light*

Announcements

Benediction

As we leave this place, we know

God will be with us wherever we go.

At work or play, at home or on vacation, we know

God will be with us wherever we go.

Whether we're happy or sad,

on our own, or with our friends, we know

God will be with us wherever we go.

So let's go with joy,

because God goes with us!

~ ~ ~

CHURCH FAMILY NOTES

On January 2, 2021, **Lisa Enns** has started as Co-Pastor at CMC. We pray for God's blessing and guidance as we begin to form this new relationship with Lisa in leadership. We will officially welcome her during the worship service on January 10.

A Note from Karen & Tony Shellenberg: "A big thank you to all of you for the warm and generous send off last Sunday. Tony and I so appreciate the litany, the lovely vase and the many words of appreciation. Like I said in one of my sermons, 'there are some things you just can't unknow'. We know now how wonderful you folks all are, and that is a gift we will treasure forever. Thank you."

Voices Together Exploration: The new *Voices Together* hymnal will soon be available to Charleswood Mennonite Church! Come to the Voices Exploration (virtual) class to find out what is inside this new resource. Classes will be held over Zoom on Sunday mornings from 9:30 am–10:30 am. **Start date is TBA**, pending arrival of hymnal and curriculum materials. The exploration will follow a five week curriculum prepared by Menno Media. This class is for everybody and hopes to provide a foundation for our use of this hymnal for “the next generation”. Please come.

Directory Update:

***Larry Friesen** has a new phone number: 204-233-4908

Prayer Items:

* **Leo Driedger** passed away early Monday morning, December 27. The interment will take place this Saturday, Jan. 2, and will be officiated by Jeff Friesen & Lisa Enns. Funeral plans are pending. Please keep Leo and Darlene's children, Diane and Dale, and their families in your prayers in this time of loss.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 24 (Sun) - Church Office Renovation Meeting
- Feb 14 (Sun) - Budget Meeting
- Feb 28 (Sun) – Annual General Meeting

MENNONITE CHURCH MANITOBA/CANADA & COMMUNITY

* **Mennonite Church Manitoba invites applications for two positions: Financial Services Assistant** (.75 FTE) and **Administrative Assistant** (0.5 FTE) to start ca. Feb. 1, 2021. These job descriptions are posted on the Mennonite Church Manitoba website. Please submit application letter and resume to Peter Rempel, Interim Administrator, at office@mennochurch.mb.ca by Jan. 10.

MCC - MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MANITOBA/CANADA

- * **Apply for SALT today.** Serve internationally in a wide variety of fields like education, agriculture, healthcare, information technology, peace and more. Serving and Learning Together (SALT) is a year-long, cross-cultural service experience for Christian young adults. Visit mccmb.ca/SALT to register and learn more.
- * Join the Ottawa Office and learn about how MCC is reshaping Canadian international aid policy. This virtual seminar from Feb 16-18 is **available for university students**. Application deadline: Jan. 15; registration: \$20. Learn more and apply at mccmb.ca/Student-Seminar.

Charleswood Mennonite Church Affirmation Statement (Approved June 9, 2019)

Charleswood Mennonite Church is rooted in the Anabaptist Mennonite tradition as a community of faith committed to becoming the body of Christ.

We welcome all persons to worship and participate with us. We acknowledge the image of God in every person including those of every gender identity and sexual orientation. We invite all to participate in our congregation's practices such as baptism, church membership, church leadership, and marriage. We lament the prejudice and discrimination found in society and in the church, and we commit to holding each other accountable to the teachings and example of Jesus Christ.

We celebrate and affirm all persons worshipping with us. Together we seek to be a pilgrim community of mission, service, hospitality, grace, healing, justice, peace, and love.