

## **NORTH STAR MENNONITE CHURCH**

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Pastor's office hours: Tuesday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon

April 5, 2020

Palm/Passion Sunday Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
**Show us how to balance celebration and grief**

### **Gathering in the Spirit...**

Call to worship (Psalm 118 with HWB 71 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee")

**Leader:** The Lord is my strength and my song and has given me victory. Songs of joy and victory are sung in the camp of the godly. The strong right arm of the Lord has done glorious things! I will live to tell what the Lord has done!

**ALL: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (sing v. 1)**  
Or "God's faithful love endures forever!"

**Leader:** Open for me the gates where the righteous enter, and I will go in and thank the Lord. These gates lead to the presence of the Lord, and the godly enter there. I thank you for answering my prayer!

**All: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (sing v. 2)**  
Or "God's faithful love endures forever!"

**Leader:** "This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. You are my God, and I will praise you! Give thanks to the Lord, whose faithful love endures forever!"

**All: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (sing vv. 3, 4)**  
Or "God's faithful love endures forever!"

Prayer

### **Sharing the Good News...**

Scripture: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11; Philippians 2:5-11  
Meditation

### **Responding with our Whole Hearts...**

#### Ritual of Response

Palm branches are often part of worship. This symbol may come from the instructions in Leviticus 23:40 for how to celebrate the Festival of Shelters: "On the first day gather branches from magnificent trees—palm fronds, boughs from leafy trees, and willows that grow by the streams" NLT). If you have bamboo groves available, consider using them instead of palm branches. They're cheaper and symbolize how "bamboozled" the people were that day.

#### Confession - Response "Kyrie eleison" (HWB 144)

**Leader:** O God, we come to you as the people who greeted Jesus on the road to Jerusalem, full of joy and praise and thanksgiving. Forgive us for the times we forgot to show you our gratitude. Lord, have mercy.

**People: (singing) "Kyrie eleison"**

**Leader:** We come as the people who were baffled when they realized how quickly their joy was turned to sorrow for you. Lord, have mercy.

**People: (singing) "Kyrie eleison"**

**Leader:** We come, wanting to be with you as you enter the time and place of your death, knowing we cannot face this week alone. Lord, have mercy.

**All: (singing) "Kyrie eleison"**

#### Assurance of pardon

Know that Jesus does offer mercy and understands that hard road between joy and devastation, between belief and disbelief. Know that Jesus will never leave you and will love you on whatever part of the road you find yourself on. Amen.

#### Extinguishing the Light

#### Offering

### **Going out to Serve...**

#### Benediction

May you find the balance you need in the ups and downs of your life, and may you have the courage to keep walking with Jesus. Go in peace to continue your walk with Jesus.

### **THIS SUNDAY**

Meditation – Dan Graber

### **NEXT SUNDAY**

Meditation – Dan Graber

Please note that all events at North Star (worship, meetings, etc.) will be cancelled until further notice. We will continue to send weekly bulletins and information will also be posted on the church website. If you have any questions or comments please call or email the church.

### **COMING EVENTS AT NORTH STAR:**

#### June 7

Outdoor worship service. Details to follow.

#### August 17-20

VBS at North Star (depending on COVID-19 restrictions)

### **NORTH STAR NOTES:**

- Rejoice subscriptions are now due. Cost is \$43.30. Cheques should be made to North Star and placed in Esther's mailbox by April 30 or contact Esther to make arrangements for payment.
- Thank you so much for all the prayers, phone calls & encouragement during my recent hip replacement. I am doing great and feeling very fortunate to have been able to get it done. – Herman
- The Foodgrains bank has provided suggestions as how you can give, pray, learn, or advocate for families (near and far) affected by the coronavirus pandemic at <https://foodgrainsbank.ca/coronavirus/>
- If you would like to join Grace Menn. live stream this Maundy Thursday communion service, please "friend" our facebook page...just type in Grace Mennonite Church Regina Facebook and be ready with your own juice or wine and bread. We will be live at 6 pm on Thurs. Apr. 9. If you do not have a facebook account, you can join only for these services...just follow the directions on facebook for signing up.

- Also, worship is live every Sunday, for now, at 10 am.
- Check out "Hope, Gratitude and Solidarity: A Message to Canadians from Religious Leaders in Canada in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic" at <https://www.councilofchurches.ca/news/hope-gratitude-and-solidarity/> This is another spiritual resource you can enjoy.

#### PRAISE AND PRAYER:

- For the media, committed to providing up-to-date information: God, help them to communicate with appropriate seriousness without causing panic.
- For consumers of media, looking to be well-informed: God, help us find the most helpful local information to equip us to be good neighbors. Keep us from anxiety and panic, and enable us to implement the recommended strategies, even at a cost to ourselves.
- For those with mental health challenges who feel isolated, anxious, and helpless: God, provide them every necessary support.
- For the homeless, unable to practice the protocols of social distancing in the shelter system: Protect them from disease, and provide isolation shelters in every city.
- For international travelers stuck in foreign countries: God, help them return home safely and quickly.

#### MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

**Praying for Each Other:** As we enter into Holy Week and walk with Jesus to the Cross, many of our congregations will not be participating in regular Holy Week activities, such as Maundy Thursday Services, Good Friday Services, and outdoor Ways of the Cross. While online considerations are being made for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services, consider walking around your community and praying for your neighbourhood. Pray for those who are working long shifts at health facilities, away from their families. Pray for local businesses that have had to closer their doors. Pray for those who are lonely. Pray for children who are eager to get outside and wish to see friends and play outdoor games. And pay attention to the ways God is at work in this time, bringing us closer to God and one another.

**MC Sask Connects:** A list of services that can be streamed or downloaded is available on the [MC Sask website](#). Many have new services weekly.

**Shekinah Update:** Due to the COVID-19 virus, Shekinah has had to make difficult decisions. With no income forecast until June or later, we have had to lay off all our staff except for the Executive Director position. School programming likely won't happen, and we're taking a wait-and-see approach with summer camp. (We'll make the summer camp decision closer to the end of May). Thank you for your prayers, upbeat phone calls and emails, and continued support. If you feel you are able to support us financially, we thank you. We gratefully accept donations through cheques, e-transfers, our own website, or through CanadaHelps.org at

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/shekinah-retreat-centre/>

- Ron & Sue Schellenberg Co-Executive Directors

**MC Canada Connects:** As part of MC Canada's weekly sharing of worship services, Eigenheim Menn., together with MC Sask, will collaborate this week to bring a service to our nationwide community of faith for Palm Sunday on April 5. Ryan Siemens, Executive Minister for MC Sask, will focus on Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem (Matt. 21:1-11) and help prepare us to walk with Christ to the cross. Go to <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/worshipservices> to view the video this weekend.

**MCC Connects:** We want to lift our voices together in prayer for everyone in the world and in our own communities, especially those most vulnerable and most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Help encourage others by sharing your prayers and the location you are praying from. #mccdaytopray  
*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6*

**CMU Connects:** The MHC Gallery's present exhibit, Breaking the Silence on Domestic Violence2, is running from Friday, March 20 – Saturday, May 2 and is now online! This is an important show. Domestic violence is a pervasive reality in Manitoba and 'home' can often be the most dangerous place for women and their children. This Gallery exhibit is powerful, disturbing, and honest and comes with the hope that more will be done to protect those of all ages dealing with domestic abuse. Go to [cmu.ca/gallery](http://cmu.ca/gallery) to view the exhibit online.