

NORTH STAR MENNONITE CHURCH

204 Francis Street, Drake, SK S0K 1H0

Phone: 363-2125 Fax: 363-2120 FM station 90.1 Website: northstarmc.ca

Pastor: Dan Graber Phone: (306) 363-0011

E-mail: pastor@northstarmc.ca or E-mail: admin@northstarmc.ca

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

November 29, 2020

First Advent Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

"On the Road to Readiness"

Gathering in the Spirit...

Welcome

Responsive Call to Worship (Adapted from Isaiah 64:1, 6, 9; Psalm 80:3)

Leader: The heavens are trembling with anticipation,

People: **And we wait for Jesus.**

Leader: The nights are long and the days are short,

People: **And we wait for Jesus.**

Leader: Our redemption is drawing near,

People: **And we wait for Jesus.**

Leader: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence.

People: **Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Leader: We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

People: **Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Leader: Do not remember our iniquity forever.

All: **Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. Let us hope in God and worship as people ready to see the salvation of our God!**

Longing for light STJ #54 (verses 1, 2 & 5)

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Confession and Words of Assurance

(Adapted from Isaiah 64:5-6, 8-9; Psalm 80:3)

Leader: Is there any hope for us? Can we be saved?

People: **All of us are unclean. Our righteous acts are like filthy rags.**

Leader: Do not be angry beyond measure, O Lord; Do not remember our sins forever. Look upon us, we pray.

People: **O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are our potter.**

We are all the work of your hand.

Leader: Forgive our sins.

All: **No ear has heard, no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him. Mold us and make us into vessels you can use. Restore us, O God. Make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.**

Sharing the Good News...

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering & Offering Prayer

Children's Time

Christian, let your burning light HWB #402 (verses 1, 2, & 3)

Monologue – "The Day and the Hour Unknown" Mark 13:24-37

Meditation: "On the Road to Readiness"

Scriptures (for reading on your own) Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

Responding with our Whole Hearts...

Come, thou long-expected Jesus HWB #178 (verses 1 & 2)

North Star Praise and Prayers

Merciful God, the signs of our times are worrisome. We gather in your presence, aware that the earth groans in pain and many people are suspicious of each other. We thank you for your comforting presence in times of suffering and uncertainty, and for your promise of life beyond death, and hope beyond fear. As the longest night of this year draws nearer, comfort those who dread the darkness and direct those who have lost their way. Wherever people are overwhelmed by the demands of this season and the complications of COVID-19, let them hear your still small voice within all the clamour and confusion, and catch a glimpse of your light shining in the night.

God of all our days and nights, we remember that the days leading up to Christmas are difficult for many, especially this year. We pray for those who are hungry and cold. Alert us to the ways that we can set a feast for those in our community and beyond whose cupboards are bare. Warm them with your love. We pray for those who are grieving. Make us patient and compassionate companions to those in mourning, even when we're not sure what to say. Fill emptiness with your comfort.

We remember those who are feeling very isolated this year. Inspire our hearts with ideas of how to reach out in friendship. Bring hope to the lonely with your friendship.

We pray for those who feel like the world is ending; whose lives have been uprooted by fire, flood, or storm, illness, job loss or death. Steady us amid the upheavals of this year of pandemic and remind us that you alone are constant. Your steadfast love will see us through. Heaven and earth may pass away, but you are the source of everlasting life and undiminished hope. Help us trust in you, no matter what is happening.

And now we pray together, using the words that Jesus taught us: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory. Amen

Going out to Serve...

May the grace of Christ our Savior HWB #423 (verses 1 & 2)

Closing and Benediction

Meditation – Dan Graber

Song Leaders – Jim & Eileen Ewert

Sound – Ivan Bartel

Worship Leader – Donna Friesen

Accompanists – Worship Team

Ushers – Amy Wildeman, Jacob Martens Bartel

LAST SUNDAY

Offering – \$3940.00 (\$1490.00 budget)

Brighter Horizons-Honduras – \$2475.00 (Nov. 15 & 22)

Attendance – 56

NEXT SUNDAY

Meditation – Dan Graber Worship Leader – Irene Bartel

COMING EVENTS AT NORTH STAR:

Until Thursday, December 17

Bakeless Bake Sale Fundraiser sponsored by Lanigan Hospital Lodge Auxiliary.
See poster for more information.

NORTH STAR NOTES:

- Please remember those in our community who may be alone during this time of COVID-19/Advent with a card or a phone call.
- Gift Idea or for Yourself - 'Draw Near' book of 30 devotional and inspirational personal stories for all ages. Written by Laura Laskowski and Laurie Pauls. \$15.00 or 4 for 50.00. Call Joyce if interested

BEYOND NORTH STAR:

Wednesday, December 9

7:30 p.m. – RJC Drive-In Christmas Carol Festival in the RJC front parking lot. Come enjoy RJC students singing popular Christmas carols on the lawn from the comfort and safety of your own vehicle.

Sunday, December 13-Christmas Eve

You are invited to spend A Very Shekinah Christmas with Shekinah Retreat Centre! Join us online for 12 Days of Christmas, starting December 13 and ending Christmas Eve. Enjoy stories, music, and singing with the Shekinah board, with Friends of Shekinah, and with the Shekinah staff. And maybe a little "dummheit" (silliness in English). See our website for more information: <https://shekinah.ca/events/2020/a-very-shekinah-christmas>. How is Shekinah doing financially? Check out our website on December 1 to see how we are holding up: <https://shekinah.ca/news/2020/shekinah-update>.

Thursday, December 17

7:30 p.m. – RJC Christmas Program: There Is Still Hope - This online event will can be found at <https://rjc.sk.ca/christmas>. The program will feature music, art, and other items of hope and celebration by RJC students and staff.

MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

Praying for Each Other: Pray for The Micah Mission and their staff - Dave Feick, Adriana Appleton & Danielle Matte and the volunteers as they Do Justice - Love Mercy - Walk Humbly with incarcerated individuals, formerly incarcerated individuals and their families during this Christmas season.

MCC Connects: We have launched the 2020 MCC Quilt Sale! These quilts are donated by our skilled and very generous donors and are normally auctioned off at the June Relief Sale, which was unfortunately cancelled this year. Follow our Facebook event page to see all available quilts, as well as our daily quilt feature and promotion! The quilts can also be viewed on our website at <https://mcccanada.ca/mcc-saskatchewan-quilt-sale> or feel free to pop by the MCC office in Saskatoon (600 45th St W) to see them in our viewing room. If you have any questions, or wish to purchase a quilt, call 306.665.2555.

CMU Connects: The CommonWord Book and Resource Centre continues to serve the broader church community, online, and with curbside pick-up. A rich array of Christmas gift ideas include Advent and Christmas-themed books, Christmas cards, stocking stuffers, Sunday School gifts, and more. Gift cards are also available. Visit www.commonword.ca/go/2203 for details.

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