

## **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](mailto:pastor@northstarmc.ca) or E-mail: [admin@northstarmc.ca](mailto:admin@northstarmc.ca)

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

December 13, 2020

Third Advent Worship Service 9:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

*"On the Road ..."*

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

Welcome

Responsive Call to Worship (Adapted from Psalm 126:2-6)

**Leader:** The Lord has done great things for us, and so we rejoice!

**People:** **Our mouths are filled with laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy.**

**Leader:** Those who sow in tears will reap shouts of joy.

**People:** **Those who go out weeping will come home with shouts of joy.**

**All:** **The Lord has done great things for us—we rejoice!**

**Leader:** In this time of worship, we remember that God is with us.

**People:** **God is with us in joy and in sorrow.**

**Leader:** In Jesus Christ, God reshapes the past, the present and our future.

**People:** **We wait with God for something new to emerge.**

**Leader:** In this time of worship, we await the birth of Jesus.

**People:** **We wait with hope, preparing to rejoice in Jesus' name.**

*We sing to you, O God STJ #1*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

**Leader:** God, we confess we do not always recognize you.

**People:** **We confess that when we do, we do not always receive you.**

**All:** **Open our eyes to see you and our hearts to receive you.**

**Generous and gracious God, we confess the smallness of our love and the narrowness of our concern. These days we easily become preoccupied with statistics and case numbers. Opportunities to say thanks, to offer encouragement, to remember each other in friendship slip by. Anxiety turns us inward and anger can make us lash out. Forgive us for neglecting the joy at the heart of the Advent season. Turn our hearts back to you, and inspire us with your love made flesh in Jesus Christ.**

Assurance of Pardon

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

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering & Offering Prayer

Children's Time

*He came down*

Monologue: "John the Baptist Denies Being the Messiah" based on John 1:19-28

Meditation: "On the road to Restoration"

Scriptures for reading on your own: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126;

Luke 1:46-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.

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

*Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

North Star Praise and Prayers

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Come, Christ Jesus, be our guest and enter our lives today with your blessing. We are lonely for you and the peace you bring. Draw near to us in friendship and faithfulness so that in this season which combines celebration in the face of uncertainty, we may know your presence...and sing with all your people:

**Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Come, Christ Jesus, be our guide and show us the way to wisdom and gratitude. We are thankful for the kindness we know in friends and good neighbours, in warm houses and warm smiles, which hold off the darkness and fear for the future.

Encourage us to reach out to those who need your embrace and ours... so that together we may sing of your presence:

**Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Come, Christ Jesus, be our hope and touch us with your healing and grace. We remember before you all those we know and those know to you alone who are living with loss or illness this season, those who face depression or discouragement, and all who will find it hard to be merry this year.

(Keep a silence for 15–20 seconds)

Shine the light of your comfort into their lives... as we sing of the hope that dawns in your love:

**Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Come, Christ Jesus, be our king and claim your rightful place in our hearts. Our world is struggling for the justice and mercy you bring. Draw near to our leaders and all citizens working for peace and justice, and those striving to contain and heal the effects of the pandemic. Encourage honourable action and co-operation on all sides. Give hope to people under oppression and to those who live with fear or hunger day by day. Hasten the day when the world's peoples will live as neighbours reconciled in your truth and freedom.

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

*Come thou long expected Jesus*

Closing and Benediction

Meditation – Dan Graber

Children's Time – Rose Graber

Song Leader – John Bartel

Sound – Steven Lehr

Ushers – Myrven Kline, Ken Friesen

Worship Leader – Floyd Bartel

Monologue – Lois Ewert

Pianist – Esther Laskowski

Projection – Kyle/Vicky Toporchak

### **LAST SUNDAY**

Offering – \$4650.00 (\$1100.00 Brighter Horizons, Honduras)

Attendance (9:45) 27 (11:00) 22

### **NEXT SUNDAY**

Meditation – Dan Graber

Children's Time – Rose Graber

Worship Leader – Jim Ewert

Monologue – Lisa Martens 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:**

- Our congratulations to Brad Bergen & Rachel Redlich who were married yesterday at North Star. We wish them God's blessing as they begin their life together.
- Subscribers to Canadian Mennonite will now be responsible to pay for their subscriptions rather than having the church pay for them. You can still get the 'Every home plan rate' if you pay through North Star. If you wish to continue receiving the CM please pay \$20.00 to North Star by **Dec. 31** and mark it "for Canadian Mennonite". If you do not wish to receive it any longer please email the office so we can take your name off the list, or if you would like to receive it and have not been getting it, please email the office as well. If payment is not received your name will be removed from the list.
- Please remember those in our community who may be alone during this time of COVID-19/Advent with a card or a phone call.
- Brighter Horizons Honduran hurricane relief update: Thank you to everyone who generously gave for emergency food relief. Pastor Mariano has delivered food hampers to 10 different pastors and they have distributed to 180 needy families, many in remote areas. These projects will continue as the need is still great. See Brighter Horizons newsletter for more details.

## **BEYOND NORTH STAR:**

### 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 Dec. 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:** Please pray for the staff & volunteers of Parkland Restorative Justice as they provide positive social support to those in the justice system.

**MC Canada Connects:** Together in Worship launches in collaboration with CommonWord at [www.togetherinworship.net](http://www.togetherinworship.net). It's an online, curated collection of free & downloadable Anabaptist worship resources. It's also a place where contributors can submit their own resources to share with the wider Anabaptist & ecumenical community