

## **NORTH STAR MENNONITE CHURCH**

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

December 20, 2020

Fourth 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 89:1-2, 26)

**Leader:** God comes to us in the cry of a child:

**People:** **Let every heart prepare a welcome.**

**Leader:** God comes to us in the whisper of a loving mother:

**People:** **Let every heart prepare an embrace.**

**Leader:** God comes to us, abides in us:

**All: Let every heart prepare to receive the Christ.**

**Let us worship the God who has come, who is here and who will come again.**

**Leader:** We will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;

**People:** **we will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.**

**Leader:** We declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

**People:** **your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

**All: You are our Father, our God, and the Rock of our Salvation.**

*Mary, Did you Know?*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

God of majesty and mercy, Creator, Christ and Spirit, you are powerful, you are holy, and you are loving. You come among us not as a warrior or tyrant, but as a child, new life born among us and for us.

**And so we come to worship you this day, trusting your wisdom with Joseph, pondering your mystery with Mary. We offer you our love for all that you have been, all that you are, and all that you will be. One God, Holy and loving, now and forever, Amen.**

God of mystery and mercy, you came to be with us and offer us new life in Christ, and yet we often stray from your side. You came to offer us love, but we confess that we can be stubborn and selfish in the ways we live. You came to reconcile all people, but we confess that we often resist repairing relationships and so remain divided.

**Forgive who we have been, amend who we are, and direct who we shall be, through the revelation of Jesus Christ who reaches out to us from the manger and the cross. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

*Little Drummer Boy*

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

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering & Offering Prayer

Children's Time

### *O Holy Night*

Monologue: "The birth of Jesus revealed" based on Luke 1:26-38

Meditation: "On the road to Revelation"

Scriptures for reading on your own: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38, 46-55; 2 Samuel 7:1-11.

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

#### *The First Noel*

North Star Praise and Prayers

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Spirit of Hope, whenever the world seems confusing and bleak, you pierce the darkness with light, bringing hope and vision for the way ahead. This has been a difficult and confusing year of pandemic, and so we thank you for lessons learned and changes of heart, for new discoveries and hope restored.

**As nature around us prepares for the long sleep of winter, we pray for those who are ill or dying, and for those who are bereaved or feel any burden of loss.**

(A silence is kept.)

O God, reach out to all of us in Christ, and give us hope for the living of these days.

Please keep revealing yourself to us.

O God of Peace, within our lives and relationships, and in communities around the world, there is conflict and antagonism, mistrust and resentment.

**We pray for all places where violence has done its worst, where cruelty and suspicion appear to win the day, and where the vulnerable live in fear and despair.**

(A silence is kept.)

O God, reach out to all of us in Christ, and give us peace in these times.

O Creator of Joy, we thank you for moments of joy and celebration in our lives, for pleasure given and received, for quiet times spent in reflection and remembering, and for happy gatherings, even if they had to be small.

**In these colder, darker days, we remember those who feel left out or neglected, those who have found the months of pandemic restrictions a heavy burden, and those we find difficult to love, even at a distance.**

(A silence is kept.)

Be their light and their warmth, O God, reach out to all of us in Christ, and give us joy to share in the days ahead.

O Love Come Down at Christmas, you call us to live in communion with you and one another. You form us into families, circles of friendship, and communities.

**Today we pray for our family members, whether we're close or estranged, for our friends, whether nearby or far away, and for neighbours who share our community, like minded or not.**

(A silence is kept.)

Help us express both our love and concern in gentle words and kind actions. O God, reach out to all of us in Christ, and strengthen our love for you and for one another.

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

*Joy to the World*

Closing and Benediction

Meditation – Dan Graber

Children's Time – Rose Graber

Worship Leader – Jim Ewert

Monologue – Lisa Martens Bartel

Song Leader – Tami-Lynn Lehr     Pianist – Chris Bergen  
Sound – Steven Lehr                 Visuals – Kyle/Vicky Toporchak  
Ushers – Amy Wildeman, Jacob Martens Bartel

### **LAST SUNDAY**

Offering – \$2041.56     Attendance (9:45) 21     (11:00) 25

### **NEXT SUNDAY**

Meditation – Dan Graber     Worship Leader – Donna Friesen

### **THIS WEEK AT NORTH STAR:**

There will be a service on Christmas Eve if enough people are interested. There is a limit of 30. The offering will be divided between Brighter Horizons and Mennonite World Conference, so you can give on Christmas Eve or any time in December.

### **NORTH STAR NOTES:**

- 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 have your annual reports submitted to the office by **January 10, 2021**.

### **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>.

#### **MINUTE FOR MISSIONS**

**MCC Connects:** Check out our Quilt Sale online. All remaining quilts are 50% off their listed price! Follow Facebook event page or visit website at <https://mcccanada.ca/mcc-saskatchewan-quilt-sale> to see the amazing quilts donated by our skilled and very generous donors. These quilts are also displayed in our viewing room at the MCC office in Saskatoon so feel free to pop by and admire them. Questions, or if you wish to purchase a quilt, call 306.665.2555.

**CMU Connects:** Christmas at CMU Highlights! Enjoy the music of the season and be drawn into the spirit of Advent with a curated selection from Christmas at CMU. Go to [www.cmu.ca/christmas](http://www.cmu.ca/christmas) for more.

If you want to be inspired and connected with stories from the CMU learning community, subscribe to Through This Place, a monthly e-newsletter, at [www.cmu.ca/newsletter](http://www.cmu.ca/newsletter).