

## **NORTH STAR MENNONITE CHURCH**

204 Francis Street, Drake, SK S0K 1H0

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

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

December 27, 2020

Christmas 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 148:1-4, 13)

**Leader:** Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens;

**People: Praise the Lord in the heights!**

**Leader:** Praise the Lord, all God's angels; praise the Lord, all God's host!

**People: Praise the Lord, sun and moon; praise the Lord, all you shining stars!**

**Leader:** Praise the Lord, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

**People: Praise the name of the Lord; God's glory is above earth and heaven.**

**All: Praise the Lord!**

*Hymn*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

*Hymn*

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

God of grace and glory, we praise you from the heights and from the depths; in the heavens, on earth and from the seas; in the courts of power and from the sidewalks of our lives.

Your splendour shines from a manger, where the Light of the world was born to pierce the darkness. In fragile of flesh, you are revealed to us face to face. And so we gather with all people in every place who have glimpsed your salvation and grace to rejoice in your love born for us. Together we worship and praise you as Creator, Son and Spirit; Source of life, Glorious light, Wisdom of the ages.

**Source of all hope, you invite us to live in the light and discover the splendour of your glory. We confess we often choose to remain in the darkness instead.**

**We allow our fears and hurts to hold us hostage. Our expectations of life prevent us from seeing new and real possibilities. You offer us unconditional love, but we expect others to earn our love. Forgive us. May the new life born in the manger awaken new life in us and allow hope to dawn in the year ahead.**

Assurance of Pardon

*Hymn*

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

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering & Offering Prayer

Children's Time

*Hymn*

Monologue: "Jesus presented in the temple" based on Luke 2:22-40

Meditation: "On the road to Rejoicing"

Scriptures for reading on your own: Galatians 4:4-7; Isaiah 61:10-62:3;

Psalm 148; Luke 2:22-40

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

*Hymn*

North Star Praise and Prayers

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of love, as we celebrate the birth and life of Jesus, our Saviour, we are filled with thanks. Our gratitude overflows in prayers for our world, the world you love. We pray for all children. Guard their minds, protect their bodies, strengthen their characters, and give them joy. Help them look to the future with hope and trust. We pray for the most aged among us, those whom Simeon and Anna bring to mind. Protect them in the midst of the ongoing pandemic and reassure them of their value to you and to us, even when we cannot meet together.

We pray for those whose hearts are filled with pain and fear. We pray for those for whom Christmas is linked with loss or grief.

(Keep a time of silence)

Surround each one with a strong sense of your comforting presence even though we can't sing together.

We pray for those who do not have enough to eat, and for those who lack adequate shelter in our community and in desperate corners of the world...

For those who eat alone, without the comfort of human contact...

and for those whose hearts and lives have been broken by trauma and loss, and for those who struggle with the many costs of the pandemic.

(Keep a time of silence)

Surround each one with a strong sense of your comforting presence.

We pray for family members and friends, those nearby and those we could not meet with this year.

(Keep a time of silence)

Remind them of our steadfast love, and to any who are struggling this season, O God, give your gift of peace.

As the year draws to a close, we surrender to you, O God, the challenges it has held for us so that they will not remain as burdens. Remind us of the good things that have offered us encouragement in times of isolation. We give you thanks for the people who continue to care for us and care about us. Give us courage and wisdom for the year ahead.

We pray that our leaders will have wisdom and generosity of spirit for the decisions they must make on our behalf. Guide scientists who continue to work to produce vaccines against COVID-19. May those we have be effective and get to all people around the world as soon as possible. Break financial and political barriers so we all can be healthy and safe. We ask for continued support for all those essential workers whose faithfulness to their responsibilities helps us all cope in these difficult days. Help more people to cross paths with you Jesus. Give us courage to help people to cross your path. And help us when you cross our path to listen, see, believe, change, act, worship and rejoice.

Grant us all the hope, joy and peace we find through trusting you, as we pray together the words 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 today 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 the evil one. For yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever.**

**Going out to Serve...**

Hymn

Closing and Benediction

Meditation – Dan Graber

Worship Leader – Donna Friesen

Children’s Time – Rose Graber

Monologue – Denise Bartel

Song Leaders – Jim & Eileen Ewert

Sound – Steven Lehr

Visuals – Kyle/Vicky Toporchak

Ushers – Vicky Toporchak, Emery Laskowski

**LAST SUNDAY**

Offering – \$11,250.00    Attendance (9:45) 25    (11:00) 28

**NEXT SUNDAY**

Meditation – Dan Graber

Worship Leader – Irene Bartel

**COMING EVENTS AT NORTH STAR:**

Saturday, January 16-Sunday, January 17

CMU Portable sessions with Pierre Gilbert. Details to follow.

**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**. Report booklets will be made available, but the Annual Meeting will be postponed until a later date pending COVID restrictions. As we will not be holding elections at this time, terms that are set to expire in January are asked to continue until such time as we can hold the meeting in person. If that does not work for you, or if there are any issues that need immediate attention, please contact Moderator Peter Nicholson. Thanks to everyone for going the extra mile this past year to adapt to our new routines.

**MINUTE FOR MISSIONS**

**MCC Connects:** Christmas Blessings to you from the Board and Staff of MCC Saskatchewan! May our celebrations of the birth of the Christ child nurture and strengthen our living and serving in the name of Christ throughout the coming year.