

## **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

April 26, 2020  
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

*Trust with patient hope in Jesus*

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

Welcome and Call to Worship

Prayers of Invocation and Confession

Risen Christ, yours is the heartbeat of grace deep within us,  
the light step beside us on our journeys,  
the footprints in the sand, revealing how you carry us when we grow weary.  
Yours is the face we glimpse when we perceive one another's holiness.  
Yours are the promises: that life conquers death,  
that goodness is stronger than evil,  
and that we can build our lives around your shining truth.  
Show us where you are today, in this place, and in each of us. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

God of majesty and mercy, even as we offer you our praise,  
we confess our slowness of heart, failing to see Easter's revealing light.  
We have failed to see you in our brothers and sisters,  
We have failed to give our hearts to you.  
Holy God, we are selfish, scared, and impatient with this coronavirus and  
often numb to the beauty of the world, and the potential for grace that is  
around us and within us.  
Hear us now as we confess those times we have failed to live by Easter's  
light.  
(silence).... Amen

Words of Assurance

Friends on the journey, born anew with the Easter story,  
hear the good news of the gospel: You are forgiven.  
Jesus is near. Grace is real.  
We do not have to be perfect in our actions or our beliefs.  
We need only to open our hearts—to mystery, love, presence and joy.

God of the Living Word, you come to us in sacred story, in bread broken and  
wine poured out, in friendship and in conversation. Send us your Holy Spirit  
as your Word is read. May our hearts burn within us as we encounter your  
truth, through Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.

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

Scripture: Luke 24:13-35 The Emmaus Walk  
Offering Reminder and Announcements  
Meditation: "And it came to pass...And Choose to Hope" Psalm 13

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

Praise and Prayer – (Prayer requests listed in the bulletin and others)

- Prayer for the communities and families impacted by the massacre in Portapique, Nova Scotia. (Prayer written by Rachel Siemens, Pastor of Carman Mennonite Church, Carman, MB)

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.  
Before the mountains were brought forth  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

We bring you our broken hearts  
and place into your great care  
all of the lives lost in Nova Scotia in this rampage.  
We entrust their souls to your bountiful love  
which knows no end in time or eternity.

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.

We weep with those who are weeping.  
Send your Spirit of comfort to the many many people who are mourning the  
death of their mothers and fathers, their sons and daughters, their family and  
neighbours, their friends and colleagues.  
Embrace them as their grief is compounded by the inability to come together  
to mourn in person and comfort each other with hugs and tears.

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.

Grant your strength and your comfort to the many people who are working to  
help in a variety of ways: for first responders, investigators, funeral directors,  
mayors and town councils, for pastors and journalists, and those whose  
work goes unnamed.

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.

We bring to you our shock, our grief, our fear, our outrage;  
"This doesn't happen in Canada!"  
But this did happen.  
We bring you our loss of innocence.  
As we react and respond to this awful event,

may we not become cynical and close our hearts to others or to you.  
Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.

God of compassion and mercy,  
we offer you our prayer in the strong name of Jesus, Our Risen Saviour.

- Pray for Margaret Schroeder as she adjusts to a new lifestyle as a resident of Lanigan Lodge.
- Please pray for all the charities who have had to cancel some of their fundraising events, so they are running short of funds. They still have staff to pay, facilities to maintain, and people to help. Plus, those who are still working directly with people have increased expenses because of the Covid-19 safety measures. So please - do more than pray. Contribute as God has blessed you.

- Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God our Maker,  
You have walked the Emmaus Road with your faithful people in many generations, people facing challenge and uncertainty, people seeking your purpose and promise. Thank you for your faithfulness to us in all situations. Walk with us and with those for whom we pray for this day, that your grace and mercy may sustain our faith and hope.  
God in your mercy, hear our prayers.

We pray for children and young people who must think about the future in uncertain times. Give them hope rooted in the knowledge that their lives matter to you. Show them how to make a difference in the world, whatever threats and challenges they face as they grow.  
God in your mercy, hear our prayers.

We pray for people for whom age or experience, illness or disability create barriers to full participation in your world. Give each one a sense of dignity and purpose. Show them where their gifts are needed and how much they matter to you.  
God in your mercy, hear our prayers.

We pray for communities challenged by forces beyond their control: the pandemic, the economic crisis it is creating, environmental collapse, natural disaster, political strife, wars and famine. Give courage to those facing these crises day by day and wisdom to those who lead us through them so that wellbeing may be restored and hope for the future prevail.  
God in your mercy, hear our prayers.

We pray for our congregation, for our life together and our future in mission. In a time when we cannot gather in person, sustain our fellowship and strengthen our prayers for one another so that you will find us faithful on our journey into that future. And we pray for the wellbeing of those lives linked to ours who bring us both joy and heartache because they matter so much to us and to you...

God in your mercy, hear our prayers.

God our Maker, hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken, and use us in ways we may not yet even imagine to respond to those around us with the love and mercy we see in Jesus Christ.

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

Closing and Benediction

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low, that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

May The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.  
In Jesus' Name, Amen.

### **THIS SUNDAY**

Meditation – Dan Graber      Worship Leader – Irene Bartel

### **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:**

- Our sympathy is extended to Ann Noel (Ewert) Clark and friends and family on the passing of her husband, Andrew, in England on April 23.

- Lanigan FoodBank sends a thank you for donations already received. FoodBank donations can be dropped off at the Foodbank collection box at the Lanigan Co-op as it is easier for distribution. Cash donations can be made by cheque to North Star and marked FoodBank and Joyce will forward them to the Lanigan and District Foodbank.
- 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.
- Parkland Restorative Justice in Prince Albert is seeking an Executive Director (1FTE). For job description and more info on the organization please see [parklandrestorativejustice.com](http://parklandrestorativejustice.com) or contact Board Chair, Jacquelyn Janzen at [jacqjanzen@hotmail.com](mailto:jacqjanzen@hotmail.com). Closing date: **July 1, 2020**. Parkland Restorative Justice is a ministry partner of MC SK, and facilitates the P2P prison visitation program and Circles of Support and Accountability.  
- Heather Driedger, Executive Director & P2P Co-ordinator

#### **BEYOND NORTH STAR:**

Sunday, April 26

7:00 p.m. – RJC Virtual Choirs & Cakes: Join us online on the RJC website for our newly imagined online fundraising event. The event will feature music by the RJC Concert Choir, a Virtual Alumni Choir, student and alumni reflections on community support during COVID-19, and an online auction. Visit [rjc.sk.ca](http://rjc.sk.ca) the day of the event to watch and to make your donation.

Tuesday, May 12

7:00 p.m. – RJC Virtual Open House. Prospective students & families are invited to learn more about RJC from the comfort of their own home! Experience a virtual school tour, a brief presentation, as well as an opportunity to hear from current students and teachers. The event will be held over Zoom. Please register at [admissions@rjc.sk.ca](mailto:admissions@rjc.sk.ca) to be sent the Zoom link.

#### **MINUTE FOR MISSIONS**

**Praying for Each Other:** Shekinah is asking for your prayers this week. The Saskatchewan Water Security Agency has issued warnings that flooding in the North Saskatchewan River basin is expected. Conditions are similar to ice jamming incidents experienced in 2013, when Shekinah's chalet was flooded, resulting in massive water damage. Water flow is doubling daily. Please remember us as we prepare for this expected flood.