

## **NORTH STAR MENNONITE CHURCH**

204 Francis Street, Drake, SK S0K 1H0

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

May 24, 2020

Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

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

Welcome and Call to Worship

Prayer of Invocation & Confession

Assurance of Pardon

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

Offering Reminder and Announcements

Meditation: "Finding God's Grace in the Wilderness"

Philippians 1:2-22; Jeremiah 29:10-14

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

Praise and Prayer

- Pray for a safe, quick and successful seeding/planting season.
- We remember those among us who are in retirement/nursing homes.
- For expectant mothers, who face the prospect of labor and delivery without the support team they'd planned for: God, deliver them from fear, and fill them with joy as they witness new life.
- For women facing unexpected pregnancy in this time of economic crisis: God, help them to find the practical and emotional support they need to keep them from seeking abortions.
- For churches, parachurch ministries, and other Christian organizations doing online evangelism and discipleship: God, bless our imperfect digital efforts and continue to advance the kingdom of Jesus through your people.
- For those dying alone in hospitals and for their loved ones: God, draw near to them and, by your mercy, let them encounter Christ, the friend who never leaves and never forsakes.
- For those involved with politics at every level: God, help our leaders to work collaboratively and communicate efficiently, setting aside self-interest for the common good.

God, we acknowledge that you spoke the world into being and continue to sustain it with your Word. We trust in your wisdom, power, and goodness. Help us at every opportunity to love as you loved and to serve as you serve. Give us courage to speak of our hope in Jesus, who suffered for us, rose from the dead, and is coming again. Amen.

## Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Gracious God, you desire unity for your people in the world, and unity between heaven and earth. We thank you for drawing us together as a community of faith, united in your love even in times when it is hard to gather. Equip us to witness to your promise of resurrection and new life as we serve you in the world. Hear us as we pray for your world.

God, we worry about the way things are going. Daily life has been uprooted by the pandemic, and also by war and environmental devastation. Send your Spirit of healing and reconciliation to lead people to peace with justice. Heal the earth and bring hope for renewed relationships. Help us learn from this anxious time how you invite us to live in balance with each other and with your whole creation.

God, we are concerned about all the divisions we see around us, many laid bare in responses to the pandemic. Communities are torn apart by suspicion and discrimination. People are judged severely by race and ethnic origin. Send your Spirit of healing and reconciliation to open hearts filled with prejudice, and ease the lives suffering its effects. Heal the hurt and bring hope for lasting unity.

This Sunday, we pray for the work of healing and reconciliation in Canada, between Indigenous Peoples and those who have settled in this land. Send your Spirit to guide our leaders and build trust and respect among us all. Heal the lives limited by misunderstanding and bring hope for just resolutions to problems of long-standing. Increase a spirit of generosity as the nation begins to rebuild social structures damaged in the pandemic, so that the needs of Indigenous Peoples will not be overlooked.

God, we feel sadness for those whose lives are marked by isolation and fear, by grief or despair, effects deepened by the times of physical distancing. Send your Spirit of healing and reconciliation to draw the lonely into friendships, and as society begins to reopen, create a true sense of belonging for each one. Heal any burden of grief and bring hope through your eternal friendship.

God, we are hopeful for the church because it belongs to you. Send your Spirit to guide our witness in the world. Teach us how to share our experience of your love and invite others to join the journey toward healing and reconciliation.

We ask for continued blessing and protection as our society relaxes the pandemic guidelines. We pray for help to not be careless but to continue to be careful and be concerned for everyone.

We offer this prayer by Carl Yusavitz, a chaplain at Penn Foundation. Good and gracious God, we believe that the world you created is good and that even when we face difficult times, as we do these days, we continue trusting in your providential love. During this pandemic, our minds and hearts are all over the place with concern, fear, and worry. Help us remember that, as a nation and as individuals, we have been through difficult times before and trust the lessons we learned--that we are all "in this together," we are all vulnerable, and we all need each other. We ask you to help us to find practical ways to put that faith into action, as we navigate the days and weeks ahead. Jesus, we thank you again for the many ways you have seen our church through difficult times. And we ask your help to continue to be exemplary witness and faithful followers. Amen.

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

Closing and Benediction

### **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.**

**TODAY:** RJC Spring Showcase (Spring Concert): Join us online at 7:00 pm for a showcase of RJC student and staff music, art, and activities. This event will be held on our YouTube channel. Visit [rjc.sk.ca](http://rjc.sk.ca) for more information.

### **COMING EVENTS AT NORTH STAR:**

Sunday, June 7

Outdoor worship service. Details to follow.

Monday, August 17-Thursdays, August 20

VBS at North Star (depending on COVID-19 restrictions)

### **NORTH STAR NOTES:**

- To see the video of the sermon, please click on the sermon title on the North Star web site ([northstarmc.ca](http://northstarmc.ca))
- We are looking for pictures for our church website. These could include worship, church activities, Sunday School, clubs, etc. Please email any suitable photos to the church as soon as possible.
- For information concerning Registered Psychologists and Counsellors recommended by Christian Counselling Services please see the notices on the bulletin boards.

### **BEYOND NORTH STAR:**

Sunday May 31

Superb Mennonite Church will be holding its final service. The closing service will primarily be by Zoom, with the exception of the 10 members that will meet at the church. If you would like to offer greetings or words of encouragement, please send them to Ryan at MC Sask by Thursday, May 28.

### **MINUTE FOR MISSIONS**

**Praying for Each Other:** Pray for those who keep us connected during this time of distancing - the videographers, sound technicians, and those who share our services online and connect us via platforms such as Zoom. We are thankful that they share their gifts so that we can stay connected and "do church" in a new way.

**MC Sask Connects:** After long discussions, consultations, and prayer, Shekinah Retreat Centre has decided to cancel Summer Camp for 2020. After forty years of delivering a space and program devoted to building relationships, connecting with nature, and getting to know God in a different setting, we will deeply miss sharing our love and space with your children. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we feel we are unable to deliver our summer camp program in a way that adequately protects our staff, volunteers, parents, grandparents, and campers. All parents who have registered their children will be contacted with this information. Please continue to keep Shekinah in your prayers during these very difficult times.

Please consider writing a letter of encouragement to an inmate at the Saskatchewan Penitentiary Prison is a lonely place at the best of times. The volunteers in the P2P program provide some relief from those feelings of self-isolation by visiting monthly. They also provide much needed encouragement and hope for the future. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 we are unable to offer visits to inmates. In the meantime, we are encouraging our volunteers, and other church members to send a message of hope and encouragement to an inmate. This message is especially important right now for the inmates who are experiencing further isolation due to COVID-19, and are not able to see their loved ones or go about their normal routine. For more details contact: P2P coordinator for Parkland Restorative Justice (Prince Albert), Heather Driedger, at [heather@parklandrj.com](mailto:heather@parklandrj.com) or 306.763.6224, P2P coordinator for The Micah Mission (Saskatoon), Dave Feick, at [dave@themicahmission.org](mailto:dave@themicahmission.org) or 306.653.3099

**MCC Connects:** 100 years ago MCC did something unprecedented by bringing people together to respond to a great need. Today, we also find ourselves in a unique situation. In light of COVID-19 we have made the decision to cancel the 2020 MCC Saskatchewan Relief Sale. This event is our largest gathering and fundraising event each year and we need your help. We invite you to think creatively about hosting a fundraiser in your church or community, or to make a donation designated Relief Sale 2020. Stay tuned for more information about resources and opportunities to participate. Please contact the MCC Sask office at 306.665.2555 if you have questions.