

## 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

October 4, 2020 Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

### Gathering in the Spirit...

Welcome

#### Responsive Call to Worship

**Leader:** Jesus declared: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

**All: We have come from east and west, from north and south, seeking this rest and hoping for a lighter burden.**

**Leader:** Compassion, love and grace poured out like fine wine on each of us.

**All: We long to taste more of the bread of life, this bread that strengthens us for our journey.**

**Leader:** God's grace is offered to us in so many ways and forms.

**All: May we allow this grace to fill us as we declare, "The Lord is good!"**

*Come, thou fount*

*HWB #521*

#### Prayer of Invocation and Confession

**Leader:** Holy God, Creator, Christ, and Spirit; When we hunger for fulfillment, you meet all our needs. You give us the bread of Life to sustain the world. When we thirst for your presence, you draw near to us in every place, at any time. You fill our cup to overflowing. You alone are truth, you alone are love, for you are the One who was, who is, and who ever shall be. Almighty Lord God, we trust in you for our vision, healing, hope and joy. May we experience our deepest desires being filled. So to you, O God, Creator, Christ and Spirit, we give praise with all your people, here and everywhere, now and always.

**All: Out of a desire to be free of past mistakes and start again with you and with one another, we join our voices in confession: God of mercy, we confess that we have often failed to speak and act with kindness. We have not always cared for others as you care for us. We have not welcomed others as we have been welcomed to your table, nor have we forgiven others as we have been forgiven. We remember the good not done, kind words not spoken, and things we regret. If only we could make these things right! Hear our silent confession: (Keep silence for 15 seconds.)**

Assurance of Pardon

### Sharing the Good News...

*Lord, I am fondly, earnestly*

*HWB #514*

Announcements

Offering

*There's a wideness in God's mercy*

*HWB #145*

Meditation: "Grace Robbers and Joy Thieves"

Luke 18:9-14; Hebrews 13:17; Matthew 11:29-30

*Marvellous grace of our loving Lord*

*HWB #151*

### Responding with our Whole Hearts...

North Star Praise and Prayers

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

**Leader:** Life-giving God, you equip your people with gifts to work for your church and your kingdom, bringing justice and peace to every land and community.

**All: Through your Spirit, O God, you give the gift of prophecy. Help us to use this gift to speak words of justice and truth into situations where people are exploited or treated unfairly. Guide our actions so that we might influence change for good in the world, and bring hope to the hopeless.**

**Leader:** You give the gift of serving, O God, in the example of your Son Jesus. Help us to use this gift to serve those who have been cast aside by structures of power and privilege. Increase our awareness of injustice and our dedication to work with those who suffer its effects. May the abundance we share in our country touch every life and community in this land.

**All: God of wisdom, you give the gift of teaching. Help us to use this gift to ensure that every child has access to education and opportunity. Be with every teacher and every student in the coming months as schools adapt to the challenges of COVID-19. Support creative teaching and diligent learning in every school and centre for learning.**

**Leader:** God of hope, you give the gift of encouragement. Help us to use this gift to hearten all who are struggling in these difficult days. Bless us with words and actions to bring comfort to all who mourn, to those coping with mental or physical illness, and to any who feel isolated or left behind.

**All: God of purpose and promise, you give the gift of leadership. Help us to use this skill to build up our communities and model respectful ways of living and loving. Show us how our churches can be places of support within our neighbourhoods.**

**Leader:** God of love, you give the gift of kindness. Help us be kind to all who cross our paths, even those who anger or upset us. Teach us to be forgiving and reconciling in all our relationships.

**All: Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all honour and glory are yours, Creator and Sustainer of all. Glory to you forever and ever. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray... Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day 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 evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, The power, and The glory, for ever and ever. In Jesus' Name, Amen**

### Going out to Serve...

*Sending Song*

Closing and Benediction

Meditation – Dan Graber

Song Leader – Jim & Eileen Ewert

Ushers – Vicky Toporchak, Emery Laskowski

Worship Leader – Peter Nicholson

Accompanists – Worship Team

### LAST SUNDAY

Offering - \$2795.97

Attendance - 56

### NEXT SUNDAY

Meditation – Dan Graber

Worship Leader – Irene Bartel

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

### Wednesday, October 7

2:00 p.m. – Cheerful Mission meets in the Ladies Sunday School room at church. No book study, program of your sharing items. Bring your own snack and beverage.

### Sunday, October 11

11:00 a.m. – Thanksgiving Sunday. Please leave items for display before Friday, October 9.

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

### Friday, October 23

7:30 p.m. – The Klassens (Paraguayan folk harp & keyboard) in Concert at North Star. Admission by donation to the Lanigan Food Bank and/or Drake & District Recreation Board.

### Sunday, November 1

9:45 a.m. – Mission Sunday with Mark & Candace Wurtz. Details to follow.

## **NORTH STAR NOTES:**

- Our congratulation to Kyle & Vicky Toporchak on the birth of their son, Dean Aiden (7 lb.10 oz.) on September 29. Proud grandparents are Ken & Betty Friesen and David & Leslie Toporchak

## **BEYOND NORTH STAR:**

### Saturday, October 24

Join our nationwide community of faith as we gather virtually for “Table Talk: Does the Church Still have Legs?” See MC Canada website for details.

## **MINUTE FOR MISSIONS**

**Praying for Each Other:** Please pray for Tiefengrund Menn. Church and their interim pastors, Wilmer and Barb Froese, as the congregation begins meeting for worship every second and fourth Sunday. Also please pray for their newly formed small groups as they meet to learn, listen, and encourage one another in their spiritual growth.

**MCC Connects:** In recognition of Orange Shirt Day we launched the second season of our podcast Reconcile. Everyday Conversations. Created by MCC Saskatchewan, the podcast aims to facilitate conversations around reconciliation. Listening to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous voices, we invite you into the reconciliation journey. Subscribe and listen wherever you get your podcasts. We are also looking for reconciliation ambassadors! For more information please contact Heather Peters at [heatherpeters@mccsk.ca](mailto:heatherpeters@mccsk.ca).

CMU Connects: CommonRead – The CommonWord Book and Resource Centre on CMU's campus is initiating “CommonRead” – a nation-wide opportunity for congregations to read one title together to strengthen collective faith identity.

CommonWord invites you to read, individually or as a small group, the timely book Signs of Life: Resurrecting Hope out of Ordinary Losses – an exploration of the grand story of God's saving resurrection power in times of loss and hurt. A free study guide and author interview, along with discounted retail copies, are available at [www.commonword.ca/go/2124](http://www.commonword.ca/go/2124).