

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

January 3, 2021

Epiphany Worship Service 9:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

"On the Road ..."

Gathering in the Spirit...

Welcome

Responsive Call to Worship (Adapted from Isaiah 60:4-6; Psalm 72:12)

Leader: Lift up your eyes and look around:

People: **God delivers the needy when they call.**

Leader: Let your hearts thrill and rejoice:

People: **God will deliver the poor and those who have no helper.**

Leader: The nations will bring gold and frankincense before the Lord.

People: **We shall see and be radiant,**

All: and we will proclaim the praise of the Lord!

Leader: Rejoice, for God has sent the Saviour

People: **to bind up the broken hearted,**

Leader: to proclaim liberty to the captives,

People: **to grant a garland to those who mourn instead of ashes.**

Leader: The mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

All: Arise! Shine! For our light has come. We will rejoice and be glad!

Leader: Arise, shine: for your light has come!

People: **The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

Leader: Lift up your eyes and look around!

People: **We shall see and be radiant; our hearts shall rejoice.**

Leader: For the Lord will be our everlasting light and our glory!

All: And so we bring God our worship in humble expectation.

Glory, glory

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

God of majesty and mystery, we come to you this day in wonder. As the year opens before us, we wonder what it holds in store. We wonder where you will lead us, how you will call us to follow in the days ahead. Your purposes are beyond our comprehension, O God, but your presence is always with us. So we offer you our trust for the days ahead, as we seek to follow in the footsteps of Christ, our newborn King.

God of light and life, you have come to us in Christ Jesus to open a path to new life. Yet once the New Year has begun, we long for things to get back to normal, especially this year. We confess that our resolutions for change often don't last long. Old habits draw us back to familiar ways. It is so hard for us to make a new beginning, O God, even with the best of intentions. Forgive us, O God, and renew our determination to know you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly, day by day.

Assurance of Pardon

The First Noel

Sharing the Good News...

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering & Offering Prayer

Children's Time

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Monologue: "The Magi Seek the Messiah" adapted from Matthew 2:1-12

Meditation: "On the road to Radiance"

Scriptures for reading on your own: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14;

Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Responding with our Whole Hearts...

Angels We Have Heard on High

North Star Praise and Prayers

Lisa Martens Bartel dedication for ministry

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of all time and space, as we gather in prayer, we recognize that our lives are but small details in the vast expanse of your universe. So we thank you for attending to the details of our lives. We thank you for the year just past, for walking through the hard days and uncertainties with us, and for the gifts of encouragement and friendship that cheered us. We give thanks for accomplishments in ministry and mission, for generosity offered to those in need, and for new possibilities explored in online worship, education and outreach. As your spirit guides us into the future, Our hearts kneel before you, O God;

Receive our humble prayers.

The year just ending has held so many sorrows and challenges for so many. We remember dear ones who have died and pray for those who look ahead in loneliness or sadness... We pray for those who have faced challenges in health, in their families or at work... Support each one who needs you close by. Our hearts kneel before you, O God;

Receive our humble prayers.

God of light and love, as we face the year ahead, we are aware that much around us is still uncertain. We seek your strength and guidance in each challenge we will face. Draw near to each one who must confront illness, loss or changing circumstances. Guide those for whom new opportunities appear and choices must be made... Our hearts kneel before you, O God;

Receive our humble prayers.

God of community and commitment, we pray for wisdom and courage in the year ahead. Strengthen us as a congregation to be a committed witness to your love. Help us reach out to our community in creative ways, and make us effective citizens in these challenging times. Guide leaders in our nation and in nations around the world so that justice and peace may prevail, resources to meet health and hunger needs be shared, and understanding and respect grow among divided peoples.

Receive our humble prayers and encourage us onward in the name of Jesus our Christ.

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Send us love, send us power, send us grace!

Going out to Serve...

Joy to the World

Closing and Benediction

Meditation – Dan Graber Worship Leader – Irene Bartel
Children’s Time – Rose Graber Monologue – Lisa Martens Bartel
Song Leader – Leona Ewert
Sound – Ed Bergen Visuals – Donna Friesen
Ushers – Myrven Kline, Kyle Toporchak

LAST SUNDAY

Offering – \$16460.00 (budget \$6300.00) Attendance (9:45) 22 (11:00) 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

Offering – \$2090.00 Attendance (6:00) 22 (7:00) 24

NEXT SUNDAY

Meditation – Dan Graber Worship Leader – Rose Graber

COMING EVENTS AT NORTH STAR:

Saturday, January 16-Sunday, January 17

CMU Portable sessions with Pierre Gilbert. Details to follow.

NORTH STAR NOTES:

- Our congratulations to Mitch Bartel and Kellie Miller who were married yesterday at the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon. We wish them God’s blessing as they begin their life together.
- 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

MC Sask Connects: Thank for your support of MC Sask in 2020! To date, we have met 90% of our budget, and ask for your consideration to help us reach our committed support for programs like International Witness, partners like Rosthern Junior College, and ongoing pastoral resources for those who are in need of a well-deserved break. Visit, <http://mcsask.ca/donations>. Thank you, and Happy New Year!