

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 or E-mail: admin@northstarmc.ca

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

March 21, 2021

Lent 5 Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Deep in the earth: Called to deep growth

Gathering in the Spirit...

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with Israel. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Many: God, teach us wisdom in our secret hearts. Put a new and right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of salvation and sustain in us a willing spirit.

One: We trust you, God, to forgive our iniquities and remember our sin no more.

Many: There is a time for everything, and sometimes, the hour is upon us.

One: Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, knowing that those who love their life will lose it.

Many: "The hour has come. Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

All: We call out to you, as you call us to deeper growth.

Scripture: Jeremiah 31: 31-34

In the Bulb there is a flower

HWB #614

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Many: Deep calls to deep. We call to you from the depths of our hearts

One: We confess our resistance to being planted into your aching earth, into the way of your covenant. We confess our need for you to plant within us the joy of your salvation, a willing spirit.

(Silence. Or name the forces that keep us from deep growth)

Deep calls to deep. You call to us from the depth of your love.

Many: Calling us to deep growth. We come to you, God.

I saw a tree by the riverside

STS #116

Sharing the Good News...

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering & Offering Prayer

Children's Time: "Growing Deep"

Scripture: John 12:20-33; Hebrews 5:5-10

Meditation: "Deep in the earth: Called to deep growth"

Responding with our Whole Hearts...

For me to live is Christ

STS #111

Scripture Responsive Reading: Psalm 51:1-17

One: A song of David after Nathan the prophet accused him of infidelity with Bathsheba.

Look on me with a heart of mercy, O God according to Your generous love.

Many: According to Your great compassion, wipe out every consequence of my shameful crimes. Thoroughly wash me, inside and out, of all my crooked deeds. Cleanse me from my sins.

One: For I am fully aware of all I have done wrong, and my guilt is there, staring me in the face.

Women: It was against You, only You, that I sinned, for I have done what You say is wrong, right before Your eyes.

Men: So when You speak, You are in the right. When You judge, Your judgments are pure and true.

All: For I was guilty from the day I was born, a sinner from the time my mother became pregnant with me.

Women: But still, You long to enthrone truth throughout my being; in unseen places deep within me, You show me wisdom.

Men: Cleanse me of my wickedness with hyssop, and I will be clean. If You wash me, I will be whiter than snow.

All: Help me hear joy and happiness as my accompaniment, so my bones, which You have broken, will dance in delight instead.

One: Cover Your face so You will not see my sins, and erase my guilt from the record.

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God; restore within me a sense of being brand new.

Women: Do not throw me far away from Your presence, and do not remove Your Holy Spirit from me.

Men: Give back to me the deep delight of being saved by You; let Your willing Spirit sustain me.

All: If You do, I promise to teach rebels Your ways and help sinners find their way back to You.

One: Free me from the guilt of murder, of shedding a man's blood, O God who saves me. Now my tongue, which was used to destroy, will be used to sing with deep delight of how right and just You are.

All: O Lord, pry open my lips that this mouth will sing joyfully of Your greatness. I would surrender my dearest possessions or destroy all that I prize to prove my regret, but You don't take pleasure in sacrifices or burnt offerings.

One: What sacrifice I can offer You is my broken spirit because a broken spirit, O God, a heart that honestly regrets the past, You won't detest.

North Star Praise and Prayers

Going out to Serve...

I will come to you in the silence

STS #49

Closing and Benediction

Meditation – Donna Friesen

Song Leaders – Jim & Eileen Ewert

Sound – Ivan Bartel

Ushers – Vicky Toporchak, Emery Laskowski

Worship Leader – Joanne K. Bergen

Children's Time – Lois Ewert

Visuals – Friesen Family

LAST SUNDAY

Offering – \$1500.00

Attendance (9:45) 30 (11:00) 25

NEXT SUNDAY

Meditation – Dan Graber

Worship Leader – Rose Graber

COMING EVENTS AT NORTH STAR:

Friday, April 2

10:30 a.m. – We plan to have a Walk to the Cross, in Drake, on Good Friday. We will begin at 10:30 at the church and walk around the outside streets of the town, stopping 11 times total, for scripture readings. Please wear your mask if this helps you feel safe and still able to walk. It's a time of quiet contemplation. People in cars are welcome to accompany us.

Sunday, April 4

11:00 a.m. – We plan to offer communion in our Easter Sunday worship. This is in place of our usual Maundy Thursday worship. We will use the packaged wafers and grape juice that we have used previously. Also, you are welcome to bring your own communion elements. Again, any questions or concerns, please ask.

BEYOND NORTH STAR:

Saturday, March 27

2:00-10:00 p.m. – MC Sask Virtual Youth Retreat. Join us for a day of online fun! Our unique platform will allow youth to hang out in small groups, play games with old and new friends, 'walk around' and discover secret rooms and hidden objects, and learn from our speaker - Tracey Mitchell - how to be strong in what you believe while respecting the opinions of others. Cost: \$15. Please register ASAP at www.mcsask.ca/youthministry and be in contact with Kirsten Hamm-Epp (youthminister@mcsask.ca) if your congregation is not able to send a sponsor.

MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

MC Sask Connects: Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2021 MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions on March 13! All 25 MC Sask congregations were represented, as well as our programs and partners here in Saskatchewan, across Canada and one from the States. Thank you to those who accepted their nominations to serve on Commissions and Councils. To watch the worship service that was prepared for the weekend, please go to <https://mcsask.ca/calledtohear3>

MCC Connects: Book your seat! Theatre of the Beat's virtual tour is coming to Saskatchewan on March 26th, 27th and 28th. UNMUTE is a forum theatre piece that addresses the rise of domestic violence and gender-based assault during COVID-19. Immerse yourself in this important and timely piece. Audiences will learn skills and resources for how they can make a difference. Seats are limited, secure yours as soon as possible: <https://mcccanada.ca/get-involved/events/unmute-impact-pandemic-gender-based-violence>.

CMU Connects: Graduate School of Theology and Ministry Webinar – If you are considering graduate theological studies – OR if you know someone you think may have interest in such study – check out this webinar for all who are beginning a degree program, or interested in taking a course or two for personal interest. Faculty and students will share details of the program and respond to questions, including those related to financial support. Explore options for learning, vocation, and leadership at CMU! Prospective students who attend the webinar and submit a GSTM application by May 31 will have their application fee waived. Tuesday, March 23, 7:00 PM (CDT). For more information and to register go to enrolment.cmu.ca/register/gstmwebinar.