

This week at MPMC
Monday 7:00 pm MR YAM
Saturday 5-7 pm JRAM band practice in Sanctuary
Sunday **Fourth Sunday of Advent (Christmas Eve)**
10:40 am Worship Service
1:00 pm Jesus Rock of Ages Ministry Worship
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Welcome to Mount Royal Mennonite Church

Learning to live - through relationships with Jesus,
our neighbours and each other

Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service 10:40 a.m.

Vol. 54

December 17, 2017

No. 51

Thought for the week

*Mary is who we are. She is a person of faith who does not
always understand but who seeks to put her trust in God.*

*She is one who is blessed not because she sins less
or has keener insights into the things of God.*

*She is instead blessed, as we are, because she is called
by God to participate in the work of God. . . .*

*To call Mary blessed is to recognize the blessedness
of ordinary people who are called to participate
in that which is extraordinary*

[Beverly Roberts Gaventa]

Third Sunday of Advent

Yes! Let it Be!

Prelude

Carol singing

“O come, o come Emmanuel”

“O little town of Bethlehem”

HWB #172

HWB #191

Gathering

Call to worship

Gathering Prayer

Praising

We sing

“Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem”

StS #32

Lighting of Advent Candle

Jo-Anne N.

Psalm 126

Jo-Anne N.

Choir

Waiting for the Light

Offering

Drama

Tyreese H. & Monica D.

Hearing God’s Word

Story for all ages

Ray P.

We sing

“Come, light of the world”

StS #3

Scripture

Luke 1:46-55

Choir

No wind at the window

Sermon

‘The Whole Story’

Stephanie C.

Responding

Hymn of response

“My soul cries out”

StS #124

Confession & Assurance

Sharing our stories

Sharing our prayers

Sending

Sending song

“The peace of the earth be with you”

StJ #77

Sending words

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

This is a reminder that you are able to do your church giving electronically

- **Using a free smart phone app:** Search for **tithe.ly** in your Google Play or Apple App store.
- **Via the internet from your computer:** Search for **tithe.ly** and from the search results go to:
Give to your Church - Tithe.ly

2 other options: You can request envelopes with your donation number stamped on them (to leave in your mailbox at church or take home with you), or you can leave post-dated cheques. Speak to Marianne to request envelopes or to leave your post-dated cheques

Today’s Service

Greeters: Ron & Heather W.

Worship Leaders: Kathy & Len A.

Song Leader: Vern O. Panist: Val R.

Ushers: Kathy A., Len A., Erwin S., Anthony W.

Joys & Concerns

- **Pray for:** *Maureen G., Nettie & Roy W., Irene & Jake W, Marg W, Helen F.*
- **Families of the Week:** *Katie W.; Ann e& Al P.; Rita & Ray H.*
- We are thankful for the donations of \$5,210, an offering given as we prepare our hearts to receive the gift of the Christ Child.
- Pray for Jason Martin, new Director of International Witness, as he supports Witness workers and congregational partners through the restructuring process. Pray for understanding of the implications of these changes, wisdom in strategic planning for the future and a deep sense of God's leading and care. *MC Canada*)
- Pray for Shoal Lake 40 First Nation community, who CPT Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Team partners with in their struggle for clean drinking water and an all-weather access road to the mainland. Pray for the local and provincial authorities to make the right decisions at their annual meeting on December 19. *(CPT)*

MRMC Coming Events & Notes

1. **Dec 17 4:00 pm MRMC Sunday School & Choir Christmas Program** followed by a finger food potluck.
2. **Dec 24 7:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**
3. Thank you to our Junior Sunday School Students for the artwork for our bulletin covers during advent. There are 11 different covers by our artists!
4. **Donations reminder:** Based on actual expenses for the year, giving required to meet 2017 obligations has been calculated at approximately \$13,000. The last opportunity to make a donation toward the 2017 budget will be the morning of Sunday, December 31st, 2017.

Conference & Community Events

- a. **Dec 17 7:00 pm Sonrisa Women's Choir and A Buncha Guys** come together for one more concert this Christmas season at the Shekinah Retreat Centre. Donations will go to support Shekinah. Please join us!
- b. **Dec 20 & 22 RJC Choir Christmas Concerts** - Concert #1: Wednesday, December 20, 7:30 pm at Knox United Church, 838 Spadina Crescent East, Saskatoon. Concert #2: Friday, December 22, 7:00 pm at Rosthern Junior College. Admission is free; a collection will be taken in support of RJC. Everyone is welcome.
- c. **Jan. 28 4 p.m. Join us for a visit to China without leaving Saskatchewan!** You are invited to Mount Royal Mennonite Church to an afternoon of fun, learning and inspiration with international ministry workers George and Tobia Veith. Try your hand at Chinese brush calligraphy. Learn to skip rope the Chinese way. Hear updates from and interact with the Chinese pastors hosted in Saskatchewan in 2014. Be inspired and challenged by stories of your brothers and sisters on the other side of the world and hear about the work of Mennonite Partners in China. There will be a pot luck supper. Bring cold or hot dishes, Chinese/Asian food if possible.
- d. **Shekinah Retreat Centre is welcoming applications for an Executive Director.** Applicants will be reviewed starting January 2018 and the position will be filled by March 1, 2018. The Executive Director provides vision, direction, and ongoing support to staff and Board members, and facilitates stakeholder relations in accomplishing the goals and objectives of Shekinah Retreat Centre. The Executive Director is responsible for all aspects of planning, fundraising, and programming, along with fulfilling administrative and financial responsibilities. The Executive Director is responsible for maintaining positive public and staff relations. An entrepreneurial and creative approach is essential. We invite interested parties to visit www.shekinahretreatcentre.org for more details.
- e. **Camp Elim is looking to hire a Director** in a half-time position. The job application will close December 31, 2017. Please email campelim1@sasktel.net for more information and for the job description.

- f. MCC Connects:** MCC is currently recruiting for many exciting and challenging service positions in countries all around the world. Positions, like the Peace Service & Community Accompaniment Worker in Mexico, are currently open for applications. To view this position visit: mcccanada.ca/get-involved/serve/openings/peace-service-community-accompaniment-worker-mexico. If you have an interest or questions about serving abroad, call Erica Baerwald, Human Resources Coordinator at 306.665.2555.
- g. Fantastic news!** Bill C-262, the Indigenous Human Rights Bill, was endorsed by the ruling Liberal party at second reading on December 5, 2017. One more hour of debate will take place in mid-February, then a vote likely in March. The Bill will then be sent to committee for study, come back for a 3rd Reading, and finally, be brought to the Senate for Royal Assent. You can watch the debate here—<https://goo.gl/jkzqhi>. MP Romeo Saganash expresses his sincere gratitude to our Mennonite community for all the work we've done to get things this far. We're encouraged to keep sending the free *Walk the Talk* postcards (www.commonword.ca/go/1283) to all MPs, encouraging them to stand up for justice and reconciliation.
- h.** Thinking about a unique option for after high school? **Outtatown** is a unique, one or two-semester certificate program of CMU. It's an incredible year for recent high school grads looking to travel, serve others, learn more about God and the world, make lifelong friends, and experience 'once-in-a-lifetime' adventure. Limited space is available so apply today! For more info: Outtatown.com.
- i.** AMBS invites you to download a new free mobile app version of *Take Our Moments and Our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer Book* with your Apple or Android app. The app contains the entire text of both print volumes of the prayer book — Ordinary Time and Advent through Pentecost — which were published in 2007 and 2010 by Herald Press
- j. Mennonites Learning Indigenous Theology** NAIITS is an Indigenous Learning Community that hosts annual theological gatherings intended for young and older, pastors and activists. Mennonite Church Canada's Indigenous-Settler Relations would like to help sponsor a group of women and men from across our nationwide church to attend this year's symposium on "White Supremacy and Indigeneity," June 7-9, 2018 @ Acadia Divinity College (Nova Scotia). If you are interested, please email Steve Heinrichs for details (sheinrichs@mennonitechurch.ca).