

<u>This Week at MRMC</u>		
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Youth via Internet
	6-8 pm	AA Meeting in Basement
Thursday	10:30 am	Boomers via Zoom
	6:30 pm	Women Together via Zoom
Sunday	9:30 am	Sunday Worship
	11:00 am	Zoom Gathering
	8:00 pm	Adult Ed via Zoom

Thought for the week

'The industrial era at climax...has imposed on us all ideals of ceaseless pandemonium. The industrial economy, by definition, must never rest...There is no such thing as enough. Our bellies and our wallets must become oceanic, and still they will not be full. Six workdays in a week are not enough. We need a seventh. We need an eighth. Everybody is weary, and there is no rest.'
[Wendell Berry]

'The ultimate goal of farming [and gardening] is not the growing of crops, but the cultivation and perfection of human beings.'

[Masanobu Fukukoia]

Staff Schedule

Gwen: Tues- Fri 8:00- 1:30

Garth and Claire: Tues- Thurs 8:30 – 3
Fri 8:30- 12:30

Today's Service

Worship Leader: Claire E F

Song Leader: Val R

Pianist: Monica D

Prelude/ Offertory: Grace P

Powerpoint: Darrell B

Video: Wes E

Welcome to Mount Royal Mennonite Church

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

Worship Service 9:30 am

Vol. 58

April 18, 2021

No. 16

EARTH DAY: Forest Sunday

Prelude

Announcements

Silence

Gathering Prayer

We Sing *This is God's Wondrous World* VT #180

Call to Worship

Psalm 139: 13-16 Zach D

Peace Lamp

Confession

Absolution

Offertory Prayer

Story for All Ages Monica D

We Sing *At the Dawn of Your Creation* VT #179

'Reforestation Faith' Scriptures and Reflections

Affirmation of Faith

We Sing *Touch the Earth Lightly* VT #145

Sharing our stories

Sharing our prayers

Sending Song *You Shall Go Out with Joy* VT #145

Benediction

Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD! Amen

Postlude

Joys & Concerns

- **Pray for:** *Anne E, Marg W, Alex and Joel S, Hedio B, Maureen G, Elsie S, Eric and Doris Q, Betty U, Nettie and Roy W*
- **Families of the week:** *Arnulfo T and Marleny C, Gwen L, Margaret M*
- We give thanks for last week's offering of \$851, given freely as we learn to live through relationships with Jesus, our neighbours and each other.

MRMC Coming Events and Notes

- The MRMC Governing Board has asked the Personnel Committee to conduct a performance review of Garth Ewert Fisher, Pastor. We will also ask questions about Garth and Claire's co-pastoring since September 2020. This survey will come to your email on Monday, April 26, 2021. If you would like a paper copy of this survey or if you have any questions about this process please contact Shelley B, Kevin C, or Bernie W.
- **Summer job Opportunity:** *If you would like some outdoors exercise with a purpose, this might be a job opportunity for you.* The job entails lawn care services at the church for the months of May through September. The work involves mowing and edge trimming as needed - approximately 5 times per month. You may use your own mower or one provided by the church. Pay is monthly or per mowing. Please contact Len A at 306-374-4563 for details.
- "The PCRC Committee will be meeting on April 28 at 5:30. Please consider the following questions - Recently as a congregation we moved from 2 pastors to 3. How do you feel this transition has gone? What do you feel has gone well? Has something been overlooked? This is not a formal evaluation of any of our pastors. It is an informal starting point for discussion purposes only. If you any comments, suggestions, items of praise please pass them onto Trevor S, Dave W, Maggie P or RaeLynn H. Thank you for your input."
- **Project: Trash for Cash**
As part of Earth day 2021, we're encouraging all to get involved, and keep our Church community a beautiful place to visit and to live. Please join us in picking up trash! For every filled trash bag, \$10 will be donated to the church budget.
Time frame: Now until the end of April
Record your bags: Email or call the church. Give your name and how many bags you've filled.
Church community area: About 10 blocks around MRMC.
What to do with the trash bag upon filling: Leave behind the church by the garbage can or, preferably, add to your own trash container.
Questions? Contact Ray H from Missions and Service Ministries

Conference and Community Events

- a) **MCC Connects:** Grow Hope Saskatchewan launched its 2021 season this week with its partners: Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB), Saskatoon Catholic Diocese and their agency, Development & Peace, and Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM). Learn how to help us grow hope for people around the world at growhopesk.ca.
- b) Spring is coming, and Shekinah is looking for "weekend at the cabin / lake" items. In particular, we are looking for BBQs in good working order, outdoor Adirondack style chairs (wood or composite / resin), and counter depth fridges. We also wouldn't say no to composting toilets. Have other ideas about what we might need? Contact Ron at ron@shekinah.ca
- c) **Creation Care as Self Care** Sunday April 18, 2:00 pm Join us on Earth Sunday for a contemplative gathering with music, prayer and meditation hosted by Anna-Bigland Pritchard and Sabrina Di Matteo. Come nourish your spirit in community! This is a bilingual event. Register at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAkcuuhqjoqHtCd4T1Qye9t3q5wv7QjohXS>
- d) **April 22 at 11am: Join us on Earth Day to celebrate the 1st anniversary of For the Love of Creation** and discern our gifts for climate action in community. In preparation, please take a moment to reflect on your place in Creation. Step outside and take a photograph of your hands or feet on the Earth (toes in the mud, feet in a river, hands on a tree, arms around an animal) in a place where you feel connected with Creation. Registration and details available at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMrdu-przkuGt04hqVvs2zRiUsejBwC6pfM>
- e) **April 29, 7pm: Join us for the launch Elaine Enns & Ched Myers' new book, *Healing Haunted Histories: A Settler Discipleship of Decolonization*.** This important work looks at issues of Indigenous justice and settler "response-ability" through the lens of Elaine's Mennonite family narrative, tracing "Landlines, Bloodlines, and Songlines" like a braided river. [Click here to register](#)
- f) **One week Spring Intensive Course Options!** CMU is offering great intensive (one week!) course options through the spring including, *Christian Worship: Patterns and Practices; New Testament Letters in 1st Century and Middle Eastern Perspective; Refugees and Displacement: Learning to Extend Hospitality; Creation and Community in Biblical and Indigenous Perspective* and *Community-Based Research and Peacebuilding*. **All courses are available in hybrid format** – both in person and online. Consider taking one of these courses for credit or audit! Go to www.cmu.ca/intensivecourses for more information and to register.

Call to Worship

L1 We invite the forests to worship with us:

P White birch and tamaracks, quivering fescue grasses and morel mushrooms!

L2 We quiver with the trees as they shake before God:

P when thunderstorms and tornadoes hit, and raging winds invade the forest.

L1 We invite tall trees to celebrate life:

P Trembling aspen and spruce, where grey jays and lichen find their home!

L2 We invite the forest night-life to sing:

P Striped wood frogs and loons, burrowing owls and hoary bats!

L1 We join with the fauna of the forest in praising God:

P Eagles and flickers and sharp tail grouse, garter snakes and butterflies!

L2 We celebrate the song of the forest!

P Sing, forest, sing!

L2 We celebrate the song of the forest!

P Sing, forest, sing!

Confession

L As I hold this symbol aloft, we remember and confess that we have become alienated from Earth and that we have violated the forests in our garden planet.

P We are sorry. We have been thoughtless and greedy. We have ignored the destruction of our forests, the death of old-growth giants and species breathing their last.

L We are sorry.

P We are sorry.

Absolution

L Christ hears your confession from the cross and forgives your sins against the forest.

P Christ, teach us to love Earth and return to Earth as our home.

L I speak for Christ: I invite you to come home to Earth by rejoicing in the forest.

P Shalom! Shalom! We are coming home!

Affirmation of Faith

L Let us affirm our faith together.

Women We believe that God creates all things, renews all things and celebrates all things.

Men We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin.

Women We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a piece of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross for all human beings and for all creation.

Men We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation, reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

Women We believe the Holy Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

Together We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.

This Is God's Wondrous World VT 180

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock (USA), *Thoughts for Every-Day Living*, 1901, alt.
Music: Franklin L. Sheppard (USA), *Alleluia*, 1915, adapt. From English traditional RUSPER

This is God's wondrous world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks of trees, of skies and seas,
the wonders God has wrought.

This is God's wondrous world;
the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the dark of night,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world;
a wand'rer I may roam.
Whate'er my lot, it matters not,
my heart is still at home.

This is God's wondrous world;
oh, let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world;
the battle is not done.
Jesus who died shall be glorified,
and earth and heav'n be one.

At the Dawn of Your Creation VT 179

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (USA), © 2011 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
Music: attr. B. F. White (USA), *Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. Joan Fyock Norris
(USA), © 1989 Joan Fyock Norris
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At the dawn of your creation,
God, you spoke; "Let there be light!"
You divided earth from heaven,
you created day and night.
You made sunbeams dance with shadows,
you created energy!
Peaceful evenings, bright tomorrows,
all began with "Let there be!"

By your word, you formed creation:
dry land, water, ocean breeze.
Soon there burst forth vegetation:
plants with fruit, majestic trees,
rain and snow and changing seasons,
creatures filling land and sea.
God, your very good creation
all began with "Let there be!"

When you made us as your children,
sending us throughout your lands,
you commanded, "Have dominion,
care for earth; it's in your hands."
Yet we hurt this world you've given;
we harm earth and sky and sea.
We forget it's your creation,
you, who once said, "Let there be!"

At this joyful celebration,
may we hear your word anew:
may we care for your creation,
knowing it's a trust from you.
Just as daily there's a dawning,
bringing light to all we see,
so we daily hear your calling,
you, who once said, "Let there be!"

Touch the Earth Lightly VT 145

Text: Shirley Erena Murray (Aotearoa New Zealand). © 1992 Hope Publishing
Co.
Music: Swee Hong Lim (Canada); arr. Tamryn Parker-Carver (USA), © 2005
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Publishing Co.
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Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who still foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses, and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.
God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.

You Shall Go Out with Joy VT 847

Text: based on Isaiah 55:12; Steffi Geiser Robin (USA), 1975

Music: Stuart Dauermann (USA), 1975 © 1975 Lillenas Publishing Co.
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You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace.
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you.
There'll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands.
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands.
The trees of the field will clap their hands,
while you go out with joy.