

<u><b>This Week at MRMC</b></u>		
Monday	all day	Westmount School in Gym
Tuesday	5:30 pm	SPT Meeting
	7:30 pm	Worship Meeting
Wednesday	Afternoon	Cheer Crates in the gym
	all day	Cheer Crates in the gym
	10:00 am	Bethany Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Education via Zoom
Thursday	6:30 pm	Missions and Service Meeting
	7-8 pm	AA Meeting in Gym (Host: Bryan)
	9:30 am	Forever in Motion
	10:30 am	Boomers +
	1:30 pm	Pickleball
Friday	6:30 pm	Pickleball
	6:30 pm	Women Together via Zoom
	5-7 pm	JRAM Youth in Sanctuary
Saturday	7:00 pm	MRMC Youth Christmas Party
Sunday	3-7 pm	JRAM in Sanctuary
	10 am	Sunday Worship Service- Advent 4
	1-4 pm	JRAM in Sanctuary
	7:00 pm	Blue Christmas Service via Zoom

**94 Calls to Action** were prepared following the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings. Let's use them to inform our prayers and actions. (Complete list Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action.)

**LEGACY - Child welfare**

5. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate parenting programs for Aboriginal families.

**EDUCATION-**

6. We call upon the Government of Canada to repeal Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

**Today's Service**

Worship Leader: Trevor S  
 Song Leader: Sarah P  
 Pianist: Pam O  
 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 10:00 am

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**Vol. 58** **December 12, 2021** **No. 50**

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Prelude  
 Carol Singing *O Come, O Come Immanuel (V 1,4,6)* VT #210  
*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* VT #216  
*No Wind at the Window* StS #11

Announcements  
 Silence

**ADVENT 3 - THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO TURN**

**INVITING THE MYSTERY**

Call to Worship  
 Opening Prayer  
 Gathering Song *Blessed be the God of Israel* VT #223  
 Psalm Isaiah 12: 2-6 Dave W  
 Music *In the Bleak Midwinter* Olfert Family

**ENGAGING THE MYSTERY**

Story for all Ages Shelley B  
 We Sing *My Soul Cries Out (v1,3)* VT #412  
 Peace Lamp  
 Scripture **Zephaniah 3: 14-20**  
**Luke 3: 7-18**  
 Sermon *The Lord shall sing of the day you bring* Zach D  
 Hymn of response *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* VT #218

**PROCLAIMING THE MYSTERY**

Offering  
 Music *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* Olfert Family  
 Sharing our stories  
 Sharing our prayers  
 Sending Song *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper* VT #237  
 A Joyful Benediction

**Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.**

**THANKS BE TO GOD! Amen**

Postlude

### Joys & Concerns

- **Pray for:** *Hedie B, Maureen G, Elsie S, Eric and Doris Q, Betty U, Roy W, Anne E, Marg W, Alex and Joel S, Jon and Roxanne K, Eric and Verna O, Agatha W*
- **Families of the week:** *Wes and Jodi E, Dave and Carol W, Ann K*
- We are thankful for last week's offering of \$9,426, given in support of our ministry here and around the world.
- Please pray for the MRMC ministries as some positions come to an end. The Chair position of the Education Ministry ends in December. Please consider volunteering for one of these roles. Speak to Rita, Garth or Claire if you're interested in this ministry role.

### MRMC Coming Events and Notes

- **Dec 14 & 15:** Cheer Crates, thanks to the Saskatoon Public School Foundation will again be packed in our multi purpose room. Seven hundred and fifty families will receive food hampers and recreation and educational materials to help make this Christmas season more enjoyable.
- **Jan 8, 2022** – Don't forget to check the bulletin board next to Garth's office or the MRMC Missions & Services webpage for your opportunity to help serve meals (or donate) at Friendship Inn.  
<https://mountroyalmennonite.org/missions-and-service>
- "True evangelical faith cannot lie dormant." (Menno Simons) This applies to our response, or lack of response, in the current climate crisis. Please read the document 7 Calls to Climate Action for Mennonite Church Canada which is found online at <http://www.7callstoclimateaction.com>. A summary of this document is posted on the bbd beside Garth's office. Let's read and pray and respond as God calls us to respond.
- The Blue Christmas service is a time when we can, with others, acknowledge the "blue" feelings we have at Christmas time, the reasons for them, and offer them to God. This time has been called the "long dark night of the soul" and "the winter of our discontent" in which memories of past experiences and the pain of present experiences can become overwhelming. For some, Christmas Day is the most difficult. For others, it may be Christmas Eve, or New Years Eve, or the beginning of another lonely New Year. In this service, we'll have some readings and music recognizing that this is not a season of joy for everyone. We will invite you to reflect on the pain, the loneliness, and the sadness you may feel and offer it to God for healing and transformation. We pray that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. Always remember that God knows your pain and loves you unconditionally. Sunday December 19th 7pm on Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent out through email.

### Conference and Community Events

- a) **Dec 15 RJC Christmas Concert at 7:00pm (SK CST).** Music and performances by RJC students and staff. Livestream for those who wish to enjoy the program at home can be found at [rjc.sk.ca](http://rjc.sk.ca). Saskatchewan public health orders will be followed at this event.
- b) **January 7 & 8, 2022, RJC Tournament of Memories (Basketball & Hockey)** - Alumni & friends of RJC are invited to our annual basketball & hockey tournament. Basketball will take place on Friday, January 7 and Saturday, January 8. Those interested in basketball should register by Dec. 28 by email to Denelda Fast ([deneldafast@hotmail.com](mailto:deneldafast@hotmail.com)). Hockey will take place only on Saturday, January 8. Those interested in hockey are encouraged to contact Paul Ayres ([paul.ayres@hotmail.com](mailto:paul.ayres@hotmail.com)). Questions for the school can be directed to (306) 232-4222.
- c) **January 21, 2022, RJC Open House & Friday Night Live** - Prospective students and families are invited to the RJC campus for a look into life as a student at RJC. There will be campus tours and RJC's annual Friday Night Live student coffee-house. Register by email to [admissions@rjc.sk.ca](mailto:admissions@rjc.sk.ca) or call (306) 232-4222.
- d) **The MC Sask Council and Personnel Committee are working towards the hiring of an interim Executive Minister.** They are also preparing to begin the search for a new Executive Minister. A job description can be found at [www.mcsask.ca](http://www.mcsask.ca) The job posting will be made in the new year. Please direct your questions to Andrea at [searchcommittee@mcsask.ca](mailto:searchcommittee@mcsask.ca)
- e) Mennonite Church Saskatchewan is seeking an **Interim Youth Worker** to fulfill a one-year parental leave beginning January 17, 2022. Averaging 10 hours/week, this position will focus on coordinating Mega Menno events, including travel to the 2022 MC Canada Youth Gathering. Contact Ryan Siemens, [minister@mcsask.ca](mailto:minister@mcsask.ca), for more information.
- f) **MCC Connects:** Give the gift of love and warmth this holiday season! MCC Saskatchewan's quilts are now 40% off for the remainder of the holiday season. Purchase one today at [mccskquiltsale.com](http://mccskquiltsale.com) or call 306.665.2555.
- g) **Mennonite Nursing Home is pleased to announce that Dana Heinrichs has been appointed as the new CEO/Administrator.** She comes to us with 30+ years of experience working with vulnerable populations. The last 11+ years she served as the Executive Director of Canadian Deafblind Association working in human services and residential care settings.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### MRMC

- We are looking for volunteers for an MDS trip to the US the last week in March. Anyone interested to contact Ron or Heather. If restrictions make it too difficult to travel, we will try to find a project in Canada to tap into in the spring, summer, or fall.
- We are in need of some volunteers to help with the Junior Sunday School class. If you are interested, please contact Sharon, Garth or Claire.
- **Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre;** We are in urgent need of groups of 8-10 people to help off-site at our second warehouse in the Exhibition area to increase our output due to growing demand of the holiday season. Please note that we prefer volunteers to be fully vaccinated.  
The address is 2510 Jasper Ave S, Bay7. Right beside Kelly Cafe in the Exhibition Area.  
Days: Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturdays  
Time: Morning shifts 9am-12pm and Afternoons 1-3:30pm(excluding Saturday afternoons).  
TASK: Packing standard hampers with non-perishables for distribution to the community; maybe sorting hygiene products etc. as well, if time allows. [iliiza.k@saskatoonfoodbank.ca](mailto:iliiza.k@saskatoonfoodbank.ca)

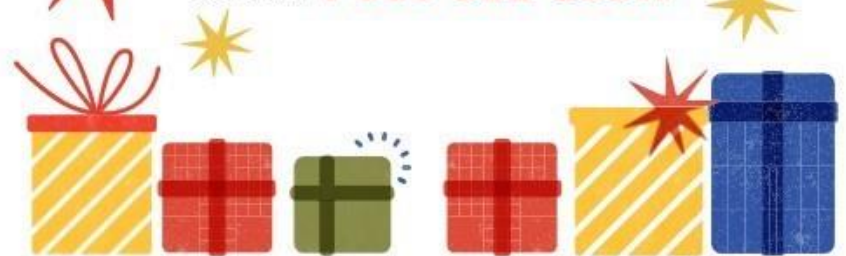
### WIDER COMMUNITY

- **Host families needed for RJC International students.** Would you like to support RJC in a different way? RJC is looking for individuals, couples, or families who would be open to hosting an International student during closed dorm weekends or extended holidays. If you are interested please email [deansoffice@rjc.sk.ca](mailto:deansoffice@rjc.sk.ca) or call (306) 232-4222.
- **Westmount Community School** is looking for **volunteer bakers** to come to the school one morning a week or once a month (details to be finalized with Anne McLellan) to make treats for the children's snacks. If you are at all interested in serving God by serving others (i.e., students at Westmount) please talk with Claire as soon as possible.



Delight your loved ones and share God's love with our global neighbours this Christmas. Choose from unique gifts such as goats, clean water, fruit trees, books and many more.

Give at [mcccanada.ca/christmas](http://mcccanada.ca/christmas) or call 1-888-622-6337.



## O Come, O Come, Immanuel VT 210

Text: anonymous, O Antiphons ca. 8th-9th c., “*Veni, veni Emmanuel*”, 12th c.; stanzas 1-5 trans. John M. Neale (England), *Medieval Hymns and Sequences*, 1851, alt.; stanzas 6-7 trans. Henry Sloane Coffin (USA), *Hymns of the Kingdom of God*, 1916

Music: trope melody (present-day France), 15th c.

1. O come, O come, Immanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

4. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death’s dark shadow put to flight.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

6. O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind.  
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease.  
Fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

## Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming VT 216

Text: stanzas 1-2 anon., “*Es ist ein Ros’ entsprungen*” (present-day Germany), 15<sup>th</sup> c.; *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengasäng* (present-day Germany), 1599; trans. Theodore Baker (USA), 1894; stanza 3 Friedrich Lakritz (Germany) *Liederschatz* 1832; trans. Harriet K. Spaeth (USA), *The Hymnal 1940*, alt.

Music: German traditional, 15<sup>th</sup> c.; *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengasäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (present-day Germany), *Musae Sionae VI*, 1609

Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem has sprung!  
Of Jesse’s lineage coming as saints of old have sung.  
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,  
when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah ’twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind.  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God’s love aright, she bore to us a Saviour,  
when half-spent was the night.

Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
dispel in glorious splendour gloom and grief everywhere.  
True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us,  
and lightens ev’ry load.

## No Wind at the Window STS 11

Text: John L. Bell © 1992 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland). Used by permission of GIA Publications, Inc. exclusive agent.

Music: Irish traditional; arranged by Marty Haugen Arrangement © 1995 GIA Publications, Inc.

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No wind at the window, no knock on the door;  
no light from the lampstand, no foot on the floor;  
no dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear;  
just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear.

“O Mary, O Mary, don’t hide from my face.  
Be glad that you’re favoured and filled with God’s grace. The time for  
redeeming the world has begun;  
and you are requested to mother God’s son.”

“This child must be born that the kingdom might come; salvation for  
many, destruction for some;  
both end and beginning, both message and sign;  
both victor and victim, both yours and divine.”

No payment was promised, no promises made;  
no wedding was dated, no blueprint displayed.  
Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess,  
replied with conviction, “Tell God I say, ‘Yes.’”

## Bless'd Be the God of Israel VT 223

Text: based on Luke 1:68-79; Michael A. Perry (England), *Psalm Praise*, © Hope Publishing Co.

Music: George J. Webb (USA), 1830, *The Odeon*, 1837

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Bless'd be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,  
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty?  
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release,  
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

Now from the house of David a child of grace is giv'n,  
a Saviour comes among us to raise us up to heav'n.  
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,  
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

On all by death imprisoned the sun begins to rise,  
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,  
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.  
Oh, bless our God and Saviour with songs that never cease!

## My Soul Cries Out VT 412

Text: based on Luke 1:46-58; Rory Cooney (USA)

Music: Irish traditional; arr. Rory Cooney

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1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about the turn?

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.

Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near  
and the world is about to turn!

3. From the halls of power to the fortress tower,  
not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.

Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near  
and the world is about to turn!

## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus VT 218

Text: Charles Wesley (England), *Hymns for the Nativity of our Lord*, 1744; stanza 2  
adapt. From "Light of Those Whose Dreary Dwelling" in the same collection

Music: Rowland H. Pritchard (Wales), ca. 1830, *Cyfall y Cantorion*, 1844; arr. Ralph  
Vaughan Williams (England), *The English Hymnal*, 1906, adapt. 1951, *BBC Hymn  
Book*, © Oxford University Press,  
London

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Come, thou long-expected Jesus!  
born to set thy people free,  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee:  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Come, thou universal Saviour;  
come, redeem the human race.  
Life and joy spring from thy favour;  
cheer each soul in need of grace.  
Still we wait for thine appearing –  
make our senseless struggles cease.  
Guide us from our weary wand'ring  
into paths of perfect space.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit,  
rule in all our hearts alone.  
By thine all-sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

**Now the Heavens Start to Whisper VT 237**

Text: Mary Louise Bringle (USA), 2005, © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.  
Music: Welsh traditional; harm. Alfred V. Fedak (USA), © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak  
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Now the heavens start to whisper,  
as the veil is growing thin,  
Earth from slumber wakes to listen  
to the stirring, faint within:  
seed of promise, deeply planted  
child to spring for Jesse's stem!  
Like the soil beneath the frost-line,  
hearts grow soft to welcome him.

Heavy clouds that block the moonlight  
now begin to drift away.  
Diamond brilliance through the darkness  
shines the hope of coming day.  
Christ, the morning star of splendour,  
gleams within a world grown dim.  
Heaven's ember fans to fullness;  
hearts grow soft so welcome him.

Christ, eternal sun of justice,  
Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,  
come to bless with fire and fragrance  
hours of yearning, hurt, and need.  
In the lonely, in the stranger,  
in the outcast, hid from view:  
child who comes to grace the manger,  
teach our hearts to welcome you.