

This Week at MRMC
 Wednesday 7-8 pm AA Meeting in Basement
 Sunday 10:00 am Sunday Gathering via Zoom

Welcome to Mount Royal Mennonite Church

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

Worship Service 10:00 am

Vol. 57

December 27, 2020

No. 52

Thought for the week

Richard Foster calls the evangelical tradition the Word-centered life, and the Magi stand out as biblical proponents of this stream for good reason. There is the Word of creation which brings us to the Word of Scripture, which in turn brings us to the Word of Jesus Christ. The glory of creation and the truth of Scripture are designed to bring us where the Magi went: to Jesus, the greatest revelation of God, and the rightful recipient of the worship of the nations.

Reminder!

Giving by Interac e-transfer is now available. See the church website "Get Involved / Giving" for more information.

<https://mountroyalmennonite.org/getinvolved/giving>

Today's Service

Worship Leader: Marianne & Gord S
 Song Leader: Darrell B
 Pianist: Shelley B
 Video: Zoom Service recorded

Prelude		
Announcements		
Silence		
ADVENT: A Mighty River of the Spirit		
Call to Worship		STS #138
Prayer		
We sing	<i>As with gladness men of old</i>	HWB #218
Psalm 148		Elsie S
Offering		
Story for all ages		Trevor S
We Sing	<i>The first Noel</i>	HWB #199
Scripture	Matthew 2:1-12	Family C
Sermon	'Searching for home'	Garth E F
Hymn of Response	<i>What child is this?</i>	HWB #215
Peace Lamp		
Sharing our stories		
Sharing our prayers		
Sending song	<i>O Beautiful Star</i>	StS #32
Sending words		
Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord		
THANKS BE TO GOD!		

Postlude

Joys & Concerns

- **Pray for:** *Hedie B, Maureen G, Betty U, Nettie and Roy W, Marg W, Kelly and Pam J, Alex and Joel S*
- **Families of the week:** *Val R, Harry and Dorothy R, Elmer and Agnes R*
- We are thankful for last week's offering of \$2,600, given in support of our ministry here and around the world.

MRMC Coming Events and Notes

- Thank you friends! Operation Potato Peeler has been a massive success. Friendship Inn is now working with a total cost of \$9,195.23 to purchase the potato peeler and its base. \$6,045.00 will be sent from MRMC the Friendship Inn to be mixed with funds from church folks and friends which have been donated directly. We set a goal for ourselves of \$7,500.00 and we more than reached it. We are extremely grateful for each donation. MDS started us off with a \$2,000.00 gift, MC Sask also sent along \$500.00, and the rest was graciously donated by congregants. Other churches and businesses have also made donations directly to Friendship Inn in response to Operation Potato Peeler. Yesterday we also heard that Nutrien Ag Solutions is matching all donations up to \$100,000.00 made to the Friendship Inn during the month of December! In conversation with staff at Friendship Inn yesterday, we were told that these monies will also make it possible to purchase a commercial food processor and coffee maker. Thank you!
- The **Creation Care blog** is now accessible by getting onto the **Mount Royal Mennonite Church** website, go to **Get Involved** and then to **CreationCare blog**. Thank you to all who have already submitted your creation care practices. If you would like to share yours, please send it to Claire, and she will make sure it gets onto the website. It makes for very good reading!
- Calling all Women of MRMC! **Women Together** is a group for women of all ages and stages of life who want to support each other while reading and discussing April Yamasaki's book *Sacred Pauses*. We plan to meet every second week via Zoom beginning Thursday, January 14 at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to be part of this group, please let Claire know.

- Gwen will be on holidays from Dec 19 until the Jan 5. Len will be covering for Gwen periodically and Garth and Claire will be in the office, but their schedule will be modified due to the holidays.
- **December 31, 2020 at 12 noon**, is the deadline for donations to be receipted for 2020. All donations must be received at the church office by that time in order to be deposited in 2020, and receipted for 2020. This includes donations by tithe.ly and e-transfer. Tithe.ly donations typically take 48 to 72 hours from donation date to deposit date.

Conference and Community Events

- a) **Thank you for your contributions to the MC Sask body this year.** Your financial gifts, time, and prayer, support our work regionally (MC Sask), nationally (MC Canada), and globally (International Witness and Mennonite World Conference). As we continue to build up the body of Christ both near and far, please consider MC Sask in your year-end giving. Visit www.mcsask.ca/donations.
- b) **Give the gift of communication!** The Micah Mission is looking for donations of old, gently used, flip phones to give to individuals re-entering the community after a period of incarceration. For more information, please call: 306.653.3099, or email: info@themicahmission.org.
- c) **MCC Connects:** Christmas Blessings to you from the Board and Staff of MCC Saskatchewan! May our celebrations of the birth of the Christ child nurture and strengthen our living and serving in the name of Christ throughout the coming year.

“Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-734846. All rights reserved.”

Call to worship – StS #138

Almighty God
clothe us in the mantle of praise
that we may always rejoice
in proclaiming your glory
and in receiving your blessings
through Christ our Lord. AMEN

As with gladness men of old

Text: William C. Dix, ca 1858 Hymns of Love and Joy, ca. 1860
Music: Conrad Kocher, Stimmen aus dem Reiche Gottes, 1858; adapted by William H. Monk, Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861

1. As with gladness, men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led by thee.
2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.

The First Noel

Text: English carol, Some Ancient Christmas Carols, 2nd ed. 1823
Music: English carol, Christmas Carols, 1823

1. The first Noel the angels did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay -
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
3. And by the light of that same star
three wisemen came from country far.
To see for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.
5. Then entered in those wisemen three,
full rev'rently upon the knee,
and offered there in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

What child is this

Text: William C. Dix, The Manger Throne, 1863
Music: Traditional English melody

What child is this who laid to rest
on Mary's lap is sleeping,
whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this, is Crist the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud
the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spears shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come peasant, king to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Oh, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

Text: Adger M. Pace, 1940
Music: R. Fisher Boyce, 1940, harmonized by Adger M. Pace 36

1. Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem,
shining afar thro' shadows dim,
giving a light for those who long have gone,

and guiding the wise men on their way
unto the place where Jesus lay,
beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on.

Refrain

Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem,
shine upon us until the glory dawn;
oh, give us thy light to light the way into the land of perfect day;
beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on.

2. Oh, beautiful star, the hope of light,
guiding the pilgrim throttle night,
over the mountain till the break of dawn;
and into the light of perfect day
it will give out a lovely ray;
beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on.

Refrain

Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem,
shine upon us until the glory dawn;
oh, give us thy light to light the way into the land of perfect day;
beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on.

3. Oh, beautiful star, the hope of rest,
for the redeemed, the good and blest,
yonder in glory when the crown is won;
for Jesus is now that Star divine;
brighter and brighter he will shine;
beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on.

Refrain

Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem,
shine upon us until the glory dawn;
oh, give us thy light to light the way into the land of perfect day;
beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on.