

**\*MCC Connects:** 50 Years of Faith in Action. MCCS invites you to be a part of our Material Resources celebration, December 4, 7pm, Mount Royal Mennonite Church. Join us in celebrating servant hood and support for the Material Resources program through stories and reflections. Squares and coffee will be provided following a short program.

**\*RJC Choir Concert** - December 14, 7:30 pm at Knox United Church, Saskatoon. RJC Chorale, Women's Choir and guest choir SONRISA will present a Christmas Concert in Knox United, 838 Spadina Crescent East, Saskatoon. Admission is free; a collection will be taken in support of RJC. Everyone is welcome.

**\*RJC Christmas Concert** - December 19, 7:00 pm in the school auditorium. Join us as we celebrate the Christmas season with music and fellowship. A time of refreshments will follow the concert.

**\*A *Buncha* Guys Christmas Concerts**

Sat. Dec. 6 - 7:30 pm at Knox United Church, Saskatoon

Sat. Dec. 13 - 7:30 pm at Shekinah Retreat Centre

Doors open at 6:45 pm. Tickets (\$5.00) are available at McNally Robinson Book Sellers in Saskatoon, Russ Regier (306-249-3650), any of the Guys, **or at the door. An offering will be taken to support Shekinah Retreat Centre.**

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Worship Leader: Christy Martens-Funk  
Song Leader: Ben Buhler  
Accompanist: Diana Buhler  
Scripture reader: Lacey Braun  
This week's Nursery care: Jennifer Rowan Next Week: Adeline C.  
Sound: Chris Buhler  
Ushers: Sarah Hiebert, Lloyd Sawatzky

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The Osler Mennonite Church, Box 129, Osler, Saskatchewan S0K 3A0

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## OSLER MENNONITE CHURCH

Osler, Saskatchewan

A Welcoming Christian  
Community for Peace

10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
November 30, 2014

### *First Sunday of Advent*

*“Oh, that you would reveal your hope”*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

### GATHERING

#### **Call to Worship**

**Leader:** Come, let us worship in faith the God who is here and desires our worship. Redeeming God, show your face, so that we, your people, would share your hope.

**All:** *Oh, that you would reveal your hope to us, O Lord.*

**People:** **Let your light shine, so that the nations would see your glory.**

**Leader:** Restore us, that we might be saved.

**People:** **Mold us, and we will bend to your will.**

**All:** *Render the heavens and come down, O Lord of hope.*

#### **Confession:**

**Leader:** Today in this safe but dark and holy place we become aware of your presence, God. We focus not on our sins as is our habit, but instead on the sins done against us.

**People:** **We have suffered rejection, hurt and abuse. People have hurt us in our childhood, at school, at work, and even in church. These hurts continue to shape us in unhealthy ways.**

**Leader:** We are crumbling clay that needs to be reformed and rebuilt by you, God the Potter.

**People: Heal our places of shame, Lord.**

Leader: To “forgive those who trespass against us,” we ask for strength to release our wounds to you, to stop holding onto them.

**People: Heal us, Lord.**

**All: Restore our hope, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Moment of silence in Darkness  
Lighting of Advent Candle

**Words of Assurance:**

Leader: God, the faithful Potter, longs to remake and restore his children.

**All: God’s power rekindles hope in us and gives us life, real life. Thanks be to God.**

**\*Hymns: Purple/SS #15 “Hope is a candle”  
Blue/HWB #175 “O Savior, rend the heavens”**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns and Prayer of the church

LISTENING

Children’s Time Edna Zacharias  
**Children’s Advent Song: Blue/HWB#204 “Gloria”**

**Hymn: Purple/SS #10 “Come! Walk in the light”**

Offering and Offertory Music  
Offertory Prayer

Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 64: 1-9, Mark 13: 24-37

**Hymn: Green/SJ #31 “He came down”**

Meditation Mark Bigland-Pritchard

RESPONDING

**\*Hymn: Green/SJ #54 “Longing for light”**

\*Benediction

**\*Please rise.**

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To all our visitors: WELCOME. We are delighted that you are worshiping with us.

Nursery care is provided during the worship service for those who desire it (children over 4 years should be accompanied by an adult.) **Children’s Worship Binder**, an instrument to help children through the worship hour, is available in the foyer.

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**The blank, coloured papers** in the pew are for **thank-you notes to God or someone in the church**. Place the note in the offering bag. Notes with names will be delivered to that person. The rest will be saved. Share your thankfulness as an offering.

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**TODAY**

- **Beverages and snacks** available after the worship service.
- **Sunday School for all ages** begins at 11:15am.

**THIS WEEK**

- **Friday, Dec. 5, 9:45am – Osler School Concert**
- **Saturday, Dec. 6, 11:30am – Ladies Christmas luncheon**
- **Next Sunday, December 7, Second Advent – “Oh that your love may be revealed”  
Sermon: Patty Friesen: “John the Baptist”  
Isaiah 40: 1-11, Mark 1: 1-8**
- **Sunday, Dec. 7, 12:00-12:20 – Choir Practice**

**Next Sunday:** Worship leader: Jim Dyck  
Song leader: Ben Buhler  
Pianist: Diana Buhler  
Children's time: Adeline Cox  
Sound: Dick Braun

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\*Station Singers present “A Celebration of Carols from Around the World” at the Station Arts Centre in Rosthern on Monday, Dec 15th at 7:30. Tickets are available from singers or from the Station. Call 306-232-5332. Assigned seating - so get your tickets early.

\*The Youth Farm Bible Camp is once again selling frozen food packages to raise money for our annual mission trip to Tijuana, Mexico in April. Each package is \$100 and includes 80 servings of food. Go to our website at [www.yfbc.com/foodpackage](http://www.yfbc.com/foodpackage) for more information and to place your orders before December 14th. Food for your Family = A House for a Mexican Family. The Sale ends December 14<sup>th</sup>. See the bulletin board for more details.



\*“Invest in People” is the theme of this year’s Christmas Giving Guide from Mennonite Church Canada. This week’s focus is on kids with special needs in Botswana. Share the video at <https://donate.mennonitechurch.ca/project/BotswanaChildren> with your family and Sunday school children and support special needs kids in Botswana.

\*Mennonite World Conference is encouraging congregations in the U.S. and Canada to partner with each other so that churches with fewer resources and congregations with recent immigrants can also send representatives to the upcoming assembly (July 21-26, 2015 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania). Whether or not you plan to attend, consider supporting the gathering by partnering in this way. Costs are split between MWC and both congregations. More info at <http://www.mwc-cmm.org/pa2015partnership>.

\*This Christmas, give the gift that will grow the faith of that special child in your life. The new, beautifully illustrated *Shine On: A Story Bible* (also available in Spanish as *Resplandece*) presents stories from the Bible in fresh and engaging ways, and is the perfect at-home complement to the new Shine Sunday School curriculum. Available from the MC Canada Resource Centre at [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2394](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2394) Phone: 1.866.888.6785

## Remember in your Prayers

### Thanksgivings:

Anne Peter's surgery and recovery, MC Sask meetings hosted at OMC, the life of Aron Fast, the Ovseychik family

### Intercessions:

Anna Peters & Linda Doell, now home from hospital, Ramon Hofer’s upcoming surgery and all those dealing with health issues, Congregations leaving Mennonite Conference

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## Announcements

\***Patty's Week:** Tues. sermon. Wed: Forever in Motion  
Thursday: RJC Pastors Day & church council. Friday: office.  
Saturday: Women's luncheon  
Please feel free to call Patty at home: (306) 955-2928

\***Christmas Choir Practice** starts today, 12:00-12:20 p.m. in the sanctuary and continues the next two Sundays; Dec. 7 and Dec. 14. The choir will be singing during the Sunday morning worship service on Dec. 21 as well as Christmas Eve. The 4th Dec. 21 Advent service will include Lessons, Carols, Christmas Choir & Joy Singers.

\***OMC Visioning Process** will begin in December with 30 minute interviews with wonderful listeners from MC Sask at OMC and Saskatoon. Sign-up sheets are coming.

\*Jake Buhler and Lynette Janzen are bringing worship to **Bethany Manor** this morning.

\***Thank you** to OMC for generosity with Sergeii and Rita's family and the Youth Christmas Banquet fundraiser.

\***Thinking of joining OMC in the new year?** We'd love to have you! Please speak to Patty or one of the deacons for a Joining Sunday in January or February.

\*Copies of Mark's sermon are on the lobby podium.

**\*Osler School's Grade 4-6 choir** is proud to present a morning of praise and peace through Christmas songs and hymns. We are excited to spread some Christmas cheer throughout our community of Osler. Please join us at the **Osler Mennonite Church on Friday, December 5th at 9:45am**. Everyone is welcome!

**\*Please sign up today**, if you are attending the **annual Ladies Christmas Luncheon**, here at OMC next **Saturday, Dec. 6 at 11:30am**. Cost: \$15 per person for a sausage & veranekyi lunch with salad and dessert. The price includes a bit extra to help cover the cost for some for whom it is unaffordable. We want *ALL* ladies to attend and your guests are welcome. If you need financial help with the cost or a ride, please speak to Loretta, Kathryn or Adeline.

**\*See Nathan and Taryn Dirks' podcast** at:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_detailpage&v=E6iFsKqCeYq](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=E6iFsKqCeYq)

\*Every year, our Sunday School has a special **Giving Project** for Christmas. This year, the Youth Sunday School class has chosen the **"Gift of Water" through Mennonite Central Committee**. Water is a life giving resource that many parts of the world need. For example, \$10 buys cement to build sand dams in Kenya. Dams trap water, reduce erosion and provide an atmosphere where trees and gardens can grow. A giving jar will be set up in the foyer and of course, offerings can be designated for this worthy project.

**\*Saturday, December 13, 6:00pm – Youth Christmas party**

**\*Do you have a church key?** Church council needs to know how many keys to the church are out there for insurance purposes. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you have a key. Thanks.

## TODAY'S SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

**Isaiah 64: 1-9** <sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—<sup>2</sup> as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might

tremble at your presence! <sup>3</sup> When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup> From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for the Lord. <sup>5</sup> You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. <sup>6</sup> We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup> There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered<sup>\*</sup> us into the hand of our iniquity. <sup>8</sup> Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup> Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

**Mark 13: 24-37** <sup>24</sup> 'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup> and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup> Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. <sup>28</sup> 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>32</sup> 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Beware, keep alert; <sup>\*</sup> for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup> Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup> or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'