

Grace Mennonite Church
Sunday,
November 29, 2020
First Advent
On the Road to Bethlehem ...



Grace Mennonite Church

November 29, 2020

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Pastors Mel Letkeman & Kyle Penner

www.gracesteinbach.ca

204 326 3707

Vol 59, No. 47



First Advent Zoom Worship Order

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8984736540>

Gathering

Breakout Groups

Calling to Worship

Call to Worship

O Come O Come Immanuel

Light one candle, Christ is coming, Christ the light of the world
Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

Christmas Stories

Puppets

Stories of Christmas with John & Kiran Mahi

One Bright Star

Reflecting on Christmas Stories

Gabriel and Zechariah

Gabriel and Mary

Surprised

Surprised by Hidden Meaning

Magnificat

Sending

Congregational Prayer

George Penner Tribute

Life of the Congregation

Benediction

*During the zoom worship there will be a time for break out groups - It will give you an option to join a group or stay with the original group until the smaller groups return (approx. 10 minutes).

Feel free to join a group or opt out. Kyle will guide you through this at the designated time.

Worship Leader:

Kyle Penner

Worship Stories:

Mel Letkeman, Patrick Friesen, Mark Reimer

Worship Music:

Rob & Kim Sidorchuk, Shaun & Donna Neufeldt

Per public health guidelines, our Church is closed.
Grace Office Staff will be working from home until further notice.
If you need to get into the building for something,
please contact the office via email.
Please see our website for updated Covid guidelines.

We Pray Together

Prayer for our Congregation: Pray for the families of those in our congregation who have lost loved ones in the past two weeks.

Prayer for our Community: Pray for those who receive help from Steinbach Community Outreach and the Christmas Project we are able to participate in.

Prayer for this Week: Lord, where am I seeing or hearing of your coming?

Prayer for the World: Pray for those most affected by the hurricane which devastated several Central American countries.

Our Condolences go out to **Marion Penner, son Brian, daughter Valerie, grandchildren Yishai, Tavi, and Tobiah Markovitz**, on the passing of their dear husband, father and grandfather, **George Penner**. George passed away on November 20 in Steinbach. He had many close friends at Grace that will miss him dearly, including nephews, Vic and Carol Penner, Wally and Sylvia Penner. A private funeral was held this past week. May you find a sense of peace as you remember George in the weeks to follow.



Our Condolences go out to **Mel & Enid, Becca, Julie and Andrew Letkeman**, on the passing of their beloved father and grandfather, **Dr. Homer K. Janzen** who passed away on November 21, 2020 in Steinbach. Funeral arrangements are pending. *(please see Birchwood website for more information)*. We hold you in our prayers during this difficult time.



Opportunities at Grace

Wanting to connect with your friends from Grace? You are welcome to join our Facebook group @ Connecting Community – Grace Mennonite.

Digital Ushers: We're looking for some people to help be "digital ushers" for Zoom worship to help with let people in, mute/unmute people, be available in case Kyle's internet conks out, etc. If you are interested, please let Kyle know.

MCC Announcements:

Support for Central American hurricane recovery. Within two weeks, not one, but two hurricanes have caused extensive flooding in Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Hurricanes Eta and Iota have destroyed crops and forced people from their homes. MCC is working with churches and community organizations to provide emergency food, hygiene supplies and cleanup support. Join us as we help these communities recover. You can donate online at mcccanada.ca/eta-iota-relief or by calling 204-261-6381.

Missed the Centennial Celebration last Saturday? The 75-minute program included storytelling, music and a time for reflection. View the recording at mccmb.ca/Centennial-Celebration.

Give the perfect Christmas gift this season. Finding it hard to choose between pigs and planting a garden? Give the gift that does it all. A gift of hope is used where it's needed most. Purchase your Christmas Giving gift at mccmb.ca/Christmas or call 204-261-6381.

This week at Grace: November 29 - December 5

Sunday: Virtual Worship Service, 10 am

Monday: Soup's On lunch program for HSD, 9:00 am
Middle School Youth, 7-8 pm , Come play Scategories on zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8984736540>

Tuesday: Soup's On Take out only, 5:00 pm
Zoom Formation, 7:30 pm

Wednesday: Weekly Advent Devotional, 7:15am & 9:15 pm (zoom)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8984736540>
Grace Council Meeting, 7 pm (zoom)

Thursday: Senior youth zoom, 8:00 pm:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8984736540>
Advent Stories with Seniors, 10 am. (zoom)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8984736540>

Friday: Soup's On, Take Out only, 5:00 pm

Grace ZOOM Adult Formation on Naming God: Missing Mother Metaphors

The biblical text contains many metaphorical references to God as our Father, but it also contains many metaphors of God as our mother, doing what only mothers can. However, these metaphors have been historically ignored by the church, thereby deeply shaping both our conscious and subconscious understandings and experiences of God in ways that are profoundly limiting. To broaden and enrich our understandings of God, we will explore the many missing metaphors of God as mother.

In this two-part series, **Val Hiebert**,
Assistant Professor of Sociology at Providence University College,
She will immerse us in the biblical metaphors for God as
mother on **Tuesday, December 1**.



To join these sessions, click here at 7:30pm on those
dates: <https://prov.zoom.us/j/95794383226>

If you have any questions, contact Dennis Hiebert at dennis.hiebert@prov.ca.

Grace Donation Options:

- mailing your cheque to the church
- through automatic withdrawal
- e-transfer at donate@gracesteinbach.ca
- emailing the office to arrange a time to drop off a donation

Our advent photos are taken by Jackie Koop. The photos are taken in the church sanctuary. Thank you to the church decorating committee!

Grace Contacts:

The church office will be closed due to Covid Restrictions. Staff will be working from home.

Pastor: **Mel Letkeman**

mel@gracesteinbach.ca

Associate Pastor: **Kyle Penner**

kyle@gracesteinbach.ca

Administrative Office:

office@gracesteinbach.ca

Administrative Assistant's:

Cathy Barkman *Tuesday & Wednesday 9:30-1:30*

cathy@gracesteinbach.ca

Audrey Frey *Thursday & Friday 9:30-1:30*

audrey@gracesteinbach.ca

Advent at Grace

Today Advent, the four Sundays before Christmas, begins. Begins differently than usual. Who'd have thought?

Well, who'd have thought, or not, here we are. And, despite not being together, we are. So, together we will share Advent and Christmas as a faith community. In ways different, yes. But in ways still good, meaningful and life giving because, while so much is missing, we, the story and God are still here.



Advent is a time of waiting. But, we're waiting a lot these days. Waiting for the NHL season to start, for COVID numbers to drop, for isolation to end, for vaccines, for hope. So, we won't wait to get into the story this year. Rather, we'll tell the Christmas Story throughout Advent. And, we'll tell it chronologically, getting to the birth story before Christmas Day.

We'll worship with a beautifully visualized message on the stage and bulletin cover, telling us that we're on the road to Bethlehem. That is, on the road to God and God's work among us in Jesus. We'll be on that road with prayers, songs, stories, candles, reflection and sharing.

On line for now. We don't plan much in advance these days so we won't even speculate for how long that will be. But, however we are together, we hope that being here, with each other, at Advent and Christmas will give us smiles, joy and hope as we are with each other and God in this special time of year. Even when it might not seem as special as we'd like. No, it might not be. But, we will gather. In hope, in faith and in love. Because...

***God,
in Jesus here you are,
here we are,
here we are together
with you and those you love...***

Advent Activity

Just because we're at home, doesn't mean we can't be together. Or, that we can't be doing something together. Here are four ways you can enjoy Advent and Christmas at Grace.

1. Of course, come to Worship. This is a very enjoyable and meaningful time of Community Worship and Gathering. Because we are not in the building to see the candles being lit, we're suggesting that you have four advent candles ready in your home as each week as Candle Lighting will be part of Worship.
2. You can participate in the Reverse Advent Calendar. Details in the bulletin and via Constant Contact.
3. You can come together with others for a weekly Advent Devotional. In place of the usual prayers, we'll be doing short devotionals with writings from Henri Nouwen, a scripture passage, prayer and daily action at 7:15 am and 9:15 pm each Wednesday. Follow the link. (I know I'm late on this, but if you'd like to order the book it's ***'Advent and Christmas Wisdom from Henri J.M Nouwen'***)
4. We used to have a 'Stories with Seniors' Bible Study once a month at church. Well, we're going to have an Advent 'Stories with Seniors' (or whoever wants to join!). Each Thursday morning at 10:00 am we'd invite you to grab your coffee and Christmas cookies and join us online to talk about the Biblical and Personal stories from the Sunday before. Again, follow the link.

FAITH HOPE LOVE

Reverse Advent Calendar collection for Steinbach Community Outreach

This year Outreach would like to encourage anyone who is able, to participate in a **Reverse Advent Calendar collection for Steinbach Community Outreach**. Each day during the season of Advent from **Dec 1–24** we are asking you to collect an item off the attached list and add it to a box that you can bring to our church between **Dec 28–31**. Team up with another family to fill a box if that is more doable or how about grandparents working together to fill a box with their grandchildren. We will also have some boxes in the entry way at Grace so if you want to bring individual items from the list feel free to drop them off in the boxes any time the church is open. In this season of Advent let our prayers of waiting be actions of giving. Thank you !

Outreach Committee (Willie Stoesz and Pearl Barz)

A graphic for a Reverse Advent Calendar collection. The background is a white wooden surface decorated with pinecones and white snowflake cutouts. The text is centered and reads: "Reverse Advent Calendar" in a serif font, with "Reverse" in black and "Advent Calendar" in red. Below the title, it says "Each day add an item to a box. Start off the new year right by donating the contents to Steinbach Community Outreach". A list of 24 items follows, each corresponding to a day in December.

**Reverse
Advent Calendar**

Each day add an item to a box.
Start off the new year right by donating the contents to
Steinbach Community Outreach

- Dec. 1 - box of cereal
- Dec. 2 - toilet paper
- Dec. 3 - macaroni
- Dec. 4 - can of cream of something soup
- Dec. 5 - box of crackers
- Dec. 6 - bar of soap/bodywash
- Dec. 7 - can of green beans or peas
- Dec. 8 - shaving cream
- Dec. 9 - pair of socks
- Dec. 10 - tomato sauce
- Dec. 11 - rice
- Dec. 12 - can of corn
- Dec. 13 - deodorant
- Dec. 14 - can of tuna or chicken
- Dec. 15 - new item of clothing/underwear
- Dec. 16 - disposable razor
- Dec. 17 - bottle of shampoo
- Dec. 18 - toothpaste or toothbrush
- Dec. 19 - dishsoap
- Dec. 20 - feminine hygiene products
- Dec. 21 - spaghetti noodles
- Dec. 22 - bread
- Dec. 23 - potatoes
- Dec. 24 - grated cheese

Worship service songs for November 29:

Songs may have been modified for the worship service this morning.

O Come O Come Immanuel

O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Chorus

Rejoice rejoice Immanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come, thou Rod of Jesse,
Free thine own from Satan's tyranny.
From depths of hell they people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come Thou Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight

O come, thou Key of David,
come and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

O come Thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go

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

CCLI Song # 31982

CCLI License # 1259579

One Bright Star

Verse 1

Suddenly my eyes were dazzled
I could hardly see at all
The music in my ears

Such a heav'nly call
As I stood I felt a wonder
That I've never felt before
Although my heart was full
I just wanted more

Verse 2

And then as we shepherds listened
We heard angels sing on high
Our Saviour had been born
Praises filled the sky
So the celebration started
As the life of Christ began
The King of love was born
For the sake of man

Chorus 1

One bright star shone out that night
Bringing hope to all mankind
One bright star shone out to say He is born
One bright star that promised peace
And no more fighting
One bright star
Just one bright star
Just one bright star to take us there

Verse 3

Then we knew just what to do
So we ran to find the child
To seek the new born King
Welcome him in style
And we gave our minds and hearts
On this very special night
To baby Jesus
Son of Man and God's pure light

Chorus 2

One bright star shone out that night
Bringing hope to all mankind
One bright star shone out to say He is born
One bright star that promised peace
And no more fighting
One bright star
One bright star
Just one bright star
One bright star
Just one bright star to take us there

Bridge

One bright star
(4X)

Magnificat - Holy is His Name

Chorus

And holy holy holy is His name
And holy holy holy is His name
And holy holy holy is His name
And holy holy holy is His name

Verse 1

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
And my Spirit exults in God my Saviour
For He has looked with mercy on my lowliness
And His name will be forever exalted
For the mighty God has done great things for me
And His mercy will reach from age to age

Verse 2

He has mercy in ev'ry generation
He has revealed His power and His glory
He has cast down the mighty in their arrogance
And has lifted up the meek and the lowly
He has come to help His servant Israel
He remembers His promise to our fathers

CCLI Song # 14497

John Michael Talbot

CCLI License # 1259579

Grace and Peace