



Third Sunday of Lent

Photo by Jackie Koop

Grace Mennonite Church

March 7, 2021

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Pastors Mel Letkeman & Kyle Penner

www.gracesteinbach.ca 204 326 3707

Vol 60, No.10



Virtual Foyer via Zoom Link: 10:00 am

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

Livestreaming Link: 10:15 am

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVeiuCTLu8JlklInRV782cA>

Prelude

Life of the Congregation

Call to Worship

Gathered on this Sabbath Morn

Time with Children

[Luke 15:1-32](#)

Grandparents, Kitchen Pots, & Lamb Roasting on a Spit

Nothing is Lost on the Breath of God VT 653

[Luke 19:31-34](#) and Extinguishing of a Candle
(click on scripture)

Congregational Response

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Deep Calls to Deep

Congregational Prayer

Jesus, be the Centre

Benediction

Postlude

Worship Speaker:

Kyle Penner

Worship Leader:

John Mahi

Time with the Children:

Kyle & Arianna Penner

Musicians:

Loretta Friesen, Cindy Blatz, Karen Pries, David Graham

Tech:

Tim Schmitt, Lloyd Funk

Usher:

Doug Kathler

Greeters:

Kurt & Pearl Barz

Digital Ushers:

Betty Shore

Sunday, March 14, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Worship Speaker: Mel Letkeman
Please read [Luke 16:19-31](#)
Who do you identify with in this story?

Congregational Response

Identify some situation in your life. Be it interpersonal relationships which need some nurturing, decisions you need to make, problems to resolve. Be it questions about how to live sustainably in God's creation. Be it wonderings about current issues of justice as related to racism or relationships with Indigenous peoples? Do you need some deep wisdom to guide you as you navigate these? Some guidance as you mull over who to be and how to work at these things? Some wisdom on when to speak and when to be quiet, when to act and when to be still? Knowing how to live and act wisely so as to bring life to you and that of which you're thinking.

In a prayer of Confession and Assurance we will talk with God about going deeper into wisdom. Continue to ponder and pray as you let the visuals taking you 'deeper into the current', symbolizing being led deeper into wisdom.

We Pray Together

Prayer for our Congregation:

We pray for those in Care Home's: Linda Martens, Jake Penner, Martha Plett, Nancy Pauls, Abe Friesen, Marie Dyck, Irene Rempel.

Prayer for our Community: We continue to pray for our health care workers, politicians, and essential workers, as they continue to lead and guide us through this pandemic.

Prayer for this Week: Help us to be extravagant in love, and help us to remember that God is relentlessly searching for us, waiting to throw a party.

Prayer for our World: We continue to pray for a safe, fast, and equitable distribution of covid vaccines, both here in Manitoba and around the world.

Condolences:

Our Condolences go out to **Roger & Sharon Loewen** on the passing of Roger's brother, **Curt Loewen**, Sunday February 28 in Steinbach. A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

Our prayers are with you as you remember your dear loved one, saying good bye and celebrating their lives during this difficult time.

Opportunities at Grace

Grace Youth Giving Project:

The youth are collecting **2021 rolls of toilet paper** for Steinbach Community Outreach! Please help them out by dropping off rolls of toilet paper at church by Easter morning.

Voices Together Launch event, 'For the Joy of Ear and Eye' March 10



We've been celebrating the launch of *Voices Together* a series of virtual events. Our March 10th event will feature the visual art in the collection along with the scripture readings and songs that surround them. **NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED** for this ZOOM event. Sign up for an email reminder, or save the event link and join us on March 10 at 7:30 pm ET.

<http://voicestogetherhymnal.org/digital-launch-registration/>

2021 HAVENGROUP FOUNDATION Fundraiser:

Perogy & Farmer Sausage Drive thru Fundraiser. Place your order online at www.havengroup.ca or call the HavenGroup Admin Office @ 204 346 0126 by **4:00 pm, March 10, 2021**. *You may drop off your donation when you pick up your meal. Please make cheques payable to HavenGroup Foundation. Receipts will be processed with the value of the meal deducted (meal value \$15). Pick up at 185 Woodhaven Ave., **March 12**. (confirm pickup time when placing your order).*

CMU | Social Justice Fair

Menno Simons College is a Program Centre of CMU affiliated with the University of Winnipeg. Be part of the Menno Simons College's Social Justice Fair and learn about important local social justice causes and initiatives. Interact with leaders and volunteers of community organizations doing really important work. **Wednesday, March 10, 11:00 – 2:00 PM (CST)**. Email msc.studentservices@uwinnipeg.ca for more information.

Grace Adult Formation

Good News or Bad News? Faith and Media

Tuesday, March 9, 7:30 pm



Media seem to talk very little about religion unless it's about scandal. Yet faith contributes constructively to much of life today, and many people from different faiths make a positive difference in the world. So, are media anti-religious? What can we do about it? Join John Longhurst, religion columnist and reporter at the *Winnipeg Free Press* for a discussion about faith and media, and how the *Free Press* is changing the way faith is reported in Manitoba and Canada. You can check out their Faith Section here: <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/life/faith/>

To join this Zoom session, click the following link on <https://prov.zoom.us/j/95427283686> **Tuesday, March 9, at 7:30pm:**

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

Note: All Formation sessions will be recorded for those interested. Recordings for previous sessions are available upon request. Please contact Dennis for the links.

This Lenten week at Grace: March 7 – March 13

- Sunday:** **Virtual Worship Service:**
Zoom at **10 am** *
Livestream at **10:15am**
Zoom following the service. *
Middle & High School Lenten MCM Worship, 8 pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2048961616>
- Monday:** Soup's On lunch program for HSD, 9:00 am
- Tuesday:** Soup's On Take out only, 5:00 pm
- Wednesday:** **Morning Prayers, 7:30 am, zoom ***
Evening Prayers, 9:30 pm, zoom *
Middle School Youth zoom, **6:30 pm ***
- Thursday:** High School Youth Bonfire, **7:30 pm ***
Stories with Seniors, zoom 10 am*
Sisters of Grace, Lenten Prayers, 7 pm, zoom
- Friday:** Soup's On Take out only, 5:00 pm
*<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8984736540>

Grace Mennonite Church
Worship Services in the Sanctuary,
Update & RSVP Process

We will welcome up to 100 registrations for each Sunday morning.

Please email office@gracesteinbach.ca if you plan to attend. Your email should list the first and last name of each person attending the service. If you are unable to email the church, you may call the church Tuesday - Friday mornings.

We are confirming RSVPs from Tuesday to Friday at noon. The office staff will not be able available to confirm RSVPs after Friday noon.

Grace Lenten Practices

Lenten Prayer with Sisters of Grace

Thursdays during Lent, at 7 pm via Zoom.

Please contact either Brenda Penner (brenda.reimer.penner@gmail.com) or Enid Letkeman (meletkeman@gmail.com) to join us for a Lenten Prayer Practice together. All are welcome!

Grace Youth

Sunday, March 7, @ 8:00 pm

Every Sunday in Lent

Middle School & High School Lenten MCM Worship – Sunday @ 8pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2048961616>

Stories with Seniors:

Join us for **Stories with Seniors** every **Thursday, 10 am on Zoom.**

Grab your device, a coffee and join us to enjoy interaction with each other and different parts of the Passion Story.

Lenten Prayers:

Join us on Zoom, Wednesday's, at **7:30 am** for morning and **9:00 pm** for, evening prayers during Lent. They will be short times of prayer to begin and end our days. This will begin on **Feb 24th.**

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday Service, April 1st

You will have an opportunity to join a taped Communion Service with other Gracers via Zoom.

The video link will be sent to you for that evening Worship Service.

Good Friday Services, April 2nd:

Come together for an outdoor
Walking Worship Service at 10:00 am.
Gather for a **Service of Shadows**
in the sanctuary at **7:30 pm**



Sad Saturday, April 3rd:

Join us on Zoom at **7:00 pm** for liturgies and a time of Wondering and Questioning.

The disciples **'knew'** it was all over after Jesus death on Friday. So, all they'd believed about Jesus had also ended. While we know the ending of the story, the day in between is still an opportunity to act as if we didn't. What are deepest doubts, question and wonderings? We'll share some of those which Biblical Characters reveal, but spend most of our time sharing ours.

Easter Morning, April 4th:

Gather for Easter Morning Worship in the Sanctuary at **10:00 am**
There might possibly be an outdoor Easter Morning Worship as well.
Stay tuned for details.

Note: *We will keep you updated regarding the Holy Week Services.
Given unknowns about both indoor and outdoor
gatherings all of our planning will need to be flexible.*

Grace Lenten Practices

Lent is the 40 day period before Easter.

It's meant to symbolize the 40 years the Israelites spent wandering in the desert, and also the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness.

Traditionally, it has been a time where people have "given up" something: Sugar, coffee, alcohol, social media, etc. Other people choose to take something on: Praying, giving, exercise, contemplation, etc.

"Lent is not really about sacrifice and deprivation, it is about freedom and transformation. This is not a time to wallow in our sins and shout woe is me, though it is a time to acknowledge our brokenness, repent of our sins and journey towards wholeness. It is a time to acknowledge the deep longing of our hearts for a more intimate walk with God and consider ways that we might accomplish that." – Christine Sine

In talking about what Lent looks like during a pandemic, we noted that we already given up so much this year and have all lived through both little sufferings and big sufferings over the past 12 months. And so rather than suggest traditional Lenten disciplines, we wanted to encourage some different practices, with the word "**Intentional**" being our guiding word.

1. If you'd like to intentionally spend more time in **prayer**, we recommend two apps: *Lectio 365* and *Pray As You Go*. Both offer 10 minutes of guided daily prayers to listen to, perfect for praying at home, on your commute, or on a daily walk.
2. At times life in a pandemic can seem so overwhelming, so we're encouraging you intentionally **celebrate** once a week. Think of something that brings you life, or something your family loves to do, and put it in the calendar. Have ice cream, tell jokes, play board games, read a book in the sunlight, go tobogganing, dance while making supper, sing karaoke, write a snail-mail letter, etc. Whatever makes you come alive, trust that doing it is part of the journey towards wholeness.
3. **Love your neighbours** – Your actual next door neighbours. Most of us don't know the people down the street, so pick 6 houses near you and intentionally make a plan to be a good neighbour. Some ideas could be to drop off cookies, baking or other food, leave a nice handwritten note at their door, shovel their driveway, invite them to a backyard bonfire, etc.

Our hope and prayer is that by **intentionally praying, celebrating, and loving your neighbour** this Lent, we are opening ourselves up to some of the freedom and transformation that God seeks for us.



Together in Lent

Grace Contacts:

Pastor: **Mel Letkeman**

Associate Pastor: **Kyle Penner**

Administrative Office:

Administrative Assistant's:

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

Audrey Frey *Thursday & Friday 9:30-1:30 (working from home)*

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UNMUTE

Grace Mennonite church has partnered with MCC Manitoba, Theatre of the beat, and four other churches to present this live, only theatre experience

FOR FREE.

Friday, March 26, @ 7 pm

www.TheatreOfTheBeat.ca/Unmute

Unmute is a live online, interactive theatre production about the impact of a pandemic on gender based violence. An opportunity to gain skills and tools for recognizing and responding to violence.

Watch a trailer for the event at <http://ow.ly/dpUz50DPmv3>.

This show is available for 100 screens across Manitoba - our goal is to have 20 of those screens represented by Gracers.

RSVP: If you would like to attend, please email Jill Reimer at jill.reimer@gmail.com to sign up by March 14.

