



*photo by Jackie Koop*

# Grace Mennonite Church

March 21, 2021

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Pastors Mel Letkeman & Kyle Penner

[www.gracesteinbach.ca](http://www.gracesteinbach.ca) 204 326 3707

Vol 60, No.12



Virtual Foyer via Zoom Link: 10:00 am  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8984736540>

Livestreaming Link: 10:15 am  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVeiuCTLu8JkIInRV782cA>

Life of the Congregation

Call to Worship

***Spirit, Open My Heart*** VT #636

*Looking for a Church*

Time with Children

[Luke 19:1-10](#)

*Finding a Table*

***In the Bulb There Is a Flower*** VT #670

[Luke 22:1-6](#) and Extinguishing of a Candle

Congregational Response

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

***I Saw a Tree by the Riverside*** VT #514 and slides

Congregational Prayer

***Lamb of God***

Benediction

Postlude

Worship Speaker:

Kyle Penner

Worship Leader:

Tamara Rempel

Time with the Children:

Kyle & Arianna Penner

Musicians:

Lenore Friesen, Emmy Friesen, Ernie Klassen

Tech:

Tim Schmitt, Lloyd Funk

Ushers:

Kurt Barz, Shannon Gerbrandt

Greeters:

Bonny Peters, Sherril Reimer

Digital Usher:

Betty Shore

## Congregational Response

Growing. Identify some aspect of who you are in which you would like to experience growth. Some aspect of your living in which you'd like to grow. Maybe you want to become a different person in relation to the way you handle decision making and the anxiety it causes you. Or you might want to be more patient and kind as you relate to certain people in your life. Or you might want to be more aware of and sensitive to those who are truly struggling and suffering, wondering how to grow in that awareness. You want to be planted in good ground, practices, disciplines and community which will encourage that growth in you.

In a prayer of Confession and Assurance we will talk with God about deep growth. Ponder and pray about that in your life as you let the visuals take you 'deeper into the earth', symbolizing being led to deep growth in your life and in the midst of your living.

Sunday, March 28, 2021

### **Palm Sunday**

Worship Speaker: Mel Letkeman

Please read [Luke 19:28-44](#)

Why do you think Jesus rode into Jerusalem  
in a way which created such a stir?

## We Pray Together

### **Prayer for our Congregation:**

- ❖ Pray for **Betty Koop** who has traveled to Toronto this week in relation to her ongoing Cancer treatment.
- ❖ Pray for **Kalem Martens**. He has recently had surgery on one eye and has been recovering at home. He will also need surgery on his other eye.
- ❖ We pray for those dealing with ongoing medical concerns - **Gord Bartel, Shirley Joy, Matt Rogalsky, Regon Barkman, Laurie Kroeker**

**Prayer for our Community:** Pray a prayer of thanks that many seniors will be vaccinated in the weeks to come.

**Prayer for this Week:** Lord, what do you want me to see?

**Prayer for our World:** We pray for members of the Asian community, both in Manitoba and around the world, as they live with increased acts of racism and violence.

**Congratulations to Alyssa & Jayce Van Alstyne** on the birth of their beautiful baby girl, born March 15. **Isabelle Naomi Van Alstyne** is a little sister to **Elias**. Grandparents are **Ken and Carmel Wiebe** and great grandparents are **Elbert & Lorraine Toews**.

**Our condolences** go out to **Ed & Jacquie Neufeld** and **Al & Judy Neufeld** and their families on the passing of Ed and Al's mother, **Eva Catherine Neufeld** who passed away March 16. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you remember your mother and grandmother.

**A Note from Grace Personnel:** As the Personnel Committee, Bev Enns and Barb Lane join me in thanking **Audrey Frey** for her ten years of cheerful and dedicated work in our church office. A week ago this last Friday was her last day and Cathy Barkman will now be in the office the four days per week that it is open.

For many of us Audrey's work has been most visible in the beautiful and thoughtfully laid out bulletins she prepared for each Sunday service. For others, it was her thoughtful service to families when they had a funeral in our facilities. And for yet others, it was Audrey's cheerful smile and helpfulness when we had contact with the church office. We will miss her faithful contribution to the smooth weekly operation of our church. We wish you well, Audrey, in all that lies ahead for you and pray for God's blessings on you. – Brenda Penner

## Opportunities at Grace

**Sunday Sanctuary Services @ 10:15 am:** Please RSVP by Friday noon. Email [office@gracesteinbach.ca](mailto:office@gracesteinbach.ca) or if unable to email, you may phone the church office.

**Last Call for Grace 2021 Pictorial Directory Updates:** If you would like to join our pictorial directory or have any changes in your information or photo please forward your information to Cathy Barkman @ [cathy@gracesteinbach.ca](mailto:cathy@gracesteinbach.ca) by Wednesday, March 24.

**Grace Youth:** Given the new Covid restrictions, the youth are meeting outside for bonfires! If you have a picnic table/bench/church pew you could lend/donate, please let Kyle know!

**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.

**Please see the bulletin board for information:**

-  Job Opportunity – Youth for Christ Steinbach Administrative Assistant
-  MCC, MCCanada, MCManitoba, CMU, AMBS, MDS

## This Lenten week at Grace: March 21 – March 27

- 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, 4:30 pm  
Grace Adult Formation,  
7:30 pm zoom (see link in announcement below)
- Wednesday:** **Morning Prayers, 7:30 am, zoom \***  
**Evening Prayers, 9:30 pm, zoom \***  
Middle School Guys Bonfire at church, 6:30 pm
- Thursday:** **Stories with Seniors, zoom 10 am\***  
**Sisters of Grace, Lenten Prayers, 7 pm, zoom**
- Friday:** High School Youth  
**Unmute, 7 pm, zoom** (see insert in bulletin for link & info)  
Soup's On Take out only, 4:30 pm

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

**Tuesday March 23, 2021, 7:30 pm**

**Grace Adult Formation -**

**“What is Hell”**



“T’was grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.” In the business world, to have the ability to create a need, and then provide the only means of meeting that need, is to monopolize a captive market. . . In this session, we will read the article “Seven Things Every Christian Needs to Know about Hell” (2019), summarize the book Four Views on Hell (2016), and then listen to a homily by Richard Rohr on hell (2018).

To join this Zoom session, click the following link on Tuesday, March 23, at 7:30pm: <https://prov.zoom.us/j/92314398432>.

If you have any questions or want to request a recording of this session, contact Dennis Hiebert at [dennis.hiebert@prov.ca](mailto:dennis.hiebert@prov.ca)

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### Grace Contacts:

Pastor: **Mel Letkeman**

Associate Pastor: **Kyle Penner**

Administrative Office:

Administrative Assistant: **Cathy Barkman**

[mel@gracesteinbach.ca](mailto:mel@gracesteinbach.ca)

[kyle@gracesteinbach.ca](mailto:kyle@gracesteinbach.ca)

[office@gracesteinbach.ca](mailto:office@gracesteinbach.ca)

[cathy@gracesteinbach.ca](mailto:cathy@gracesteinbach.ca)

**Office Hours:** Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

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## Voices Together:

**For the Joy of Ear and Eye** - singing with the Visual Art in *Voices Together* was held March 10<sup>th</sup>. If you were unable to attend, you can view the recordings of both the worship service and the Contributing Artist Q&A. Click here:

[Voices Together Launch III - For the Joy of Ear and Eye - YouTube](#)

[Voices Together Launch III: For the Joy of Ear and Eye — Q&A - YouTube](#)

**Faith & Life Male Choir** have recorded a song entitled, *Could it be that God is Singing*. You may listen to it here: <https://youtu.be/-ODs7mxuDOA>  
May it bring warmth to your soul. - Leroy Penner

## 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](mailto:brenda.reimer.penner@gmail.com))

or Enid Letkeman ([meletkeman@gmail.com](mailto:meletkeman@gmail.com))

to join us for a Lenten Prayer Practice together. All are welcome!

### Grace Youth

#### Sunday, March 28, @ 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 **9:30 pm** for, evening prayers during Lent. They will be short times of prayer to begin and end our days. This will begin on **Feb 24<sup>th</sup>**.

# Holy Week

## Maundy Thursday Service, April 1 at 7:30 pm

We will be having communion as part of that service. For those coming to the Sanctuary, you will need to bring your own bread and juice, we will not be serving you. Those of you joining via live stream from home can have the elements ready there.

## Good Friday Services, April 2<sup>nd</sup>:

Come together for an outdoor

**Walking Worship Service at 10:00 am.**

## Sad Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>:

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 4<sup>th</sup>:

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.

**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.

# 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](http://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 on 100 screens across Manitoba - our goal is to have 20 of those screens represented by Gracers.

RSVP - Please register online at: <http://ow.ly/xSee50E1xBr>.

If you have questions, contact Jill Reimer at [jill.reimer@gmail.com](mailto:jill.reimer@gmail.com).



**UNMUTE**

THE IMPACT OF A PANDEMIC ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

WRITTEN BY CEDRIC MARTIN, LINDSEY MIDDLETON AND KIMBERLEE WALKER  
DIRECTED BY ERIN BRANDENBURG

Participate in changing the story through forum theatre.

📍 @theatreofthebeat 📍 #unmute  
📅 2020 📍 [www.theatreofthebeat.ca](http://www.theatreofthebeat.ca)

FRIDAY, MARCH 26,  
7:00 PM CT

   