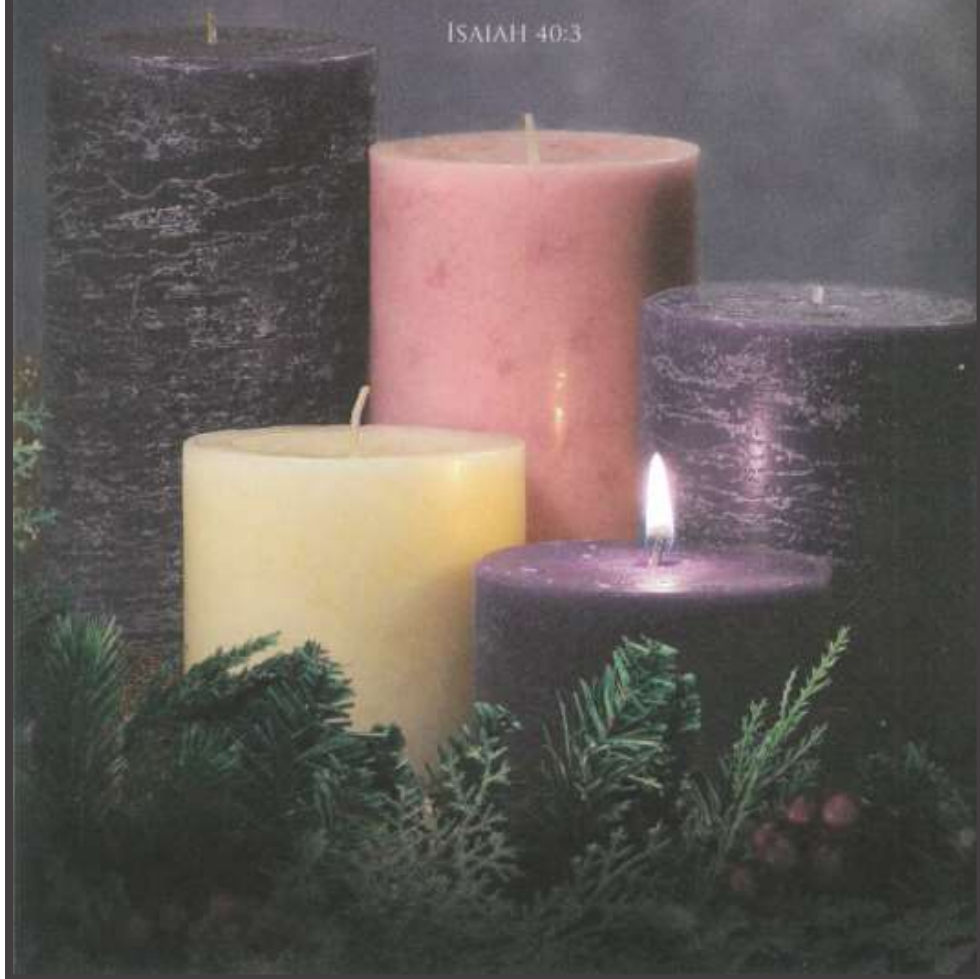


Hope

PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD,
MAKE STRAIGHT IN THE DESERT
A HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD.

ISAIAH 40:3



Grace Mennonite Church

November 28, 2021

10:00 am – Worship Service

Pastors Mel Letkeman & Kyle Penner

www.gracesteinbach.ca 204 326 3707

Vol 60, No.48



First Advent - Hope

Welcome and Life of the Congregation

Introduction to Advent

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming VT 216

Call to Worship

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus VT 218

[Jeremiah 33:14-16](#)

Confession and Assurance

Light One Candle

Candle Lighting Litany

Candle Lighting

Time with the Children

[Luke 1:26-38](#)

Poetry - *Annunciation* by John Donne

Do Not Be Afraid

Can We Move Past Fear

Thy Word Is a Lamp VT 398

Congregational Prayer & Offering

Gloria VT 94

Benediction



Worship Speaker

Worship Leader

Musicians

Accompanist

Candlelighters

Children's Time

Technicians

Ushers

Greeters

Mel Letkeman

Enid Letkeman

Shara Dueck, Patrick Friesen, Jen Rogalsky

Darren Reimer

Peter Dick & Thelma Guenther

Kyle & Arianna Penner

Lloyd Funk, Tim Schmitt

Jon Barkman, Mary Doerksen

Bruce & Cindy Blatz

First Advent Sunday - November 28th

10:00 am - Worship Service - Attendance OPTION B

The in-person sanctuary service is for fully immunized people and those under 12 who are not eligible for the vaccine. There are no capacity limits. Proof of vaccination will be required at the door. Please also have a government issued identification with you.

(Next Children's Church – December 5th)

The worship service will also be livestreamed from 10 – 11 am.

Please go to the YouTube website and search for Grace Mennonite Steinbach channel. You will be able to access an **audio recording** on the church website following the morning worship service.

9:00 am – Sisters of Grace will meet in the downstairs lounge every Sunday. We will gather before the worship service for a time of sharing and encouragement as we read the book, **Forgotten Among the Lilies** (by Ronald Rolheiser). It is not necessary to have the book to attend. All are welcome following the worship attendance schedule.

11:00 am - Grace Adult Formation on Imposing Values, Legislating Morality, Mandating Action - What's the difference between cultural values, social norms, and jurisdictional laws? What's the difference between what is deemed private versus public? What's the difference between personal rights, social privileges, and social responsibilities? And how is morality implicated in each of these concepts? Thoughts worth pondering together.

We Pray Together

We pray for those in our community who use the resources that help with their lives on a daily basis: **Agape House, Soups On, Southeast Helping Hands, Today House, Steinbach Community Outreach, Steinbach Family Resource Centre.**

Prayer for the week: Lord give us trust in your goodness to take away our fear.

Prayer for the world: Continue to pray for people in British Columbia and on the East Coast dealing with the destructive effects of the recent floods.

Thank you to Shannon Bartel, Barb Dyck, Barb Guenther, Edna Huese and Jackie Koop for decorating the church with visuals to lead us into worship for the Advent and Christmas season.

Pastor: **Mel Letkeman**

Associate Pastor: **Kyle Penner**

Administrative Office

Administrative Assistant: **Cathy Barkman**

mel@gracesteinbach.ca

kyle@gracesteinbach.ca

office@gracesteinbach.ca

cathy@gracesteinbach.ca

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

This Week at Grace ❖ November 29 – December 3

Monday	Soup's On Lunch Program, 9:00 am
Tuesday	Soup's On Take Out only, 4:30 pm Worship Service , 7:00 pm RSVP to office@gracesteinbach.ca or 204 326 3707
Wednesday	Foyer Reserved , 9:30 am Music Practise in Sanctuary, 6:30 pm
Thursday	Stories with Seniors , 10:00 am – ZOOM https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8984736540 High School Youth , 7:30 – 9:30 pm Meet at Mennonite Heritage Village, bring \$5
Friday	Soup's On Take Out only, 4:30 pm

Worship Services at Grace

Given the updated public health restrictions, it's been decided that Sunday morning in-person worship will be held under our Option B format (no capacity limits, vaccination cards will be checked). For people unable to attend in-person worship, livestreaming will continue to be offered.

During Advent we will be having Option A format (all may attend with capacity limit) mid week worship on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. It will be a time of music, litany, prayer and sharing. Due to restrictions, only 25 people will be able to be in attendance so we ask that you RSVP to office@gracesteinbach.ca or call 204 326 3707 before Tuesday noon if you would like to be in attendance.

November 30	In the Sanctuary
December 7	Zoom with Dennis Hiebert and the Formation Session
December 14	In the Sanctuary
December 21	Longest Night (may be livestreamed)

Children's Church for ages 3 to Grade 8 will be held during the worship service in the traditional classrooms on alternating Sundays. You may pick up your children following the worship service in the upper level - classrooms 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14. **The next dates for children's church are December 5th and December 19th.**

If you wish your **building pledges** to be receipted for the 2021 year please give them to the church treasurer by December 31, 2021.



Advent at Grace

Advent, the four Sundays before Christmas, begins today. Advent is a time of waiting for the arrival of God's work among us, the coming of Christ. We may feel we've been waiting a long time as last year we were not gathered together here. We continue to wait as restrictions still determine how we can meet together here and in our communities. Yet, while still waiting, we are together and for that we are grateful.

This year we will be telling parts of the Christmas Story before Christmas and we will not tell it chronologically. You'll hear about Jesus birth, Shepherds and Magi throughout the Advent Sundays. As you do, we'll emphasize the message of God's Goodness, Embrace, Song and Face among us.

This message will be spoken through singing, praying, poetry, preaching, candle lighting and the visuals around us during the four Sundays of Advent. In them we trust God to speak to us individually and collectively as those in the Story were spoken to by God.

You will also be able to Worship in a number of ways this year. This is much different than our practice was when we were together for Advent and Christmas two years ago.

We will have Worship on Sunday mornings during the Sundays of Advent and on Boxing Day. We will not gather on Christmas Morning. We will also have Tuesday evening Worship through Advent, the last being the Longest Night Service. And you will be able to access Sunday Morning Worship and tentatively the Longest Night via the Live Stream.

We gather to Worship in the hope of... 'Emmanuel ... God With Us'

Sundays in the Sanctuary

Option B attendance – Sunday Services will also be livestreamed.

November 28

First Advent - Hope

December 5

Second Advent - Peace



December 12

Third Advent - Joy

December 19

Fourth Advent - Love

December 26

Emmanuel...God With Us



Tuesdays

Sanctuary Services are Option A attendance. Please RSVP

November 30

Worship in the Sanctuary

December 7

Zoom Formation with Dennis

December 14

Worship in the Sanctuary



December 21

Longest Night Worship in the Sanctuary
(may be livestreamed)

Christmas Eve

December 24 - Details to come