



Bulletin

April 12, 2020

Hope Mennonite Church acknowledges our presence on the lands of the Cree, Ojibway, Dakota, and Metis nations, on Treaty lands, covenanted between Indigenous and settler peoples in 1871. We are grateful to our host nations.

Sunday, April 12 Easter

The service starts at 11 am. You are welcome to join as early as 10:40. Brian will send out the link the morning of the service. If you have any concerns re using Zoom, please contact one of the technical people to help you - Jason H, Sandy KH, or Marcus D. Do not try to connect with Brian as the service is going on, as he is busy with hosting.

We are **celebrating communion on Sunday. You are invited to have your own bread and cup ready, and whatever accommodations you wish to make for your children.**

After the sermon, we will invite everyone to "set the table", to prepare for communion - so just have the things off to the side, and then bring them in front of you as you are invited. You can also use the cloth from Friday (the "shroud") as a table cloth for communion, if you wish.

Easter service:

A wreath

- use what you have and keep it simple
- begin with a base – basket, wreath, bowl, or plate
- for Good Friday, the wreath will have five candles – one big one for the centre, and four smaller ones to surround it.
- Gather rocks, twigs, bulbs, anything you have to represent the darkness of Good Friday
- have something available to light the candles, which we will do during the service
- have a “shroud” for covering the wreath after the close of the service – could be a tea towel, serviette, or a small tablecloth, depending on the size of your wreath.

- On **Easter Sunday**, have available things to add to the wreath: flowers, bright strips of cloth, Easter eggs.
- If you do not have candles, bring another symbol that represents the light of Christ to you.

Drawings for the children's story

Ahead of the **Good Friday** service, children are invited to take a single sheet of paper and write the words "Oh No" on it, and then write or draw what they are saying Oh No! about. Emma will then lead them in a discussion about some things that are not going well in these times.

Then before **Easter**, children are invited to turn the paper over and write "Hope" on the paper, and write or draw things that feel hopeful to them - what they are liking about this time that they hope will continue; what they miss that they hope will return. They will then discuss those papers with Emma.

Adults are also welcome to write and draw their own papers, but please allow the children to be the ones sharing!

As we make this transition from Palm Sunday, to Good Friday, to Easter, may we be present in the midst of fear, uncertainty, confusion, loss to hope - all the Oh No! moments. And may we be open to the awakening of hope, Christ is Risen.

Zoom Instructions

A few clues about making the whole Zoom experience work well:

- Practice the spiritual gifts of patience, generosity, and peace (Galatians 5:22-23) as the congregation learns together how to worship online.
- Commit to staying attentive, engaged, and focused on what is happening in the worship service and not distracted by what is in the home environment.
- Mind the microphone mute function in Zoom – keeping microphone muted except when providing leadership.
- Please stop live video if you move from one place to another in your house. Any movement on your part is distracting to everyone.

Instructions for using Zoom

- If you click on the link in the email you will have received, you should be joining the service. You may have to install something if you have not used Zoom before, but if you have issues, connect with Jason H (204-775-1212) or Sandy KH (204-510-5920) for help.
- You will be asked whether you want to enable computer audio. Yes, you do.
- There is a button on the bottom left of your screen which invites you to “enable video”. If you want your face seen, click on that button. Otherwise, we will just see your name, which is also fine. If you are going to be moving around, please do not enable video, as it is distracting.
- Your microphone will be muted by Brian. Please leave it off, unless you have been asked to speak. Or if there is a place where everyone speaks.
- If your connection becomes unstable, please shut down your video, wait a few seconds, and try again.

Sharing

"The Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre, where I work, has been eerily quiet these days, with no in person services being offered right now. Where we normally have many women accessing services, on any given day, we now have empty, quiet space. Staff have been doing our best to offer what we are able but feel very limited. This is a very stressful time for women so we are preparing ourselves for escalation and intensity of needs when we are able to resume regular in person services." Virginia Froese

Covid-19 Resources

Here are some fantastic resources for children created by Karin N:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1iiMKRWU2OG1-56cs8dibPsZkQ97S3YCU>

Eric S's organization is providing free webinars, including one by an experienced therapist to support people feeling grounded and calmer in these times. The link is here

<https://ca.ctrinstitute.com/free-webinar/>

MC Manitoba and MC Canada

Good Friday and Easter - Mennonite Church Canada On-Line Worship Services

Mennonite Church Alberta will share a Good Friday service and an Easter Sunday service with our nationwide community of faith this coming weekend.

On Good Friday, "The Towel, the Cup and the Cross", Calgary-area Mennonite churches, will focus on John 13, 15 and 18 and explore how Jesus, when speaking of his own death, often paired it with the suffering of those following him.

For Easter Sunday, "Raised with Christ," from Lethbridge Mennonite Church, will take us through Mark's account of the resurrection, in which the good news of Christ's victory over death was not obvious to the first witnesses. In this time of pandemic, in which fear and confusion are dominant, Christ's victory comes to us in our moment, in every moment.

The services will be available to view at <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/worshipservices> and on the Mennonite Church Canada YouTube Channel.

#whiteoutMB - Karen and Moses start a movement



In Karen Schellenberg's words (Interim pastor at Charleswood Mennonite), "A few nights ago I had a dream that Manitoba united and created a Social Distanced White Out Party. I put out the call for help and Moses Falco responded..." Moses is pastor at Sterling Mennonite. They've gotten considerable media attention. Consider joining the movement.

[Read the brief article with links to all the other articles and videos on the MCM website.](#)

MCM and MC Canada Pandemic Responses

For a list of how congregations are responding in worship, visit the MCM page here:

www.mennochurch.mb.ca/virusresponse

For a curated list of resources with Nationwide applicability, visit the MC Canada page here:

www.mennonitechurch.ca/outbreakresources

The Executive Minister Search Committee invites your prayers as potential candidates for this Mennonite Church Manitoba position consider whether to apply. Please pray that God will guide this entire process. The Committee also wishes to share that a report of their listening consultations [is posted on the MCM website](#); it is entitled: “MCM Constituency Input – Summary of Our Listening”.

Mennonite Central Committee

MCC Manitoba Bulletin Announcements for April 12, 2020

Below are a number of new and recurring bulletin announcements from MCC. These announcements can be copied and pasted directly into your bulletin, spoken aloud during announcement time, or shared in whatever way best suits the needs of your congregation. We greatly appreciate you sharing these updates with your congregation!

Each week until Easter, we will share a Lenten resource with you; a prayer, reading or reflection connected to the season of Lent.

A Prayer for Easter

Ever-renewing Creator, wake and revive us. Sing hope into our daily lives. Warm the buds of our relationships so they bloom with healthy love. Clear out the wintered debris with your peaceful presence. Like springtime, let the greening begin. Amen.

Written by Pastor Eleanor of Breslau Mennonite Church

For all churches:

MCC Manitoba wants to thank you for your ongoing support and prayers in these difficult times. Watch a personal update from Darryl Loewen, Executive Director, and other MCC partners at tiny.cc/Manitoba-update.

Join us and celebrate our centennial year! We're inviting you to a behind-the-scenes webinar with MCC representatives from Syria and DR Congo. These presenters will speak about their work supporting uprooted and displaced people. Join us April 15th at 11:00 am. Space is limited! Register here: tiny.cc/MCC-Webinar.

In a time of uncertainty and social distancing, we want to offer you a selection of educational and engaging resources. From prayers to recipes and cooking videos, from colouring pages to stories that give you a glimpse of life across the world, we hope you can find something just for you. Visit tiny.cc/Covid-19-Resources.

Last chance to sign up for a recorded version of Maxym Oliferovski's presentation! Maxym is the director of New Hope Center in Ukraine, a local partner of MCC. If you would like to receive a copy, please sign up at tiny.cc/New-Hope-signup or contact Jessica Williams at 204.261.6381 or jessicawilliams@mccmb.ca.

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Thoughts on Worship

Because we live most of the time in a culture preoccupied with the ego and the small self, we all need to be reminded of how the culture of Christian faith is different. Each week, we need to hear once again why we have come. We need words that are direct and concrete to usher us into an alternative time and space.

In worship we come not to succeed and be noticed, not to achieve or to prove ourselves. We come rather to lose ourselves. We come to die to all our petty concerns and fears and to be submerged once again into the being and the story of God, so that we may rise to new life in Christ. We come to return to the source of true joy and sustenance.

Christian worship is a counter-cultural activity, and it requires clear signals and rituals if it is to draw us out of the culture of narcissism. Preparing ourselves for worship requires disciplined work. To the outsider, it may seem a strange and unnecessary activity. But when we finally arrive and settle in, we will surely remember why we have come.

Scott Brubaker-Zehr, from "Receiving before Responding" Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology, Fall 2005, Vol 6, No 2