

WILMOT MENNONITE CHURCH

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February 25, 2024
Who do you think you are?

Prelude Susan Cressman

Welcome Michael Fewkes

Call to Worship

In this important season
we learn that we are important to God
and that each person is valued,
so lay down titles and positions
and pick up the threads of fellowship
and joining with our neighbours
let us worship God who calls one and all
to join him in the journey of love.

Opening Prayer

Song VT 549 Be Thou My Vision

Scripture Psalm 34:11-14

Opening Responses

What is the greatest gift of life?

To know we are made in the image of God.

What does that require of us?

To love our neighbour as ourself.

Where does that take us?

To a place where we see all are equal.

Come then to worship
in that place where God's people
find the fullness of life
and learn to share its fullness with others.

Theme Song VT 440 Ask the Complicated Questions

Scripture Mark 10:32-52

Prayer of Adoration & Confession

From the stars to the seas,
from mountain to meadows, landscape to loch,
creation is a vast canvas declaring your glory, Lord.

Open our eyes and help us to see!

From a new born child to octogenarian,
from African to Australian, Caucasian to Cantonese,
humanity is a vast canvas declaring your glory, Lord.

Open our eyes and help us to see!

From crocodile to caterpillar,
from wombats to weasels, beavers to buffalo,
wildlife is a vast canvas declaring your glory, Lord.

Open our eyes and help us to see!

Open our eyes and help us to see your amazing universe
of diversity, delight and dynamism
through spirits soaring in wonder,
hearts lifted with awe and
minds filled with imaginative thought.

**Open our eyes and help us to see your amazing world
and our place within it all,
our duty of care for it all,
our call to serve it all.**

We gather in church today, thrilled to view the wonder of
life,

yet not to be blind to troubles and traumas and tyranny.

Open our eyes to see environmental concern.

**Open our eyes to see the needs of hurting humanity.
Open our eyes to see disharmony in nature.**

May we respond in ways that
help rather than hinder,
assist rather than aggregate,
maintain rather than mistreat.

**Oh, open our eyes in worship today, Lord of creation,
to see from your holy perspective.**

Amen.

Song VT 738 Open My Eyes that I Might See

Retelling of the Story

Sermon Susan Allison-Jones

Song of Response VT 577 Count Well the Cost

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Announcements

Song VT 832 The Lord Lift You Up

Sending

Christ the who,
Christ the where,
Christ the when,
Christ the why.
Christ the here,
Christ the home,
Christ the hope,
Christ the heart.
Christ be our want,
Christ be our way,

Christ by our wherefore,
Christ be our whole.
Christ in all things,
for all time,
for all people,
be with us.

Postlude

Lent & Easter Worship Services

Lent 1 What do you lack?

Lent 2 Feb 25 Who do you think you are?
Mark 10:32-52 Susan Allison-Jones

Lent 3 Mar 3 What do you think you own?
Mark 12:1-12 Rene Sauder

Lent 4 Mar 10 What is it worth?
Mark 12:28-44 Susan Allison-Jones

Lent 5 Mar 17 What awaits?
Mark 13:1-8 Susan Allison Jones

Lent 6 Palm Sunday Mar 24 What next?
Mark 11:1-11; 24-37 Susan Allison Jones

Good Friday Why have you forsaken me?
Mark 15:16-39

Easter Mar 31 How do we go on?
Mark 16:1-8 Bob Thaler

Upcoming Events

Mar 17 WI Worship at Wilmot 10:00 am

Apr 21 WI Worship at Hillcrest 9:45 am

Birthdays

Florence Ross February 20

Stan Gallian February 22

Bev Koenig March 1st

Prayer Requests

Please keep Florence Sheerer in your prayers as she grieves the loss of her sister Laura Schumm. Florence travelled to Goshen on the weekend to participate in Laura's funeral.

Celebrate with Ken and Lil Quanz on the birth of their grand-daughter, Henrietta Joy Elizabeth Quanz-Dienstfrey, born Feb 16, 2024. Pray for Eric and Kate as they begin this parenting journey with Henrietta.

Pray for **Kapilan Savarimuthu**, pastor of Markham Christian Worship Centre. His wife, Rosabel Paul, suffered a heart attack and died Monday, Feb 19. Pray for Kapilan, his 15 year old daughter, and the congregation as they grieve this terrible shock. The funeral is next Saturday, Feb 24.

Congregational Notes

I would like to thank the Church family for the delicious tray of fruit. Thanks to Fern for the visit. Bob Roi

Eccumenical Lenten Lunches Wednesdays at 12 noon. This week is hosted by Mannheim Mennonite Church. Donations accepted to cover the cost of the meal. Additional funds will support the Indigenous Elder Staff Position at the Wilmot Family Resource Center.

Geraldine Balzer, moderator of MC Canada wrote a letter to Prime Minister Trueau on our behalf concerning the Israel-Hamas War. To view the letter go to [MC Canada letter](#).

Benedikt Insert Bender, member of Nith Valley Mennonite Church, is beginning a one year internship in mid March with MC Canada Witness workers Dann and Joji Pantoja in Mindanao, Philippines. For more information and provide financial support go to this link [Benedikt Insert Bender](#)

Beyond The Congregation

Relief, Development Podcast: Just Peace in Palestine and Israel Gaza has seen so much devastation over the last few months. In [this episode](#) we are joined by Palestinian human rights lawyer and former MCC volunteer, Jonathan Kuttab, as well as Alain Epp Weaver, director of MCC's planning learning and disaster response department, to talk about the current situation and the history that has brought us to this point. MCC has continued to respond through local partners. Seth Malone and Sarah Funkhouser, MCC representatives for Jordan, Palestine and Israel, tell us how.

On February 29th at 1:00 pm, MCC Ontario will be hosting a webinar with Sarah Funkhouser and Seth Malone, MCC Country Representatives for Jordan, Palestine, and Israel. During our time together, Sarah and Seth will share updates about what they're hearing from local partners and MCC's current and future emergency response in Gaza and the West Bank. To register go to [MCC Webinar](#)

Peace & Possibility, Part II: Raja Khouri is a Palestinian-Canadian; Jeffrey Wilkinson is an American Jew. Hear them discuss their 2023 book, *The Wall Between: What Jews and Palestinians Don't Want to Know About Each Other*. Hosted by *Canadian Mennonite*, *Anabaptist World* and the *Palestine-Israel Network*. Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. CT. See canadianmennonite.org/events.

Is Reconciliation Possible? Rev. Dr. Ray Aldred, Director of the Indigenous Studies program at Vancouver School of Theology is Grebel's 2024 Sawatsky Visiting Scholar. His free public lecture asks the question, "Is Reconciliation Possible?" and he will address sustaining efforts towards reconciliation when justice is so far away. **Thursday, February 29, at 7:30 PM** at Conrad Grebel University College. grebel.ca/sawatsky.

Noon Hour Concerts take place in Conrad Grebel University College's chapel most Wednesdays from January to March. From 12:30PM to 1:30PM, these free concerts feature accomplished musicians in an intimate concert setting. Full schedule: uwaterloo.ca/music/events.

All are welcome at an evening of **Lenten Worship**: Stations of the Cross, followed by meditative Lenten music shared by *John B. Miller and Friends* on March 2nd (Sat) at Shantz Mennonite Church (2473 Erbs Road Baden) at 7 pm. The event is free, but donations are appreciated to support the musicians.

Join Mennonite Church Canada Indigenous Relations and Climate Action for a joint nationwide, **online book study**, *So We and Our Children May Live*—Thursdays, March 7-April 11, 7 p.m. CDT (8 ET / 6 MT / 5 PST). More info and [registration](#). This book study will reveal how climate activism is inseparable from Indigenous justice, and will deepen your commitment to solidarity with Indigenous peoples.

Grandparent & Grandchild Retreat at Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp Monday, March 11th @ 9:15 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Grandparents and grandchildren in grades 1-6 are invited to camp to "Discover God through the Creative Process" with Mike Vlaming, owner of Little Creek Pottery. Join us for a day of creativity, fun and connecting! For more information or to register go to our website www.hiddenacres.ca

Feb. 29 (Thurs) 8:30 to 10 am - CardiacCrash Showcase in KW. Heart & Stroke Canada has built a wonderful new program for the general public to teach CPR and AED use, and also make it engaging. Their goal is to encourage organizations/workplaces as well as schools to embrace the program, and they are hosting a free showcase of CardiacCrash in Kitchener-Waterloo at Communitech, 151 Charles Street West, 3rd Floor - Roddenberry Room. To register: [link](#).

You won't want to miss the concluding event of our 2023/2024 film series at Zion United Church, New Hamburg on Tuesday, March 19th at 7pm In a creative departure from previous films, Cree Code Talker, Tshiuetin and Three Thousand celebrate storytelling, resilience and culture originating from different Indigenous communities across Canada. Local writer and educator, Sherry Coman, curated the film series and will introduce the films and lead the discussion after the screening. Hope to see you there.

Bechtel Lecture | Thursday, March 21, 7:30 PM| A lot-Driven People: Mennonite Narratives in Age of Nationalism (1870-1945). John P. Eicher will give a free public lecture focusing on two groups of German-speaking Mennonites from Russia—one composed of voluntary migrants and the other composed of refugees—who settled in Paraguay's Gran Chaco during the interwar years of the twentieth century. Conrad Grebel University College, Great Hall. grebel.ca/bechtel.

Ministry Team Leaders
Ministry Coordinator & Facilities – John Good
Worship and Formation – Lil Quanz
Fellowship – Fern Good, Marcia Kastner, Susan Wagler
Pastoral Care, Missions and Service - All members
Member at Large - Ross Shantz

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