

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

Web site: www.pgimf.org

December 3, 2017

Worship Leader: Michael Despotovic
Accompanist: Ruth Enns
Music Worship: Travis Martin
Usher: Chris Skinner

Scriptures for Today

Philippians 2:1-11
Philippians 2:12b-16a
Luke 1:5-17
Luke 1:26-37
Luke 1:57-66

Last Sunday Heather Pauls Murray spoke on the expectations that we have for church people to be nice all the time. Our behaviour is being compared to that of Jesus, not just to everyone else! Once we go deeper into relationship by traveling through chaotic times together, will we overcome our anxieties and be vulnerable to each other, while maintaining healthy boundaries? As members of a church community, we should be comfortable living with differences, by the Spirit, rather than by divisive human nature. Are we willing to be truly known by – and accountable to – our sisters and brothers in Christ? [KH]

The message can be heard in your favourite browser at

<https://pgimf.org/service/what-should-church-be/>

PGIMF News - Upcoming Services

December 10	Annika Krause	Waiting Expectantly
December 17	Al McKay	Called to Relationship
December 24	Service of Readings and Songs	Potluck Christmas Breakfast
December 31	***No Service Today***	

The Friday Group The Friday Group will meet this coming Friday at 10:00 a.m. in the Education building behind First Mennonite, 659 East 52 Ave. We'll be discussing some articles about the "emerging church." All are welcome.

Abendmusik Vespers Dec. 9 & 10, 7:30 pm: You are invited to attend the Advent Vespers with Abendmusik Choir. Emmanuel Free Reformed Church 3386 Mount Lehman Road, Abbotsford (9th); St. Philip's Anglican Church, 3737 W. 27th Ave., Vancouver (10th). Offerings benefit the Menno Simons Centre.

Communion

Communion will be served during the service to celebrate 1st Advent. All are welcome who call Christ Lord.

Wider Church

MCC-BC MCC announces its "A Cry for Home" project as both Palestinians and Jews in the Holy Lands cry out for secure dwellings and places of peaceful habitation. MCC calls all to reconciliation and to support efforts toward peace and justice in the region. See mccanda.ca/cry-for-home for an introduction. As well, you are invited to join MCC staff on **December 5th** from 12:00 non - 1:30 pm at the MCC Centre (33933 Gladys Ave., Abbotsford) for a presentation and discussion on this issue where MCC staffers will provide an overview, and pastors David Chow (KPMB) and Don Klaassen (former pastor Sardis MB), who have recently been to Palestine and Israel tell of their experiences. Hear about MCC's work with local partners on the ground, and share your perspectives and insights you might have about MCC's ministry in this region.

MCBC LEAD Conference and Annual Meeting This year's LEAD conference concentrates on the concept of being "In the Image of God: Transforming Pride, Prejudice, Privilege, and Power. It takes place Friday February 23rd, and will be followed on Saturday February 24th by the MCBC Annual Meeting. Both meetings will be hosted by Eden Mennonite Church (46551 Chilliwack Central Rd, Chilliwack)

RECORDING THE SERVICE

Please note that we record the response time after the sermon. You are encouraged to share your thoughts as fully as you feel led with the proviso that no privacy can be guaranteed. The response time will not be posted to the website. You are encouraged to bring forth private issues during the time of sharing and prayer, which will not be recorded.

Moderator—Veronica Dyck (604-290-1627); **Worship**—J. Evan Kreider (604-228-1217);
Congregational Care—Lois Funk (604-992-8213); **Recording Secretary**--- Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007);
Music—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430); **At Large**—Janice Kreider (604-228-1217); Chan Yang (778-681-1475);
Finance — Doug Medley (604-328-2980); **Congregational Co-ordinator** — Veronica Dyck (604-290-1627)

MCC Relief Kits Diane and Sara are collecting supplies to put together relief kits for other families through MCC and want to invite you to join them in placing the following contents in a bag and bringing it to church by December 17th

- 4 large bars bath soap
- 1 plastic bottle shampoo (380-710 ml; place in re-sealable plastic bag)
- 4 large bars laundry soap (Sunlight brand preferred)
- 4 adult-sized toothbrushes
- 4 new bath towels (medium weight, dark or bright colours)
- 2 wide-tooth combs (15cm-20cm)
- 1 fingernail clipper (good quality)
- 1 box adhesive bandages (minimum 40 count, assorted)
- 1 package sanitary pads (18-24 count thin maxi)

Diane and Sara will take all items to the MCC drop-off location if you bring them to church by that date. Please put them at the back of the church on the table. Thanks, Diane and Sara.

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary AMBS is making available its prayer book *Take Our Moments And Our Days* as an app for Apple and Android as a resource for worshippers on the go. The print resource originally came in two volumes - *Ordinary Time* and *Advent Through Pentecost* and both are available in the app, now available for download through the AMBS homepage at www.ambs.org or directly at <https://www.ambs.edu/news-events/news/1622837/mobile-app-extends-global-reach-of-anabaptist-prayer-book>

Call to Worship

One: With joy this day we anticipate the one who is coming, the arrival of the Messiah.
Many: The one we call the Word! The one we call the Light.
One: Like John the Baptist, we are not the light. In our worship, we testify to the light.
Many: Our testimony is prayer and praise, song and scripture.
One: Our testimony is preaching and teaching, learning, and serving.
Many: May our testimony be a sweet sound in your ear, O God.

Advent Liturgy

Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.
Our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.
Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you. (Psalm 33:20-22)

One: Something's coming.

Many: We're waiting. We're eager.

One: It's more than presents.

Many: It's more than lights.

One: We open the Book of Hope and read the promise.

Many: God will be with us.

One: Our hearts are glad; we trust God's holy name.

Many: God's never-ending love surrounds us.

One: Today we light the candle of Hope.

(The first candle is lit.)

All: Our hope is in the Lord.

Communion

(bold is ready by "many")

Who is invited to the Lord's Table?

All are invited;

**the young and the old,
the rich and the poor,
the lowest and the least;
sinners and saints together in communion.
Come find your place here
where there are no strangers or foreigners,
only brothers and sisters in the sight of God.**

Why do we give thanks at this table?

**We give thanks because Jesus showed us the way,
we give thanks because Jesus is the Way.
Jesus was a gift from God for the world.
He was called Immanuel, "God with us".
He came to save us from our sins.
Jesus lived a life of thankfulness
and gave his life as a sacrifice for many.
We give thanks that he is our Saviour, Christ
the Lord.**

Why do we eat and drink at this table?

**We eat because on the night before Jesus died,
he ate with his friends.
He gave them bread and said,
"This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."
At that same meal he took a cup of wine and said,
"Drink this cup. This is my blood of the
covenant, which is poured out for many for
the forgiveness of sins."**

What do we remember at this table?

**We remember Jesus' birth and his presence as
God with us.
We remember Jesus' life and his love.
We remember Jesus' suffering and death on the
cross.
We remember the resurrection and the promise
of life.
We remember that we are waiting in hope to see
Jesus again.**

Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the

Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. [NIV]

Philippians 2:1-11

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to

be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. [NIV]

Phillipians 2: 12 b - 16 a

continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Do everything without grumbling or arguing,¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of

God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. [NIV]

Luke 1:5-17

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old. Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of

incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." [NIV]

Luke 1:26-37

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will

give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail." [NIV]

Luke 1:57-66

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John." They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name." Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He

asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John." Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him. [NIV]