

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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November 26, 2017

Heather Murray - What Should Church Be?

Worship Leader:
Accompanist:

Veronica Dyck
Ruth Enns

Music Worship:
Usher:

Angela Ruthven
Diane Ehling

Scriptures for Today

Ephesians 4:13-15
Romans 8:9, 12-13
Titus 3:1-11

Last Sunday Laura Sportack led us to look more closely at the Gospel accounts of the two rebels who were crucified on either side of Jesus. She referred to James L. Griffith's book, Religion That Heals, Religion That Harms, which suggests that we evaluate the quality of our relatedness to those outside our "in" groups. In Exclusion and Embrace, Miroslav Volf says that we are enriched by reflections of others in our personality. Evil deeds can't be tolerated, but Jesus discriminated in favour of the criminal at his side who spoke the truth. Laura encouraged us to follow Jesus' example and listen to, witness to, and bless the Other, rather than perpetuate a "Us vs. Them" mentality. [KH]

The message can be heard in your favourite browser at <https://pgimf.org/service/and-him-with-two-others/>

PGIMF News - Upcoming Services

December 3 (C*)	Laura Eriksson	Called by Name, Named by Call
December 10	Annika Krause	Waiting Expectantly
December 17	Al McKay	Called to Relationship
December 24	Service of Readings and Songs	Potluck Christmas Breakfast

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.

Birth Announcement One-time PGIMFer Lisa-Dawn and husband Andrew are proud parents of Belle Avalon, who arrived at 8lbs / 8oz and 20" (1' 8") long on November 15th at 8:08 pm. The auspicious statistics herald Belle's sweet disposition and great strength.

Regent College PGIMF recently sent \$500 to Regent College and received this hand-written note in return: Thank you so much for your recent donation to Regent! Your gift is so encouraging and we value your support as we seek to faithfully serve God and His people. Thank you! May the Lord bless you and the ministry of PGIMF! Yours in Christ, Christina Lui P.S. I lived at Menno from 2002-2004!

Wider Church

MCC-BC You are invited to partner with MCC in its "A Cry for Home" project in the next few years. AS both Palestinians and Jews in the Holy Lands cry out for secure dwellings and places of peaceful habitation, MCC calls all to reconciliation in learning prayer and understanding and to support efforts toward peace and justice in the region. Please check out mccanda.ca/cry-for-home for an introduction. Second, 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. MCC staff will provide an overview, and pastors David Chow (KPMB) and Don Klaassen (former pastor Sardis MB), who have recently been to Palestine and Israel with tell us of their experiences. Hear about MCC's work with local partners on the ground, and share your perspectives and insights you might have about this issue, as well as any concerns or questions you might have about MCC's ministry in this region.

Communion

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

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.

Ephesians 4:13-15

¹³And so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God; we shall become mature people, reaching to the very height of Christ's full stature. ¹⁴Then we shall no longer be children, carried by the waves and blown

about by every shifting wind of the teaching of deceitful people, who lead others into error by the tricks they invent. ¹⁵Instead, by speaking the truth in a spirit of love, we must grow up in every way to Christ, who is the head. [GNT]

Romans 8:9 and 8:12-13

⁹But you do not live as your human nature tells you too; instead, you live as the Spirit tells you to – if, in fact, God's Spirit lives in you. Whoever does not have the spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

[...]

¹²So then, my brothers and sisters, we have an obligation, but it is not to live as our human nature wants us to. ¹³For if you live according to your human nature, you are going to die; but if by the Spirit you put to death your sinful actions, you will live. [GNT]

Titus 3:1-11

¹Remind your people to submit to rulers and authorities, to obey them, and to be ready to do good in every way. ²Tell them not to speak evil of anyone, but to be peaceful and friendly, and always to show a gentle attitude towards everyone. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, and wrong. ³We were slaves to passions and pleasures of all kinds. We spent our lives in malice and envy; others hated us and we hated them. ⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour was revealed, he saved us. It was not because of any good deeds that we ourselves had done, but because of his own mercy that ⁵he saved us, through the Holy Spirit, who gives us new birth and new life by washing us. ⁶God poured out the Holy Spirit abundantly on us through Jesus Christ our

Saviour, ⁷so that by his grace we might be put right with God and come into possession of the eternal life we hope for. This is a true saying.

⁸I want to give special emphasis to these matters, so that those who believe in God may be concerned with giving their time and doing good deeds, which are good and useful for everyone. ⁹But avoid stupid arguments, long lists of ancestors, quarrels, and fights about the Law. They are useless and worthless. ¹⁰Give at least two warnings to those who cause divisions, and then have nothing more to do with them. ¹¹You know that such people are corrupt, and their sins prove they are wrong. [GNT]