

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

Web site: www.pgimf.org

April 7, 2019

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Thomas Bergen - The Identity of Jesus; Jesus the Hospitable One

Worship Leader: Veronica Dyck
Accompanist: Ruth Enns

Music Worship: Michael Despotovic
Usher: Peter Neudorf

Last Sunday On the fourth Sunday of Lent, Jeff C. Borden, in private practice and teaching, and as the Executive Director of the Place of Refuge transitional living program in Vancouver, spoke on the hope found in stories of recovery from addiction. Addictions to drugs, alcohol, or gambling can be the consequence of pain, isolation, peer pressure, or mental health barriers. The society's program — started by several Mennonite churches in South Vancouver — uses an abstinence-based model which includes assisting in the spiritual recovery of the individual. It can take a year or two for people to get well and regain stability in their lives by living in a safe environment with gentle support. [KH]

You can hear the audio recording of this service at <https://pgimf.org/service/recovery-from-addiction/>

PGIMF News - Upcoming Services

April 14	Anita Fast	Holy S*#! / Passion Sunday
April 21	Service of readings and songs	Easter Sunday
April 28	Ron Reed	The Sheep of His Pasture
May 5	Steve Anonby	Sabbath as Discipline

Participation dinners Diane Ehling is coordinating the spring potluck small groups dinners and lunches. Please let her know if you would like to participate in one of them - she will take names (feel free to tell her who you wish to be with) and let her know if you are willing to host. Please reply by April 23rd for gathering in May and June.

Rotating Charity Vote This Sunday, April 7th is the last day to vote on the local rotating charity. The five charities proposed are: South Delta Meals on Wheels; Nisa Homes for Muslim and refugee women; Flavours of Hope, a culinary mission; Dark Glass Theatre; and HUB, a cycling advocacy. At this time we've received about 20 responses but know there are many more out there who could provide input. If there are any questions or concerns about the online survey contact Travis Martin.

Housing Request Rosie's friend Andrea is looking for housing for her daughter Lauren and her husband David for July 2019 when Lauren begins law school at UBC. A room in a house, boarding situation, or inexpensive suite to rent is needed. If you know of anything, Rosie can help put you in touch.

Wider Church

West Point Grey Lenten Prayer Series The last in the series of noon-hour services of reflection and contemplation for the Lenten season takes place at West Point Grey Baptist (4509 W. 11th Ave. Vancouver) this Wednesday April 10th for 30 minutes, followed by a simple lunch. All are welcome.

MCC-BC MCC-BC's International Volunteer program is looking for Host Families to open your home to a vibrant Christian international young adult service worker through MCC BC's International Volunteer Exchange Program. This is an opportunity for cultural exchange/bridging and service to happen here at home. Hosts needed in West Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Surrey, Burnaby, and South Vancouver for 5-11 months starting in mid August/September. A basic hosting allowance is available. Contact Jessica at (Contact info available from webmaster) or at 604-850-6639 for more details.

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**—Travis Martin (604-603-7843); Chan Yang (778-681-1475);
Finance — Doug Medley (604-328-2980); Congregational Co-ordinator — Janice Kreider (604-228-1217)

Regent College Regent College is delighted to have Dr. Malcolm Guite delivering this year's Laing Lectures. Dr. Guite will make the case for a faith by considering in turn Christ's appeal to the poetic, the moral, and the prophetic imagination over three nights. Tuesday April 9—Lecture 1: Christ & the Poetic Imagination; Wednesday April 10—Lecture 2: Christ & the Moral Imagination; Thursday April 11—Lecture 3: Christ & the Prophetic Imagination. Full lecture abstracts are available at www.regentcollege.edu All lectures begin at 7:30 pm PST nightly, are free of charge and open to the public. They will also be livestreamed on Regent's YouTube channel.

BCMB Register today for BCMB Convention 2019 to celebrate God's faithfulness and work through the business of the church. Register at www.bcmb.org by April 17th to secure your place. NOTE: conference fees paid for delegates of the church. Event held at Willow Park Church, Kelowna, BC | April 26 - 27, 2019

MDS Mennonite Disaster Service is now scheduling their spring and summer projects. If you'd like a holiday that costs you little but gives you a lot of friendship and experience, consider volunteering on the Canadian project in Grand Forks BC helping clean up and rebuild houses from the flooding last year. Contact Kelsey Friesen at 866-261-1274 or email kfriesen@ (available from webmaster)

Gathering 2019 You are invited to make plans to attend the Mennonite Church Canada annual Gathering June 28-July 1st including a seminars, business meetings, a Sunday worship service and lots of events for all ages. Event takes place at the Quality Inn and Conference Centre, in Abbotsford. Check out the website for Gathering 2019 at <http://ignitegathering2019.ca/>

Bethesda Homes Resource Manager needed immediately to oversee operations and support to four people living in a residential home in Richmond. Go to Bethesda Christian Association's website www.bethesdabc.com/careers.html to learn more and to apply.

AMBS AMBS webinar recordings are now available. Recordings of past AMBS webinars are available for purchase for \$20 online. Topics include Planting Peace Churches; Ministry in the Face of Sexual Abuse; How We Got the Bible; Intercultural Leadership in Diversity-Oriented Churches; Is God to Blame?; Introduction to Anabaptism; and more at www.ambs.edu/webinars

MDS Mennonite Disaster Service Canada now has two opportunities to repair or build new homes with one in Grand Forks, BC where on May 10, 2018 a major flood hit the town engulfing it in water. Beginning May 5, 2019 MDS will repair houses and possibly build new houses for those that flooded. MDS is scheduling weekly volunteers to serve for 1-3 weeks. Schedule your week(s) online or call 800-241-8111.

Call to Worship

Leader: ,Come, Beloved, for the Great Giver has restored your fortunes

People: Let us tell of abundance as we shout with joy!

Leader: ,Come, Growers, for the Creator has brought up rivers in the desert

People: Let us declare our praise as we plant our fields!

Leader: ,Come, Pilgrims, for the Righteous One has set a path through the sea

People: Let us rejoice as we make our journey!

Leader: ,Come, People of God, for the Holy One has done great things for us!

People: Let us worship God!

Isaiah 43: 16 - 21

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;

now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
²⁰ The wild animals will honour me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise. [NRSV]

Psalm 126

A Song of Ascents.

¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
² Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
³ The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.
⁵ May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.
⁶ Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves. [NRSV]

Philippians 3:4-14

— ⁴ even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own

that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.
Pressing towards the Goal

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. [NRSV]

Mark 6:17 -44

¹⁷ For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. ¹⁸ For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹ So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, ²⁰ because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.

²¹ Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. ²² When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests.

The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." ²³ And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

²⁴ She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?"

"The head of John the Baptist," she answered.

²⁵ At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

²⁶ The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷ So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, ²⁸ and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. ²⁹ On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. ³¹ Then, because

so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

³² So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. ³³ But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

³⁵ By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. ³⁶ Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."

³⁷ But he answered, "You give them something to eat."

They said to him, "That would take more than half a year's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"

³⁸ "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see."

When they found out, they said, "Five—and two fish."

³⁹ Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² They all ate and were satisfied, ⁴³ and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish.

⁴⁴ The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand. [NIV]