

# DARE TO IMAGINE



## ADVENT III

**Bloomington Mennonite Church**  
**Sunday, December 12th, 2021**

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# Dare To Imagine God's Song

## *We Gather... to Pray and Praise*

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship (adapted from Zephaniah 3:14-20; Philippians 4:4-7)

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say: Rejoice!

**Shout for joy, rejoice with all your heart!**

God sings over you. Fear not, for God is in your midst.

**Shout for joy, rejoice with all your heart!**

Sing praises to God - shout aloud and sing for joy.

**God is in our midst.**

We listen.

**We strain to grasp the sound of God's song.**

Hymn of Gathering

VT #42                      Could It Be That God is Singing

Scripture Reading              Zephaniah 3:14-20

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Litany

We light a candle of joy. And we imagine:

**Jubilation! Rejoicing! Do not fear!**

We light the candle and join in God's song, singing loudly, singing fiercely, singing together.

**Imagine that . . . we are God's wonders, blessed wonders.**

Candle Lighting Hymn

VT #211                      Hope is a Candle (vv.1, 2,4)

Prayer of Confession & Assurance

Hymn of Praise

VT #180                      This is God's Wondrous World

## *... to Hear God's Voice*

Experiencing the Story

Scripture Reading      Isaiah 12:2-6

Hymn of Preparation

VT #276      Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets

Sermon

## *... to Live our Faith*

Hymn of Response

VT #809      Sing a New World Into Being

Congregational Prayers and Offering

Prayers of Intercession (**Lord, hear our prayer**)

Prayers of Thanksgiving (**Thanks be to God**)

## *... as We Go*

Announcements

Hymn of Sending

VT #847      You Shall Go Out With Joy

Benediction

Postlude

Prelude

Pianist

Chorister

Worship Leader

Advent Candle Lighters

Experiencing the Story

Speaker

Ushers

Sound Tech

Media Tech

Bulletin cover

Dorothy Isaac & Russell Pardys

Dorothy Isaac

Laura Fehrenbach

Zac Klassen

Dave & Marie Snyder

Serena Cressman

Laurel Fretz

Lois & Stu Weber

Craig Fehrenbach

Serena Cressman

Lois Weber

## **BMC NEWS**

### **Financial Report:**

#### Financial Report

We celebrate how we at BMC, serve in God's Kingdom at home, across the street and around the world, through our faith and finances;

Offerings to date - Dec 5, 2021	\$94,948
Required for Budget - Dec 5, 2021	\$107,171

As usual, you can forward your offerings by e-transfer, by mail or sign up to do Automated Fund Transfers on the 15th of each month. Contact Ron Stevanus (treasurer) by email at [treasurer@bmchurch.net](mailto:treasurer@bmchurch.net) or by phone at 519-886-6195 for more information. Thank you and stay safe as always.

•**Advent Giving at BMC: This year our collection of donations of socks, hats, etc around the Christmas tree will be for the Working Centre.** Needed items include toiletries, men and women's underwear and socks, and gloves (preferably water-proof) and hats. In addition -- or alternately -- you can make a financial gift to the Working Centre at <https://donate.theworkingcentre.org>

•Our **Christmas Eve** service will again be a hybrid (in church and Zoom) experience. Our special offering for the night will go to International Witness (program of Mennonite Church Canada). **If you wish to attend the Christmas Eve Service in person, please register with Claudia by Sunday, December 19th.**

•**Carols & Faith Stories: On Sunday, December 26th,** we will have a service of carols and faith stories. You are invited to share a part of your faith story by choosing and briefly introducing a carol that has affected your faith. You can then: sing or perform the carol (possibly pre-record); have the congregation sing the carol or share a YouTube link of the carol. Please be in touch with Linda Worth or Laura Fehrenbach **by December 12th** with your contributions.

## **BEYOND OURSELVES**

- **The Inter-Mennonite Children's Choir is proud to present "In Excelsis Deo" on Sunday December 12, 2021 at 1:00pm.** Our concert this year will be on-line and you will need to register to receive the YouTube link to view. Please register at: <https://bit.ly/ChoirChristmas2021> by Saturday December 11th. We are accepting donations in lieu of a ticket and can be mailed to 226 Tatlock Crt, Waterloo, ON N2L 5Y6  
OR etransfer administration@imcchoir.org
- **Menno Singers is back!** Join artistic director Brandon Leis and choir for an online watch party on **Sunday, December 19th at 3pm** as we share 'Christmas Lessons and Carols', recorded live at Trillium Lutheran Church. You can find the direct link to watch that afternoon at [www.mennosingers.com](http://www.mennosingers.com)
- **Forgiven/Forgotten** - MCEC is pleased to partner with Theatre of the Beat to bring this unique audio-visual presentation and study guide to MCEC congregations. Forgiven/Forgotten follows the varying responses as a community learns that an ex-offender will be serving his parole in their midst. This COVID-safe program includes a 50-minute audio story with visual scoring as well as a study guide of discussion questions. Read more in the MCEC story. Contact Cedric Martin, Theatre of the Beat, [info@theatreofthebeat.ca](mailto:info@theatreofthebeat.ca) to access this resource for your congregation.
- **On the MCEC Courageous Imagination Journey - Thank you to everyone who participated in the Courageous Imagination regional gatherings.** Over 160 people from 56 MCEC congregations across eastern Canada contributed their voices and insight to this important leg of the Courageous Imagination journey. [Read the full Courageous Imagination Regional Gathering Summary.](#)
- **MCEC Pastors, Chaplains and Congregational Leaders Workshop: New Normal - Facing Our Grief and Living With Our Anxiety - January 22nd, 2022, 9am - noon (Zoom)** - Join Rev. Sunder John Boopalan in this half-day workshop for pastors, chaplains, and congregational leaders across MCEC. [Registration is now open.](#)

- "In this bleak midwinter, where "earth stands hard as iron, and water as a stone," says Doug Klassen, Mennonite Church Canada Executive Minister, "may our hearts reflect the hope and generosity of the shepherds, the magi, and most of all our God, who came to us this season in Jesus Christ." [Take a few moments to watch Advent greetings from Mennonite Church Canada](#). Be encouraged, challenged and inspired in this Advent season of hope and expectation.
- **Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp** is looking to hire a part-time facilitator for CLASP, a community and life skills program for young adults with special needs. For details, visit our website (<https://hiddenacres.ca/opportunities/year-round-employment>) or contact Chris Pot at 519-625-8602 or [chrispot@hiddenacres.ca](mailto:chrispot@hiddenacres.ca).
- **Silver Lake Mennonite Camp** is looking for three young adults (at least 22 years old) to fill the **Assistant Director roles from April 30-August 29, 2022** (see job description at [slmc.ca/about/board-of-directors/](http://slmc.ca/about/board-of-directors/)). your cover letter and resume **by December 10, 2021** to: [karen@slmc.ca](mailto:karen@slmc.ca)
- For a list of **upcoming MCEC** events, and to stay informed about any changes follow the link: <https://mcec.ca/events>

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#### MINISTRY TEAM:

**Pastor:** Zac Klassen at [churchpastor@bmchurch.net](mailto:churchpastor@bmchurch.net) ; 519-404-8833  
**Secretary:** Claudia Thum: [bmchurch@bmchurch.net](mailto:bmchurch@bmchurch.net)  
**Congregational Chair:** Aaron Stevanus  
**Elders:** Barb Burkard, Laurel Fretz, Paul Fretz  
**Treasurer:** Ron Stevanus [treasurer@bmchurch.net](mailto:treasurer@bmchurch.net)

