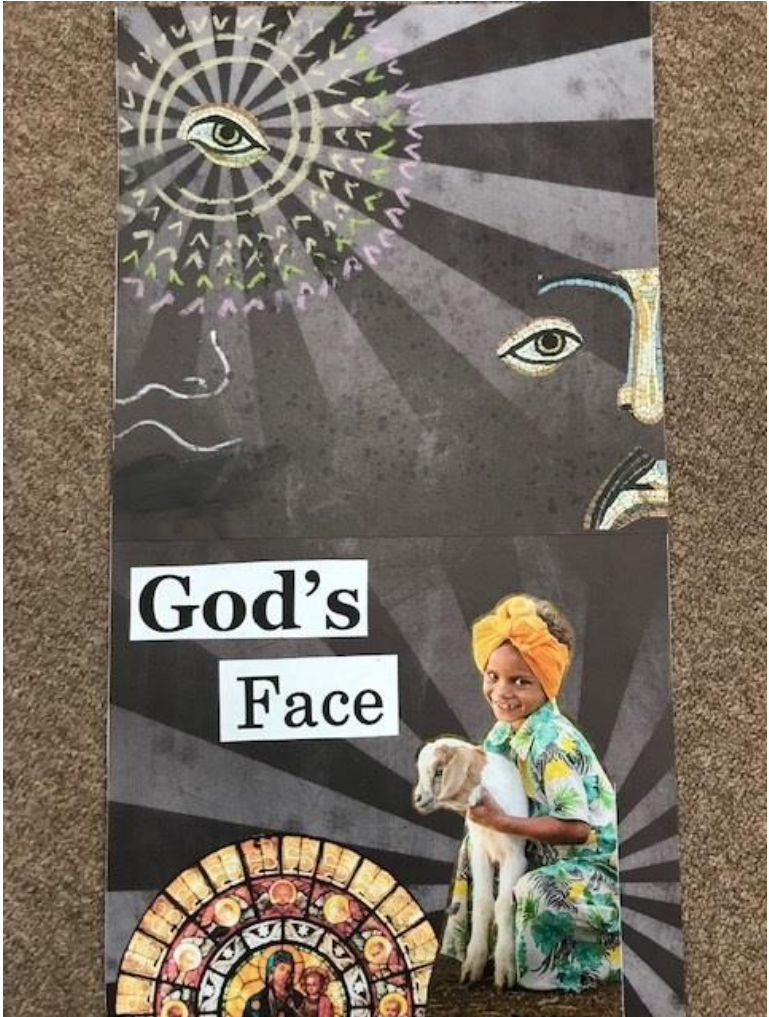


# DARE TO IMAGINE



## ADVENT IV

**Bloomington Mennonite Church**  
**Sunday, December 19th, 2021**

1151 Snyder's Flats Rd.  
Bloomington, ON N0B 1K0  
Phone: 519-745-2411

bmchurch@bmchurch.net [www.bloomingtonmennonite.com](http://www.bloomingtonmennonite.com)

**Dare To Imagine God's Face**  
***We Gather... to Pray and Praise***

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Hymn of Gathering

VT #62                      God is Here among Us

Old Testament Reading              Psalm 80:1-7

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Litany

We light a candle of love, and imagine  
**the lowly lifted, fear met with love.**

We light the candle and pray for God's face to shine  
on us, to save us, restore us.

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

Candle Lighting Hymn

VT #211                      Hope is a Candle (vv.1,2,3,4)

Prayer of Confession

We notice, O God, that when you feed people,  
everyone has enough.

**We notice that in our world, when we feed people,  
some have more than enough, and many are still hungry.**

Teach us to love.

**We notice, O God, that in your social, economic, racial,  
and gender orders, no one is greater, and no one is left  
behind.**

We notice that in our world there are many ladders,  
and many are climbing.

**Reorientate us to your vision of equality.**

God of mercy, lower us, raise us, empty us, and fill us. Like an  
empty manger, we want to be ready to receive Emmanuel.

Words of Assurance              (adapted from Luke 1:46-49)

**Our souls magnify the Lord, our spirits rejoice in God our  
Saviour. God has looked with favour on our lowliness.**

**The Mighty One has done great things for us, and holy is  
God's name.**

Hymn of Praise

VT #276                      Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets

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

Old Testament Reading            Micah 5:2-5  
Experiencing the Story  
New Testament Reading        Luke 1:39-55  
Hymn of Preparation  
    VT #246            Come, Join in Mary's Prophet-Song - Recording  
Sermon

**... to Live our Faith**

Hymn of Response  
    VT #210            O Come, O Come, Immanuel (vv. 1,2,4,7)  
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 #844            May the Face of God Shine on You  
Benediction            (~ written by April Yamasaki, and posted on the **Emmanuel Mennonite Church** blog. <http://www.emmanuelmennonite.com/>)  
Postlude

Prelude	Beatrice Wideman & Micah Klassen
Pianist	Beatrice Wideman
Chorister	Laurel Fretz
Worship Leader	Ron Stevanus
Experiencing the Story	Serena Cressman
Speaker	Zac Klassen
Ushers	Paul Fretz & Gerry Fehrenbach
Sound Tech	Jason Moffatt
Media Tech	Laura Fehrenbach
Bulletin cover	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 12, 2021	\$ 99,158.
Required for Budget - Dec 12, 2021	\$110,148.
Required to be On Budget - Dec 12/21	\$ 10,990.

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 (ZOOM ONLY)**, 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**

- **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)