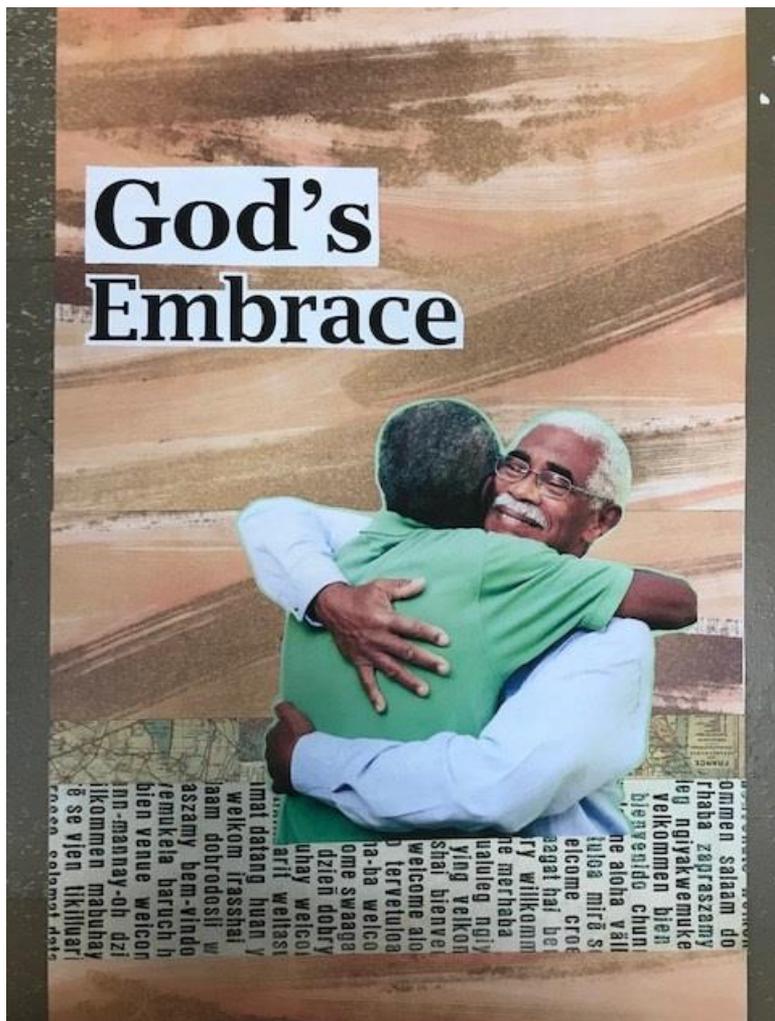


# DARE TO IMAGINE



## ADVENT II

**Bloomingdale Mennonite Church**  
**Sunday, December 5th, 2021**

1151 Snyder's Flats Rd.

Bloomingdale, ON N0B 1K0

Phone: 519-745-2411

[bmchurch@bmchurch.net](mailto:bmchurch@bmchurch.net)

[www.bloomingdalemennonite.com](http://www.bloomingdalemennonite.com)

# Dare To Imagine God's Embrace

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

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

In the quietness of our winter season, God breathes.

God comes close, open-armed.

We are held: tightly, gently, tenderly.

God's embrace is wide.

A voice cries in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord,”

and God pulls the cries close.

God is already here.

Hymn of Gathering

VT #52

Confitemini Domino

(Come and Fill Our Hearts)

Old Testament Reading Malachi 3:1-4

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Litany

We light a candle of peace. And we imagine:

**God's tender mercy, God's compassion.**

We light the candle of peace to feel God's embrace,

God's nearness, God's breath.

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

Candle Lighting Hymn

VT #211

Hope is a Candle (vs. 1, 2)

Prayer of Confession & Assurance

Hymn of Praise

VT #217

Hark! the Glad Sound!

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

Experiencing the Story

Scripture Luke 1: 68-79

Hymn of Preparation

VT #276 Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets

Sermon

## *... to Live our Faith*

Hymn of Response

VT #220 Prepare the Way! the Prophet Called

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 #705 For the Healing of the Nations

Benediction

Postlude

Prelude

Dorothy Isaac and Jaren Klassen

Pianist

Dorothy Isaac

Chorister

Greg Cressman

Worship Leader

Barbara Burkard

Experiencing the Story

Serena Cressman

Speaker

Zac Klassen

Ushers

Sue and Ralph Weber

Sound Tech

Aaron Stevanus

Media Tech

Serena Cressman

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 - Nov 28, 2021	\$90,780
Required for Budget - Nov 28, 2021	\$104,193

Adventfest Auction proceeds for Mennonite World Conference \$580.

Please forward payment for your winning bids to the instructions below. Designate to Adventfest-MWC. Thank you.

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**

- **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.

- The **November edition of On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: MDS Canada is monitoring the flooding in B.C., the Hay West program provides relief to farmers, the U.S. border reopens for volunteers coming from Canada, and you can learn more about our Annual Celebration in Sarasota, Florida in January. **Click on this link to read more:** <https://conta.cc/3wWvLPE>
- 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)