

Preston Mennonite Church

*Being transformed by and extending God's love
through worship, hospitality and service*

www.prestonmennonite.com

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Vol. 51

September 10, 2017

No. 37

Worship Leader: Elsie Kuepfer

Song Leader: Margaret Martin

Accompanist: Dianne Winkler

Season of Creation: Land Sunday

Let the fields and everything in them be glad. Psalm 96:12

PRELUDE

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Welcome

Hymn: HWB 154 *This is my Father's world*

Gathering *(see back page)*

Psalm 96:1, 7, 9b-13 NIRV

"Visitation"—a poem about the dove that flew from
the ark

Opening prayer

Psalm 139:1-18 CEB

"God moment"

Hymn: *Song of Earth* to the tune of *Christ the Lord is ris'n*

1. Hail the Earth that first appeared. Alleluia!
When a word from God was heard. Alleluia!
Let the Earth arise and be. Alleluia!
Filled with living mystery. Alleluia!

2. Hail the rainbow flying high. Alleluia!
Spun by God across the sky. Alleluia!
Giving Earth a solemn word. Alleluia!
Never to unleash a flood. Alleluia!
3. Hail the planet blue and green. Alleluia!
Where the face of God is seen. Alleluia!
Glory filling all the Earth. Alleluia!
Celebrating every birth. Alleluia!
4. Hail our body made with clay. Alleluia!
Given breath to praise and pray. Alleluia!
Clay God honored by God's birth. Alleluia!
As a human life on Earth. Alleluia!
5. Hail the groans of Earth in pain. Alleluia!
From the weight of human sin. Alleluia!
Longing for the Christ who died. Alleluia!
All creation to revive. Alleluia!

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?

Reading—4 readers

Children's time: "Psalm 139 and a Dirt walk"

Message: "Down to the nitty gritty"

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

Prayer of confession

Healing One, we come to you with heads bowed low. We have failed to honour your creation.

Creator, we are sorry.

We hear the earth cry out for the suffering of your people.

Creator, we are hurting.

We bear collective responsibility for contaminated land which has lost its fertility.

Creator, your people are hungry.

We feel the dryness of parched earth which cannot bear food.

Creator, your people are thirsty.

We seek your forgiveness and cry out for wisdom.

Creator, we are yearning.

We pray for your empowerment and strength.

**Creator, we are seeking pathways to
redeem and protect your beautiful
creation. Equip us to restore and
renew your Earth. Amen.**

Words of affirmation

As we acknowledge the injustice of systems in the world, we create space in our hearts to act for change. God will love and empower us as we embrace the needs of the world. We can never, ever stray from God's love.

ALL: **We open ourselves to God's ever-present spirit of grace and transformation as we seek God's hope and justice for all creatures and places. Amen.**

Passing the Peace

Affirmation of Faith

Leader Let us affirm our faith together.

Women We believe that God creates all things, renews all things and celebrates all things.

Men We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin.

Women We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a piece of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation.

Men We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

Women We believe the Holy Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

All We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.

Invitation to offering

Offering prayer (see back page)

Sharing time

- The survivors and first responders of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Jose and Katya
- Please pray for the community of Pikangikum First Nation...this community known as the suicide capital of the world, has just lost 5 young people to suicide within one month. Please pray for the youth, for the families, and for the front-line workers and crisis teams.

Hymn: *Song of healing to the tune of Morning has broken*

1. Healing is flowing, deep in the waters,
Flowing from Eden, flowing from old.
All through creation, God sends forth waters,
Oceans of healing, for all the world.
2. Healing is rising, fresh with the morning,
Healing is rising, bursting with grace.
Christ, our rich healing, deep in creation,
Heal Earth's deep wounds and rise in this place.

3. Healing is offered, leaves from the life tree,
Healing is offered nations at war.
Come, wounded Healer, torn by the violence,
Rise from the grave, bring peace to our shore.
4. Healing is given, flows from forgiveness,
Healing is given, flows from our faith.
Christ, give us heart to love your deep healing,
Living forgiveness, even in death.
5. Healing is rising, free in Christ's body,
Healing is flowing, free with Christ's blood.
May this deep healing pulse through our bodies,
Heal the world's wounds still bleeding and red.

SENDING

Announcements

Hymn: STJ 77

"The peace of the earth be with
you"

Sending

POSTLUDE

CREDITS: Opening prayer, Reading for 4 readers, Prayer of confession, Words of affirmation, "Visitation" by Abigail Vizcarra Perez, Prayer of confession, Invitation to offering (adapted)—*Seasons of the Spirit Season of Creation, Pentecost 2, 2017*;

CREDITS: *Song of Earth* words: © Norman Habel 1999; *Song of healing* words: © Norman Habel 2000.

Welcome to our visitors! We hope our time of worship has been an encouragement to you. Please sign our guest book in the front foyer! God bless you and we hope to see you again!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP IN THE FOYER—ALL WELCOME!



MISSIONS

Please continue praying for survivors impacted by Hurricane Harvey and those in the path of Hurricane Irma, which is currently threatening the United States.

WIDER CHURCH & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Lunch and Listen Events: Bring your lunch and listen to our guest speakers in the 50 Kent community room at noon. On Sept 13 speakers James & Joan Alty will tell stories of MCC's relief, development and peace work in Southern Africa. On Sept 26, MCC's refugee sponsorship team shares news and stories about the refugee sponsorship program and opportunities for churches, community groups, neighbourhood associations or groups of friends to get involved. More info at www.mcco.ca/events

Detweiler Meetinghouse: Free Talk about *Life in the Detweiler Neighbourhood 150 Years Ago* on Sat Sept 16 at 11 am.

Annual Chicken & Sausage BBQ at St. Jacob's Mennonite Church on Sat Sept 16 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Adults \$18 and Children \$10. Tickets available at 519-664-2268 or at the door but advance ticket purchases encouraged. Take out is also available. More info www.sjmc.on.ca

Doors Open Waterloo Region: "The Grand and the Land" by Phil Monture, tree expert at 3pm at the Button Factory Arts on Sept 16.

Jim Reimer Memorial Bluegrass Concert, the award winning Canadian bluegrass band, Rescue Junction, with a special appearance from 5 on the Floor. Admission is free with donations to the Reimer Scholarship in Theological Studies. Sunday Sept 17 at 2:30 pm at Conrad Grebel Great Hall in Waterloo. www.grebel.ca/events

Peace Week - Will you play a part in peace? From Sept 17 to 23, you're invited to attend or host a peace-related initiative. Check out www.uwaterloo.ca/peace-week to learn more about how you can get involved.

Langs Community Dinners! From 5:30 to 7:30 pm on Sept 19, Oct 24, Nov 21, Dec 19, drop in for a free dinner!

Call to Prayer, a retreat to provide an opportunity to reflect on scripture and prayerfully move through the hours of your day. Thurs Sept 21 from 9 am to 3 pm at Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp, facilitated by Alicia Buhler. Cost is \$25. Bring a bag lunch, journal, walking shoes and Bible. Register by Sept 16 at mennospiritdir@gmail.com

Gleaners Open House Tours: Sept 21, Oct 10 & 20, Nov 8 & 28 at 10:30 am. Special Sat Tour: Sept 16 from 10am-5pm

Men's Retreat at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp, Sept 22-24. Resource person is Chip Bender. Cost \$195. Register online at www.slmc.ca/retreats or call 519-422-3200

Taizé Ecumenical Worship Service on Sun Sept 24 at 7:30 pm at St. Mark's Catholic Church in Kitchener. On Sun Oct 22 at 7:30 pm it will be held at Conrad Grebel Chapel in Wat.

Mayor's Night at the Movies! Langs has been chosen as the charity recipient for this year's event, hosted by the City of Cambridge, on Mon Sept 25 at Galaxy Cinemas in the Cambridge Centre Mall. Tickets to this 19+ event are \$25 and include: appetizers, door prizes, as well as pop, popcorn and a popular movie option. Purchase tickets online at www.evenbrite.com or call 519-653-1470 x 264

Reading the Bible with Jesus, an inspirational four-session bible study on Matthew with Bryan Moyer Suderman. Starting Tues Sept 26 till Oct 17, 7 to 9 pm. First two weeks at Elmira Mennonite Church, second two weeks at St. Jacobs. Pick up a brochure by bulletin board.

Anna Magdalena Kokits, award-winning Austrian pianist will play modern and classical pieces as part of her nation-wide tour on Fri Sept 29, at 7 pm at Conrad Grebel Chapel in Waterloo. Free admission, reception to follow, All welcome!

MCC Ontario Annual General Meeting on Sat Sept 30 from 12-3 pm in the Community Room at 50 Kent Ave. Cath & Peter Woolner will join MCC Ontario staff to update you on MCC's work in Ontario and around the world. More info and to RSVP go to www.mcco.ca/agm or call 519-745-8458

Water Ceremony, join us for an evening of Ceremony & Friendship, beginning at 6:15 pm at Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre in Paris on Sat Sept 30. See poster on bulletin board for list of what to bring.

Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario Fall Meeting on Sat Oct 14 at 2 pm in the Community Room at MCC, 50 Kent Ave, Kitchener. "Celebrating a Century of Mennoite Sewing Circles in Ontario" The event is free, donations accepted.

Empty Bowls for Haiti: Local potters donate bowls, local restaurants donate soup, entertainment by local musicians. You pay \$30, eat the soup and take home a beautiful bowl. Help support sustainable change in Haiti. At Steinmann Mennonite Church on Sat Oct 14, seatings at 5 and 7 pm. Tickets: emptybowlsforhaiti.eventbrite.ca or call MCC.

Sixth Annual Male Chorus Sing on Sun Oct 15 at 2:30 pm at Detweiler Meeting House. Welcome to all former male quartet or chorus and want-to-be members who enjoy singing traditional male music. Led by Laverne Martin, Charles Kruger and Laverne Brubacher.

Friendship Dinner: "Close to Home" with Sean McCann at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate on Sat Oct 21 at 5 pm for cider and dinner at 5:45 pm. Tickets \$75, proceeds to the House of Friendship. Call Shelley at 519-742-8327 x 131

Encounter Desire Retreat: Oct 20-22. Join PiE (Pastors in Exile) for an intergenerational retreat for those in a season of transition and discernment. How might God be calling through our deepest desires? Register by Oct 4 at www.pastorsinexile.org/retreat

Peace Conference: *At Peace and Unafraid*, November 11 at Cornerstone Christian Community Church in Markham. Register by November 7. More info at mcco.ca/peace or see poster on bulletin board.

Fifth Annual Welcoming Advent on Sun Nov 26 at 2:30 pm at Detweiler Meeting House in Roseville, featuring the music of *Lifted Voices* from Stirling Mennonite Church.