

PRESTON MENNONITE CHURCH

“Being transformed by and extending God’s love
through worship, hospitality and service”

Sunday April 30, 2023 at 10:30 am
Holy Ground



We acknowledge that our church is located on the traditional lands
of the Neutral, the Anishinaabe, and the Haudenosaunee peoples.

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791 Concession Road, Cambridge N3H 4L1 – 519-653-5171

Sunday April 30, 2023 @ 10:30 am

Worship Leader: Vickie Robinson; Song Leader: Laverne Martin
Pianist: Wendy Imrie; A/V Technician: Josh Oliverio

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

Gathering Hymn: VT #40 In Thy Holy Place We Bow

Call to Worship

Leader: To worship is to stand in awe under a heaven of stars,
before a flower, a leaf in sunlight, or a grain of sand.

**People: To worship is to be silent, receptive, before a tree astir
with the wind, or a passing shadow of a cloud.**

Leader: To worship is to work with dedication and with skill; It is to
pause from work and listen to a strain of music.

**People: To worship is to sing with the singing beauty of the
earth; It is to listen through a storm to the still small voice
within.**

*All: Worship is the mystery within us reaching out to the Mystery
beyond.*

Opening Prayer

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 52:6-7

Hymn: VT #124 For the Fruit of All Creation

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?

Bible Reading: Exodus 3:1-6

Message: Holy Ground Speaker: Danielle Raimbault

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

Hymn of Response: VT # 788 The Garden Needs Our Tending Now

Creation Response

Communion

Offering

Birthday Offering for March and April

SENDING

Announcements

Sending Hymn: VT #845 May God Grant You a Blessing

Blessing

Postlude

Next Sunday: Danielle will be speaking on the theme, *Holy Order:*
Every Species has a Sacred Role based on Romans 12:4-6 and
Matthew 6:27-34

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Tue May 2	10am	Fidelias
Wed May 3	9am	Men's Fellowship Group
Wed May 4	7pm	Joint Worship meeting
Sun May 7	11:30am	"Memory" potluck see below
Wed May 10	9:30am	Church Council meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Bible Study:** May 2 (in person) 2:30pm, Jeremiah 51:1-14
May 1 (Zoom group) 7pm, Deuteronomy 20
- **Fairview bus** will continue to pick up at **10am** on Sundays.
- **Lectio Divina Prayer meeting** Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:30pm.
This week's scripture is John 11:28-37. The Zoom link is [here](#).
- **This Is My Story:** Sun Apr 30 at 7pm at PMC as well as on Zoom.
Alice Gascho will share her story. Zoom link is [here](#).
- **Potluck Sunday May 7:** the theme is "memory." Bring a dish that gives you a memory and then share the story with us.
- **Spring is here** and we have been busy cleaning out the kitchen area. All of the old kitchen supplies that were removed have been relocated to a trolley in the foyer. Please feel free to help yourself to any pieces that you are interested in keeping. All remaining pieces will be sent to the thrift store.
- **Thank you** to **Barb Welfred** for sharing her Creation quilt with us and to **Erin Panning & family** for arranging the Worship table during our Creation series.
- One of **Debbie Wismer's** great pleasures is to make cards for all occasions. She has brought many of them to church and they are free for the taking. The cards are on the counter in the foyer by the library shelves. Debbie would welcome any cards you may be discarding as well as unused envelopes. Thank you Debbie!
- **MCEC Annual Church Gathering:** Livestream is available for MCEC's Friday night public Intercultural Worship service and for Saturday's gathering. Streaming begins at 7pm on Friday and 8:45am on Saturday. Connect at www.mcec.ca

EVENTS BEYOND THE CONGREGATION

Trillium United Church Women Spring Luncheon is on Wed May 3 from 11:30am to 1pm. Cost is \$18, call 519-653-6601 for tickets.

May 5th is Red Dress Day, which is a day to raise awareness and education for Murdered Missing Indigenous Women and Girls. The City of Cambridge is working to promote this day. If you have a red dress to lend or donate, please drop it off at Cambridge City Hall.

Grace Lao Mennonite Church Egg Roll Sale on Sat May 6 at 575 Lancaster St W, Kitchener. Egg rolls are \$2 each or box of 10 for \$20. Email your order to gracelao@golden.net More info call 519-404-1547 Please order by **May 2**.

Menno Singers present our Spring Concert: “a light exists in spring...In nature, nothing is perfect and everything is perfect” at St. Jacobs Mennonite Church on Sat May 6 at 7:30pm. \$25 adults, \$5 children/students. Tickets available online or at the door (cash or credit). www.mennosingers.com

The Inter-Mennonite Children’s Choir is excited to present: *Sing for Joy!* On Sun May 7 at 3:30pm at Floradale Mennonite Church. Tickets are \$12 adults and \$5 children 5-18 available at the door.

Calling all Hidden Acres Alumni! HAC Alumni Weekend is May 19th-21st! Join us for the whole weekend overnight or just the day, to connect, be encouraged and get involved! For more details visit our website at www.hiddenacres.ca or email alumni@hiddenacres.ca

Tickets for Rockway Mennonite Collegiate’s production of FROZEN JR. are now on sale. Visit www.rockway.ca to get your tickets! Performances are June 7 to 10.



Caring for Creation from Indifference to making a Difference

As a pre-teen boy I enjoyed the woodsy air, hiking in our farm bush. One day, by the bushes edge I found a pile of rusting tins and bottles (some broken) which I found fascinating and started collecting the fancy bottles. I thought nothing about my God-fearing grandparents feeling this was an a convenient no cost disposal method. They had no awareness of their abusing God's Creation. It was in the age of indifference.

Fast forward to the present, because of catastrophic damage from weather extremes, most polluting industries are now realizing that solely profit focused management is proving costly. For example: the indigenous peoples are at risk of losing their livelihood from the land which can damage their identity and fracture their sense of community.

I used to blame polluting industries for desecrating Mother Earth; then I began to realize that when pointing at others as the problem, I had 3 fingers point back at me. I now see that I was in fact abusing myself, my loved ones and everyone else through my relative indifference. I asked myself what would the world be like if everyone did as I, in caring for creation.

I asked myself, if it's to be, it's up to me. What am I doing?

- Starting to pick up items while I walk hoping, maybe naively, others will think twice about tossing cans, cups and wrappers in the streets.
- Avoiding buying any food packed in Styrofoam which takes 100 years to disintegrate.
- Flushing toilet only when necessary.
- Taking recyclable items out of the Fairview Villa's garbage bin.
- Driving my car when I have several tasks in one locale to reduce carbon footprint

But there is another effect of weather beyond extremes happening. It's called Eco-anxiety which moves from creation care...to selfcare. Eco anxiety is the fear of environmental doom, the anxiety which affects mental health resulting from feeling helpless, a sense of being cocooned. To move from the emotional numbness of feeling powerless, we need to accept our fear and change not what we think, rather how we think.

When feeling overwhelmed, we need to remind ourselves that every small change we made helps contribute to the global effort to reverse climate change. **Gandhi said, "be the change you want to see in the world."** Margaret Mead said it best, "never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world. It's the only thing that ever has."

Each day, I hope you will join me in reflecting on what we are doing as harming or healing Mother Earth. As believers in God's will for God's creation we can do no less than lovingly save our Creation as our Lord has done for us. By Will Stoltz