

BEYOND OUR CONGREGATION

- **Christmas Giving** - Un-frustrate your Christmas shopping this year! Give a gift of hope with **MCC's Christmas giving program**. Visit <http://donate.mcccana.ca/> or call our office at (204)261-6381.
- You are invited to **L'Arche Winnipeg's Christmas Pageant, Wed., Dec. 9, 7 pm at the Christian Family Centre**, 81 Henderson Hwy. Refreshments to follow! Donations will be donated to Hospitality House Winnipeg to help refugees come to and settle in Canada.
- **CMU Advent Vespers, Sun., Dec. 20, 7 pm, in the Laudamus Auditorium**. The worship will be led by choir conductor Alan Janzen and worship leader President Cheryl Pauls. A reception will follow.
- **Urgent need – housing for refugees**. Do you have a basement suite, or know others who do? Are you a landlord who could make a house or apartment available at a very reasonable rent? If you can help, please contact MCC at (204)925-1910 or joannaschellenberg@mccmb.ca.
- **Evening Sermons from PA 2015**: Visit the MWC website and read the full text of the evening sermons from PA 2015, by César García, Yukari Kaga, Nzuzi Mukwa, Wieteke van der Molen and Bruxy Cavey.

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**Aberdeen Evangelical Mennonite Church**  
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204 - 221-3000 (office)

**Sunnie Friesen, Pastor**

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Office Hours:

Tues. - Fri. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Mo Klippenstein, Secretary**

**204 - 221-3000 (office)**

Office Hours:

Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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**Second Advent December 6, 2015**  
**The Path of Mercy**

**Focus Statement:** *In this second week of Advent, images of God's mercy wash over us. The most striking image is of light that enters the darkness dawning on us, illuminating our darkness, and giving us the strength to make the changes we need to be on this freedom way.*

**Gathering**

Prelude  
Welcome  
Scripture Reading Luke 3:4-6  
Call to Worship  
Prayer of Invocation  
Congregational Song STJ 13 My soul is filled with joy  
Lighting the Advent Candle  
Congregational Song STS 20 Walking slowly unto Beth'lem

**Hearing the Word**

Scripture Reading Philippians 1:1-11  
Congregational Sharing  
Congregational Prayer  
Passing the Peace  
Congregational Songs HWB 174 Blessed be the God of Israel  
HWB 176 Comfort, comfort, o my people  
Scripture Reading Luke 1:68-79  
Sermon Sol

**Responding**

Affirmation of Faith: Advent  
Offering Alice and Linda  
Announcements  
Sending Song STS16 Peace before us  
Benediction

Worship Leader: Sunnie  
Song Leader: Darlene  
Accompanist: Deb



**Advent Themes: Freedom Bound**

**Today Advent 2** The Path of Mercy

**Dec. 13 Advent 3** The Path of Trust ~ Christmas Coffee Time

**Dec. 20 Advent 4** The Path of Love

**FOR YOUR CALENDAR:**

- **Aberdeen Food Bank** - Next meets on Dec. 12 and Jan. 9, 2016.
- **Jan 24, 2016** - Aberdeen Church retreat at Camp Assiniboia.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Adult Sunday School today, "Monday to Friday Faith Stories."
- **Next Sunday, Dec. 13** – Please bring snacks/sweets to share during coffee time after the worship service.
- **Sat., Dec. 19, 1:30-3 pm** – Come celebrate Melinda's birthday! We will meet in the TeaHaus at Bethania Care Home. Bring snacks to share.



Coffee for next week Dec. 13 – Peter and Marlene  
Upcoming coffee for Dec, 20 – John and Kathy

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- for Humam and Sabreen who continue to adjust to new life in Canada.
- for our university students preparing for and writing exams this month.

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**EMC Highlights from Conference Council last weekend:**

- *Decision regarding The Messenger*
  - *Availability of GAP report*
  - *Understanding church's role in member care for missionaries*
  - *Refugee sponsorship opportunities*
  - *Challenge to meet budget in 2015*
  - *Statement of Faith review – Ministerial study day in winter 2016*
  - *Two Hills – new church start*
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## Affirmation of Faith: Advent

### **We believe in God,**

creator and lover of the earth,  
origin and destiny of us all,  
robed in splendour, veiled in mystery,  
ruler alike of darkness and light.  
Who leads us into truth and life.

### **We believe in Jesus the Christ,**

God coming to us in the fragile promise  
of a baby yet unborn —  
who emerges as the herald of hope,  
God's mercy in the face of despair.  
Plunged into death and hell,  
he broke free the captives, and is leading the way  
to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish.

### **We believe in the Holy Spirit,**

who implants the seed of truth,  
brings us to birth as the body of Christ,  
and empowers us to confront and transform  
all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

### **We believe in the coming reign of God.**

Announced by the Baptist,  
it will draw near to us in Jesus,  
the fulfillment of God's promises,  
when darkness will hold no fear,  
the light will no longer blind,  
and creation will be made whole once more  
when God's mercy and love will reign forever.

**For the coming of that day on this day,  
we worship, work and pray:  
Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**

## Call to Worship

Leader: We wait for God's light to burst into our dark world.  
Open your eyes. Unlock your ears.

People: **As we prepare for your coming,  
we recognize that we are in need of change.**

Leader: Like the valleys and hills,  
the crooked paths and rough places,  
we need your mercy to transform us.

People: **We confess that we still live in the shadows  
of apathy, greed, and prejudice.  
Burn away in your refining fire  
all that keeps us from you.**

All: **Kindle in us your merciful love,  
so that we may be freed to serve  
and worship you in spirit and in truth.**



## **Luke 1:68-79**

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

## **Philippians 1:1-11**

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.