

Participants in Video Devotions for January, 2022

Date	Worship Assistant (Psalm)	Reader (OT & NT readings)	Prayer leader
January 2	Monica P	Katharine B	Tom R
January 9	Kara R	Kim D	Christa M
January 16	Pam R	Kara R	Eric N
January 23	Eric N	Tom R	Kim D
January 30	Christa M	Jett I	Monica P

Readings and prayers available on the "Sunday Service" page (and archive) of our website. Video clips need to be submitted in advance; contact Pastor Tyler if unclear about parts.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is located on original lands of Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

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*We too have found a roadway; it led us to this place.
 We all have had to travel in search of hope and grace.
 But now beside this water again a voice is heard.*

"You are my own, my chosen, beloved of your Lord." **ACS #916**

The days are getting longer!

We were able to gather together in-person for Sundays in Advent!

Vaccines have been shown to be working! ...all good news!

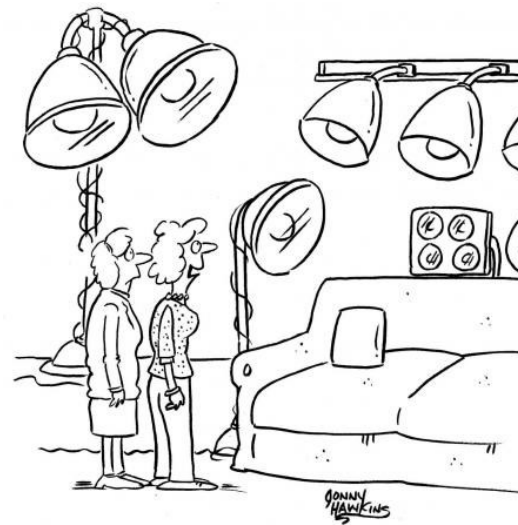
Yes... there's bad news, and it feels like we're 'stepping backward' with the omicron variant in our community. We were hopeful, and we may now feel despair.

But light *does* break the darkness!

While we're back online with our weekly services and church

programming, we know the drill and we know how to connect via the internet in meaningful ways.

We can keep safe by getting booster shots, by wearing particulate filtering respirator masks, by keeping socially distant through this time.



The gift of baptism is a reminder that God is with us, from the beginning, through it all, and in the end. Let's help to share hope-filled, peace-seeking perspectives in our community through this time!

-Pastor Tyler

"Oscar has hopes for a brighter tomorrow."

Wednesdays – 9:30am Virtual Coffee Hour
Sundays – 9:30am Bible Study,
10am time of prayer

we hold in prayer

- those who are ill
- those who have experienced loss
- those celebrating birthdays, and other good news



To join in these social times, follow the link provided in the e-news.
On the first Sunday of the month, our prayer time includes online Eucharist – have some bread and juice ready!

Baby Shower

...for Mary and Joseph!

Our annual campaign to raise funds and collect items for young parents who access services at *The Urban* and *North Point Douglas Women's Centre* is on, this month of January!

Even as we gather online during this time, we can offer support in “virtual ways,” through financial donations and collecting some needed items. Both *The Urban* and *North Point Douglas Women's Centre* have had to modify their services during this pandemic time, so it is true that the most useful gifts are cash donations.

You may choose to donate directly to them through their websites, or to donate by giving a special offering to Gloria Dei, designated for the *Baby Shower*.

We will hold up this shower in our January 9th online service, but the campaign runs until the end of the month – *donate anytime in January!* Helpful items in this time include: formula, seasonally appropriate clothing, hygiene items, non-perishable food. Call the church about dropping off donations.



www.npdwc.org



www.theurban.ca

Thank You...

- to Karen Isleifson-Buechler and Lexy for their beautiful “live” music through Advent and on Christmas Eve
- to Kim and Detlef, for the lovely Christmas tree in our sanctuary, given in honour of their 40th Anniversary!
- to our council for ‘pivoting’ our plans to keep us safe in-person and online in this time
- to our council chair and tech-master, Jett, for running our Christmas Eve Zoom gathering
- to all supporting the ministry of Gloria Dei through this pandemic time!

In-Person Gatherings suspended for January

What a delight it was to be gathered in our sanctuary for the Sundays of Advent, having worship together. There were some differences to pre-pandemic times with wearing masks to sing, and communing in the pews, but it felt good to be together!

Unfortunately, the omicron variant has meant a return to online worship and programming for January, and the foreseeable future.

The more our wider community gets its booster shots, the more we’re able to keep socially distanced, the more that children are vaccinated, the sooner we’ll be able to be together, in-person, again.

Peace and health to you!

BOOK STUDY WITH MENNONITES ON THE CLIMATE

“A Good War” by Seth Klein

How can Canadians respond to the Climate Emergency? Mennonite Church Canada is doing an 8-week study on Zoom of Seth Klein’s brilliant book - “A Good War” - engaging key Indigenous & settler leaders/activists in conversation about the paths of decarbonization & decolonization. Thursday evenings, beginning January 20th. There will be about 60 pages of reading per week. Everyone’s welcome! Hosted by Mennonite Church Canada, you can register for free here: www.MennoniteChurch.ca (see e-news for full link)

CAMINO MANITOBA

PRESENTS:

"Treaty Walk: A Journey for Common Ground"

Watch the film at www.treatywalk.com and then join in a Zoom panel with members of the walk (as featured in the film) on Saturday, January 15.

More information will be posted at www.CaminoManitoba.ca



Better mask quality, minimizing contacts key to keeping Omicron at bay: epidemiologists

With the incredibly infectious Omicron variant now in the province, epidemiologists say Manitobans need to rethink the way they protect themselves and others, cautioning that old methods won't hold up. Scientists continue to learn more about how much more infectious Omicron is compared to earlier variants, and whether it causes more severe illness. Some early data out of Hong Kong suggests Omicron multiplies 70 times faster than either the Delta variant or the original SARS-CoV-2 virus, while global numbers show it may have a doubling time between 1.5 to 3 days. In light of this, people should take extra precautions by increasing the quality of masks they wear and the time they spend wearing them, and minimize their exposure to others, says Cynthia Carr, founder of EPI Research Inc. in Winnipeg. "We're still trying to understand in terms of the severity of illness, but there's certainly still a change in the sense of resource need, and testing, and being cautious about not being in large groups until we find out more about the impact," she said.

Mask use changes

Nazeem Muhajarine, a professor of epidemiology and public health at the University of Saskatchewan, advises people to take rapid tests before going into a workplace, and wear a mask that fits closely to the face, covering the nose and mouth.

Muhajarine wears a Kn95 mask indoors, and puts it on outside when he's talking to someone. Cloth masks should have three layers, he said. [...]

People should be wearing a mask while working indoors, even if they can physically distance, Carr said. [...] If people don't have an N95 respirator style mask, they can layer a surgical mask with a tight fitting cloth mask over top, Carr said.

Staying home, using rapid tests

Whenever possible, people should work from home, and says people who are at higher risk of infection, such as those who are unvaccinated, should be prioritized for rapid testing, Carr said.

People must adapt to this more transmissible virus, Muhajarine said. [...]

While she encourages people to purchase high-quality masks like an N95, when choosing the type of mask to wear, Carr advises people to go with something that they feel comfortable in and that they will wear consistently.

Carr understands that people may be feeling pandemic fatigue, and that can lead some people to grow indifferent — and others to panic. She says people must resist both those urges.

"We've got vaccines, we've got better treatment, and hopefully this is mutating toward being less clinically impactful and more toward the common cold." - December 22

(<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/manitobans-must-adapt-to-omicron-variant-epidemiologists-say-1.6294755>)

LADIES LUNCHEON ON HOLD



It has been lovely to gather for lunch each month for the past couple of months. Unfortunately, with the omicron variant in our community, we have put the

Ladies Luncheons on hold until further notice.

JOIN IN MINISTRY AT GLORIA DEI...

-our Worship Committee is in need of a chairperson

-as we look towards in-person worship, and continuing our online presence, do you have skills and interest to help?

-what do you envision, and hope for, for the ministry of Gloria Dei?

