



OPEN MINDS. OPEN HEARTS. OPEN DOORS.

Horizons

Newsletter of Eastside United Church



eastside

Advent 2021

Minister's Advent Reflection

God has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

and has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

God has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

Luke 1: 51-53

This week, I was making arrangements for my cousin, Chris MacRae (the new Vocal Lecturer at the U of R) to sing during a few Advent Sunday services. One of the weeks, the reading is from Luke 1, where Mary and Elizabeth who are both expecting meet. Mary then sings or prays the Magnificat, Mary's song (except above). I thought this would be a good week to have a solo. Chris did have a piece from Bach's Magnificat but commented that it may be a bit harsh for Advent. I responded to him: 'Believe it or not Advent can be harsh! There is a lot of challenging messages in the Advent pas-

sages that call us to live differently and be more just!' Over the next few weeks we will hear Jesus talking about fear and foreboding before the Kingdom of God comes, and to be alert; we will hear John the Baptist offering warnings regarding repentance and of the wrath to come; and Mary's song which challenges the systems and structures that favour the rich and powerful. So, Advent *can* be harsh!

Within all of this harshness are the messages of Advent of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, as we wait for the celebration of the Christ Child breaking into our lives and into the

Reflection Continued and In-Person Worship

world. In the harshness we hear about and experience in our world and in our lives God's message of a new king, a new *kind* of king coming into the world of injustice brings hope to our lives. We celebrate the faith that Mary and Joseph showed on their journey, the message of hope proclaimed to the lowly shepherds, and honour that wise ones from diverse backgrounds came to pay homage to this little child. As we look toward this Christmas we celebrate, knowing the love that Jesus lived, and the hope and joy and peace he continues to offer us this season and every day of our lives! This Advent season, in the midst of its harshness, may you find messages of comfort and joy as we prepare for these celebrations.

May you have a blessed and wonderful Christmas season as well!

- Russell Mitchell-Walker



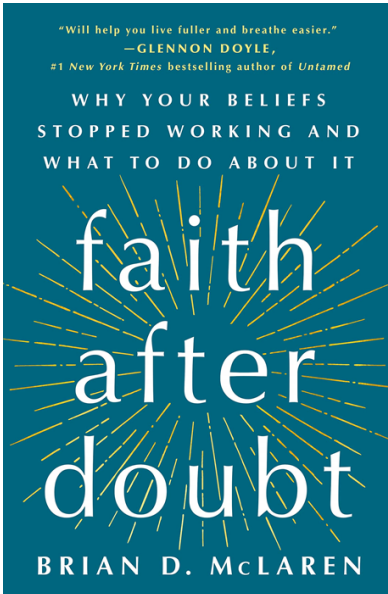
In-Person Worship Details

- If you are planning to attend in-person services:
 - **Beginning Nov. 28, proof of vaccination must be provided by in-person service attendees.**
 - We are required to wear masks and practice social distancing at the LSC.
 - We hope these implementations will make our services more accessible to those who are ineligible to receive a vaccine (immuno-compromised, children under 12, etc.). Those who are ineligible may attend without being vaccinated.
 - Please do not attend in-person services if you are experiencing any COVID-like symptoms, or have possibly been in contact with someone who has COVID.
- **Please notify our office if you have tested positive for COVID-19 and have attended our in-person services within the last two weeks of your positive result.**
- If you are not yet vaccinated, we invite you to join us online via Zoom or Facebook Live.
- Please let us know if you would be able to assist as a volunteer on Sundays as we will need help with ensuring that pandemic protocols are followed.



Please note that as of November 28, those who attend our worship services in-person will be asked to provide their proof of vaccination. This decision was made by Eastside's Leadership Team following a recommendation made by Dr. Saqib Shahab, Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer that places of worship should be requiring proof of vaccination. This decision was also made based on our commitment to create a safer space for our community during the pandemic. With these decisions and changes, we continue to invite those who are not vaccinated to join us online for hybrid worship on Zoom. If you need assistance with proof of vaccination, please notify our office. We continue to monitor the pandemic, and thank Eastsiders for helping us maintain pandemic safety protocols.

Craft/Study - *Faith After Doubt:* *Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working* *and What to Do About It*



Craft/Study will be featuring “Faith After Doubt” by Brian D. McLaren beginning January 13th. The schedule continues on Thursdays at 1:30. This book is a new release, and organizing the purchase of a book will look a bit different for these sessions as physical options are limited.

Please contact Becca ASAP if you would like a copy ordered for you. There is no paperback option available at this time, so physical copies will be hardcover only for \$35.

Other options for this book include the purchasing of an EBook, online audiobooks, or picking up a copy at your local library (reserve them now!).

“Using his own story and the stories of a diverse group of struggling believers, Brian D. McLaren, a former pastor and now an author, speaker, and activist shows how old assumptions are being challenged in nearly every area of human life, not just theology and spirituality. He proposes a four-stage model of faith development in which questions and doubt are not the enemy of faith, but rather a portal to a more mature and fruitful kind of faith. The four stages—Simplicity, Complexity, Perplexity, and Harmony—offer a path forward that can help sincere and thoughtful people leave behind unnecessary baggage and intensify their commitment to what matters most.”



Carol Service

Join us as we celebrate this holiday season, singing along to a collection of recorded carols in-person or online! Carols have been provided by Josh Hendricksen for this service. We hope that our hybrid options will allow all to continue participating in our seasonal events! Please note that attending in-person requires proof of vaccination.

December 9th at 7:00 pm

Eastside Programs and Updates

Every Child is Important, Here and Overseas

You will recall the appeal for donations toward educational support for children continuing to be born in Vietnam afflicted with disabilities and severe deformities due to Agent Orange in the huge areas of food growing soil and in water. If you missed this presentation, please [click here](#) to view a recording of this service.

I ask that you consider involving your family/relatives/friends in a project of Love you create, donating money in lieu of gift giving this year.

There would be a free gift book provided for every \$25 donation to remind your family/relatives/friends of your gift of on-going quality of life for these needy and alive children.

Contact: Mavis Olesen, 306-209-6365 (call/text), mlolesen1943@gmail.com

Merry Christmas!

The Gratitude Team concluded its Stewardship Campaign in mid-November. As we prepare for 2022, Eastside deeply appreciates the return of Response Cards to our office. If you would like to return your response card, we are still accepting them! Please feel free to send them in or drop them in our mail box. Your diligence in this matter will help the Gratitude Team by not having to call you!



Eastside United
Family Christmas Eve Service

Please join us for our Christmas Eve service,
December 24th at 6:30 pm! This service will have
hybrid options – online or in-person (with proof of
vaccination). Please stay tuned to our weekly
announcements for more details.



*LSC Shared
Advent Services*

Dec. 1 - Holden Evening Prayer 7:00 pm

Dec. 16 - Blue Christmas 7:00 pm

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service 9:00 pm

Indigenous Christmas Eve Service (Time TBA)

**Please note that Eastside
offices will be closed from
December 25-31, 2021.**

Winter 2022 event dates:

Community Dinner

January 27

February 24

March 24

April 21

Film and Faith

January 28

February 25

March 25

April 29



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will resume on December 5! For the safety of young ones, we will be continuing on Sundays online with materials being delivered to parents through our weekly email. Are you interested in receiving family ministry resources to your inbox each week, let Becca know! Text "SunSchool" to 306-517-6797 to register for Sunday School each week.

Potluck

Eastside is hopeful in resuming our end-of-the-month potlucks in the new year. With COVID protocols in place, we look forward to sharing meals and interacting with our lovely community friends!



Office Hours and Visits



In January, Russell looks forward to continuing office hours - possibly in a coffee shop! Join him for regular visits bi-weekly. If you are interested in home visits, please contact Russell or our office.

Glen Elm Food Donations

Thank you to everyone who has donated to Glen Elm School lunches! Supporting young students with lunches makes a difference, and Eastside is continuing to accept donations on Sundays and in-office.



Christmas Cookies from Munch



\$20 for 24 cookies (8 of each)

Gingersnaps, Shortbread, Coconut Macaroons

\$14-18 9x13 tray of Christmas Bars

Buttertart, lemon, toffee and nanaimo options

Contact: catering@munchinregina.ca | 306-502-5113

"Concerned About Homelessness?" Update

Thank you to all who took action and sent letters to the government following changes made to SIS that put people with low-income at a disadvantage. To learn more about changes the Sask. government made following backlash, please click the link below:



[Click here to find out more about this SIS update!](#)



Eastside Prayer Services

Did you know that Russell holds prayer services throughout the week? These services are typically streamed to Facebook Live, but we will also be in-person in the new year! Are you interested in attending our prayer services at the LSC?

Please view our weekly schedule:

Tuesdays at 12:00 pm
Wednesday at 8:45 am
Thursdays at 4:00 pm



We appreciate all of those who give to Eastside and are thankful to all of our givers! Eastside has experienced shortfalls in our giving this year. We would like to gently remind our friends that we continue to have regular expenses and appreciate your continued support. We have many ways to donate!

- We accept e-transfers! If you would like to donate this way, please make the password something we can easily guess. These offerings can be sent to our email, eastsideunited@sasktel.net.
- We still accept cash/cheque, which can be sent to the Eastside office at our mailing address below.
- Signing up for regular giving through PAR is easy! Give Becca a call at the office or send us an email and we will be more than happy to help you get set up with pre-authorized remittance monthly donations!

Horizons: The Newsletter of Eastside United Church

3018 Doan Drive, Regina, SK S4V 1M1 306.761.0556

eastsideunited@sasktel.net

www.eastsideunited.ca

Follow us on twitter @Eastside_united;

Like us on facebook (Eastside United Church)

