

Experience God's Presence

We gather in smaller groups during the week at various times and places, to care for one another and study the Bible together. On Sunday, we come together as a large congregation to prayerfully express our worship to God and enjoy the inspiration of relevant and practical learning from the Bible. Between those smaller gatherings and larger celebrations, we represent God among the people with whom we live in our homes and neighborhoods, and with whom we work.

Our prayer is that you will experience God's presence and the care of God's people as we spend this hour together and that the decisions you make today will help you live as an honorable member of the family of God. If you would like more information on how to get involved with a Small Group, feel free to speak to an usher.

To Become a Christian

- Believe that Jesus, God's son, died for your sins and rose again from the dead.
- Accept God's forgiveness for, and turn away from your sins.
- By faith, make Jesus Christ the Saviour and Lord of your life.
- Publicly declare your commitment to Christ.

You can accept him by faith through praying like this:

"Oh God, I acknowledge that I have sinned against You. I am sorry for my sins and I am willing to turn away from them. I now receive Jesus Christ as my Saviour, and accept Him as Lord of my life. From this moment on, I will live for Him. In Jesus' name. Amen."

If you have prayed this prayer, thereby receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, then you have become a follower of Jesus.

It is important that when you receive Christ's love and forgiveness you tell someone about it just as soon as possible. Tell a pastor and one or two close friends; it will help seal this act of faith in your mind and heart.



Crossroads
Mennonite Brethren Church

A place where God and people meet

Sunday Worship Services
9:45am
Sunday School
11:15am

231 Kitson St.,
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2H 0Z4
Phone: 233-8435
e-mail: office@crossroadsmb.ca
Website: www.crossroadsmb.ca

Pastor couple:
Marvin & Edith Dyck
Pastor's Office: 170 Marion St.
Phone: 253-9685
e-mail: pastor@crossroadsmb.ca
Monday to Thursday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Apprentice:
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Welcome to Crossroads MB Church!

Sunday, July 22, 2018

*"The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, "The LORD is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."
Psalm 92:12-15*

Songs of Praise & Worship

Worship Team

Pastoral Prayer

Marvin Dyck

Offering

Children's Feature

Testimony

Scripture Reading

Psalm 92

Message "Fresh and Green, Bearing Fruit at Every Age" Marvin Dyck

Song of Response

The Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Prayer



You are invited to enjoy snacks and visiting on the front lawn of the church immediately following this morning's service

Today at Crossroads

Prayer in the church office beside the sanctuary at 9:15am this morning. All are welcome.

Nursery care during the message for children ages 1-3 in basement room

Crossroads records and posts its services to a secure site to allow our church family, who are unable to attend, to join in worship

Crossroads strives to maintain a scent-reduced environment

Crossroads Information

Next Sunday, July 29—You are welcome to Crossroads' Sunday morning worship service at 9:45am followed by snacks and visiting on the front lawn of the church.

Last October, Crossroads Thanksgiving Offering was collected for Mennonite Disaster Service. We donated over \$1,700 to MDS! They have sent a thank you letter as well as donated a book to us with inspiring stories of the many years that MDS has helped people. The note is on the bulletin board.

Crossroads has fostered friendship with Catherine Place for many past years through Christmas caroling there, some residents attending our church, etc. Justin, director at Catherine Place phoned Crossroads and is hoping that several people from Crossroads can help them out for the next two weeks. Catherine Place is having their elevators out of service for the next 2 weeks. This means that many of their residents are not able to climb stairs to other floors, so they are confined to their own floor. Therefore, **they have an immediate need for tenant companionship - someone who could come and spend about half an hour visiting a resident** (or 2 or 3 residents!). If you can spare a few hours in the next 2 weeks, contact Justin at Catherine Place.

Crossroads music teams are looking for new members! If you feel like you have a gifting in this area or would like to learn, please contact Karla, Erin, or Elise.

Our 2019 church retreat speaker is Paul Kroeker, one of the leaders of C2C, our Mennonite Brethren church planting arm. He will speak based on his book *In the Way of Jesus*. While we have this book in our library, you may wish your own copy so you can read it in advance of his time with us in May 2019. If you give Karis \$20, she'll get a book for you directly from Paul. Or if you wish, you can buy it on Amazon.

Ten Thousand Villages Plaza Drive location welcomes applications for Assistant Store Manager based in Winnipeg. For more information about this position, visit tentousandvillages.ca. To apply, please submit your resume to winnipeg.plaza@villages.ca

The Canadian Conference of MB Churches invites applications for the position of executive assistant. The executive assistant is a full-time position that provides administrative support to the national director, Elton DaSilva. Included in this is administrative support to the CCMBC Executive Board and the Board of Faith and Life. All interested applicants should provide a cover letter and resume by email to Elton DaSilva at communications@mbchurches.ca. Applications will be reviewed as received until a qualified applicant is found. Full the job posting at jobs.mbherald.com.

MCC Canada welcomes applications for Executive Assistant to the Associate Director of Programs, term position based in Winnipeg. Applications are accepted until July 13. For more information and to apply, please visit mcccanada.ca/executive-assistant-programs

Mclvor Ave MB Church has 2 job opportunities. 'Shared Ministry Coordinator' - .3 position 1 yr term, and 'Community Care Pastor' - .7 position. See details on our foyer bulletin board.

Come ride Eden Foundation's Head for the Hills cycling fund-raiser on Saturday, Sept 8, starting at Morden's Colert Beach. Two routes to choose from. Full details at edenhealthcare.ca.

UGM Faith Learning Centre is looking to hire an Adult Ed Teacher for Math and Science. It is a .6 FTE position starting in Fall. See www.gospelmission.ca under employment opportunities. If interested, please print our Missionary Application Form from our website, submit the reference forms to your references, and submit your application with resume to: faith-learningcentre@gospelmission.ca, attention: Principal Nelson Gonzalez.

MDS Update: We received a letter this month from James and Dalphine Fields of Elkview, WV. They are one of 10 households benefiting from a new access bridge built by MDS volunteers.

"The June 2016 flood hit us hard," Dalphine wrote. "There was a culvert that placed in the creek over 20 years ago, we have been noticing that it was starting to rust out. The flood did hit it hard but it didn't completely wash it out. Not only did we hold our breath while crossing the culvert but so did the nine families that live above us."

A new bridge was installed by MDS volunteers last winter. Then, last month, high water stuck their community again. Dalphine reported that "the creek rose fast and as high as our new bridge...The good news is the bridge held up fantastic! We both were able to go work the next day, where the water receded and the bridge held strong."

"There are not enough words to truly express our deep-felt gratitude for the work that you do and for the volunteers who donated their time and the partners who funded the cost," Dalphine said. Praise be to God!

Message Outline

Fresh and Green, Bearing Fruit at Every Age Psalm 92

The song (Steve Bell):

I wrote this song for my mom on the occasion of her becoming a senior citizen. Although my mom has experienced many dark days and years on account of a recurring anxiety disorder, she has also had many bright days and years of wellness and good health. I wrote this in the midst of happy years Howison & Bell, *I Will Not Be Shaken* Signpost 2015, 96

"This *Song for the Sabbath* is proof enough, if such were needed, that the Old Testament sabbath was a day not only for rest but for corporate worship (...Leviticus 23:3), and intended to be a delight rather than a burden." Kidner, *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries: Psalms 73-150* InterVarsity 1975, 334

There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of Sabbath rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a Sabbath to the LORD. Leviticus 23:3

A. We stay spiritually alive, spiritually productive at every age by

1. Immersing ourselves daily in our relationship with God 92:1-2

"Psalm 92 stands in celebration of what I would call a 'long haul' kind of faith. Right from the opening verses, it is all about giving thanks for the steadfastness of God's love, and doing so with music and with steady, rhythmic, even liturgical prayer. In all likelihood, the phrases 'in the morning' and 'by night' point to a pattern of regular, ordered daily prayer: the sort of praying that is nurtured through sustained practice, such that morning and evening are each incomplete without moving to God in prayer. This is the sort of prayer life, in fact, most of us attempt to cultivate again and again over the course of many years, until one day (provided that we keep chipping away at the discipline...) it is finally just *there*. This practice is a big part of the 'long haul' work-a-day kind of faith that is ours as Christians." Howison 94

2. Speaking (singing) of God's love and faithfulness:

a) awe 92:1-5

"To look up, in true worship as in verses 1-4, is to be made not only 'glad' (4) but thoughtful, awed by the scale of God's design (5)." Kidner 335 "... 'works' is used as a summary term for God's deeds in creation (8:6; 103:22; 104:24, 31) and in the history of salvation (74:12; 77:14; 90:16)." Mays 299

b) gladness by finding God's hand in events around us 92:4

"[I]t is right to give God thanks and sing His praise; but here we go further and call it *good*; good, no doubt, in the sense that, in love, He values it, as He valued His creation; but also in the sense that it uplifts and liberates us. We are *made...glad* by the works of God (4) and by His ways (2) in proportion as we give our minds and voices (4b) to expressing the wonder of them." Kidner 335

c) Recognizing the uselessness and danger of other paths, resisting their allure with a focus on God 92:6-9

The wicked may grow like weeds... 92:7, *Good News Translation*

"[T]o be blind to all this [God's design] is to become 'like the beasts that perish' (49:10, 12, 20), which is the literal force of the word *the dull man* (6). It has nothing to do with mental capacity; only with the use of it." Kidner 335 "...the wicked... do not understand that their prosperity has no future (vv. 5-7)." Mays, *Interpretation: Psalms* John Knox 1994, 298.

"It isn't very sexy or flashy, this long haul stuff. Other methods and styles and ways of being give the illusion of flourishing prosperity - 'the wicked sprout like grass and all evildoers flourish' (v. 7) but in the end, they all collapse on themselves. In contrast, the long haul kind of faithfulness yields something with roots deep enough to sustain real growth." Howison 94

3. Keeping on keeping on, content with growth at the pace of a tree 92:10-12

"That kind of growth is long and slow, and virtually impossible to measure day by day. That kind of growth is about a patience that refuses the allure of the quick fix." Howison 95

"That kind of growth is not always easy. In fact, tucked right into the text is a touch of what could easily become arrogance.... 'Don't mind me... I'm just quietly growing stronger here in my righteousness. Just wait and watch me flourish, while the evildoers get theirs....' If Psalm 92 doesn't go quite that far, you can see how someone might begin to slip into such a mindset. That sort of attitude isn't steadfastness of belief or true righteousness of life, but rather something closer to self-righteousness. Pray with the psalmist, but beware the trap." Howison 95

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for uswhile we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son... Rom 5:8,10 Jesus said, 'Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing' Lk 23:34

If your enemies are hungry, feed them... Romans 12:20, *New Revised Standard Version*

B. The Result: In old age 92:10-15

1. Re-commissioned and re-committed to serving God

You have poured over me fresh oil 92:10, *New Revised Standard Version*

"*Fresh oil*, in such a context, speaks eloquently of a renewed anointing...or consecration, to serve God. There may be the additional thought of preparing a 'living sacrifice', since the verb is used elsewhere not for anointing but for moistening the meal-offering with oil before presenting it at the altar (Ex. 29:40...)." Kidner 336

2. Rooted in God 92:12, 13, 15

"*Flourish*, in both verses [12,13], is the same verb as 'sprout' [flourish - *NIV*] in verse 7, making a telling contrast to it which is intensified by the further details of the picture. The *palm tree* is the embodiment of graceful erectness; the *cedar*, of strength and majesty. Their natural dignity and stability are enhanced here by the honored place they are pictured as occupying and the protection they accordingly enjoy (cf. 52:8)...[T]he connection between *the house of the Lord* and the flourishing of the righteous is explained in the promise of Isaiah 40:31 (AV): 'They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength....' Kidner 336-7 "The temple trees were living reminders of God's invisible, mysterious blessing which was operative in them and in his people." Tate, 38

Message outline continued next page....

Message Outline Continued

3. Fresh and green - not brittle - flexible to adjust to God-sent change 92:12-14

"Here we are called away from the self-righteousness which inevitably yields something less 'fresh and green' and more grey and brittle. The long haul kind of faith cultivates a people who are at once elders *and* children of God; aged and seasoned and disciplined, yet playful and productive and able to bend and move whenever the winds of the Holy Spirit blow. It is a great and paradoxical image." Howison 96

"Instead of a static and obstructive permanence, hardly more desirable than the transience of verse 7, this is a satisfying climax. It is not the greenness of perpetual youth, but the freshness of age without sterility, like that of Moses whose 'eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated' (Dt. 34:7); whose wisdom was mature and his memory invaluablely rich. It is a picture which bodily and mental ills must often severely limit, but which sets a pattern of spiritual stamina for our encouragement and possibly our rebuke." Kidner 337

4. Bearing fruit in old age: praising God "with our lives" (Kidner 337) 92:14-15

In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap, showing that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him 92:14-15 NRSV

"The final verse returns us to the keynote of the psalm, which is not the contemplation of our prospects but the praise of God. The opening verses called us to declare this (2) with our lips; the conclusion, with our lives. *To show* (or declare) *that the Lord is upright* is the crowning phrase to which verses 10-14 lead up; i.e., that by our vitality we may not only sing but 'be' (in terms of Eph. 1:12, AV), 'to the praise of his glory'." Kidner 337

"The happy and flourishing old age of the righteous...is a strong indication of God's faithfulness and truth, showing, as it does, that he keeps his promises and never forsakes those that put their trust in him." *Pulpit Commentary: Psalms* Vol. II, Eerdmans 1962, 233

5. Announcing God's utter goodness (no wickedness) 92:15 proclaiming, 'The LORD is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him.' 92:15

"The meaning of [wickedness] is usually given as 'unrighteousness/evil/injustice/wrongdoing.' The word suggests the idea of...coming up short/lacking, or failure....The negative construction points to the positive dependability of God." Tate, *Word Biblical Commentary: Psalms 51-100* Word 1990, 463