

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

Web site: www.pgimf.org

November 30th, 2014

Tony Tremblett Ruin, Reformation, Redemption, Restoration

Advent I

Worship leader: Janice Kreider

Music: Catherine Cooper

Accompanist: Ruth Enns

Usher: Erna Friesen

Last Sunday Thomas Bergen spoke on "Liturgies of the University" as part 3 in his sermon series. The cultural liturgies of the Mall (Sept. 28) and the Stadium (Oct. 26) demonstrate that religious and secular worship are nearly indistinguishable. The University isn't as secular as it claims; even professional programs presume an educational purpose of human development. Campus activities shape the character of students beyond the classroom, starting with orientation weeks that teach overindulgence and discrimination. The Menno Simons Centre offers counter-cultural liturgies, such as gratis duties, common meals, and bible study groups, which build a community of UNlty in Christ and diVERSITY of backgrounds and studies. 1 John 5:21 reminds us to keep ourselves from idols. [KH]

PGIMF News

December 7 Sing-along Messiah

Advent II

December 14 Rosie Perera

Advent & the Book of Revelation / Advent III

December 21 Jenna Veenbaas

Mary / Advent IV

December 28 Andre Pekovich

Carpe Diem

Membership in PGIMF At PGIMF you are welcome to participate fully in congregational life. We see membership in the church as valued and desirable; we receive it gratefully as affirmation of our mutual desire to serve God and walk with one another. Anyone interested in church membership please contact one of the church board members listed at the bottom of this page.

New friends

We're so pleased to welcome Rod and Kathi Suderman as regular attenders at PGIMF. They would like you to contact them at (kll contact information available from webmaster upon request)

Wider Church

Abendmusik Vespers You and your friends are invited to the Abendmusik Choir Advent Vespers - an hour of peace and devotion for Advent. Tonight at 8:00 pm in Vancouver at Knox United Church (5600 Balaclava St.) Offering to Menno Simons Centre.

CMU Palestine/Israel tour Canadian Mennonite University extends an invitation to Mennonite Church Canada pastors to participate in a tour of Jordan and Israel/Palestine from April 29 to May 18, 2015. Guides Sheila Klassen Wiebe (Associate Professor of New Testament at CMU) and Gerald Gerbrandt (President Emeritus and Professor of Bible Emeritus) will take you to see significant Biblical sites where pilgrims have for centuries gone to encounter God. You will meet contemporary Jews, Christians and Muslims caught in the current conflict, and hear from organizations dedicated to nurturing reconciliation. See www.cmu.ca/met2015 for more details.

RECORDING THE SERVICE

Please note that we now record the response time after the sermon. You are encouraged to share your thoughts as fully as you feel led with the proviso that no privacy can be guaranteed. The response time will not be posted to the website. You are encouraged to bring forth private issues during the time of sharing and prayer, which will continue to be not recorded.

Moderator—Henry Neufeld (604-946-3961); *Worship*—J. Evan Kreider (604-228-1217);
Pastoral Care—Laura & Sven Eriksson (604-946-2345); *Recording Secretary*—Diane Ehling (604-904-1380);
Music—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430); *At Large*—Veronica Dyck (604-290-1627); Travis Martin (604-603-7843);
Congregational Co-ordinator (bulletins)—Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007)

Mennonite World Conference MWC encourages congregations in the U.S. and Canada to partner with each other so that churches with fewer resources and congregations with recent immigrants can also send representatives to the upcoming assembly (July 21-26, 2015 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania). Whether or not you plan to attend, consider supporting the gathering by partnering in this way. Costs are split between MWC and both congregations. More info at <http://www.mwc-cmm.org/pa2015partnership>

Regent College Free Lecture The Free Lecture series at Regent College continues with a lecture by Dr. Douglas Farrow (McGill) speaking on The Problem of Pelagianism in Ecclesiology Does it matter how we worship or what we offer in worship? One of the great questions that arose in the Reformation concerned the problem of Pelagianism at the heart of the Church, in its doxological life. Professor Farrow will explore this question from the perspective developed in his recent book, Ascension Theology. With Alan Torrance responding and moderated by Ross Hastings. Monday December 1st at 7:30 pm in the Chapel at Regent College.

Regent College Poetry Reading Come hear a reading by one who has made the incarnational poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins his life's work WORLD AS WORD will be read by Richard Austin, a British actor who has spent much of his life studying and performing the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins, in a free public reading at 4:30pm in the Regent chapel on Thursday, Dec. 4th.

MCC Approaching the Christmas season, we are reminded of people in need in our communities, particularly those without shelter or food. The Abbotsford Food Bank seeks to provide food for people who would otherwise go hungry, but is often faced with the challenge of limited stock during the holiday season – this year, their stock of food items has reached a 15-year low. In response to this need, MCC is committed to donating food to the Abbotsford Food Bank, and calling on our supporters to generously donate food items. Among the most needed items are canned meat and fish, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, and canned fruit. Bring your food items to the MCC Centre on Gladys Avenue – at the front of the Thrift Shop, or at the back at the donation drop-off area – and the donation drop-off and front area of the MCC Plaza on South Fraser Way. Food donations will also be accepted at the MCC Centre Grand Opening on Saturday, December 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ 'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these

things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.' [NRSV]

Isaiah 64:1-9

¹ O that you would tear open the heavens and
come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your
presence—
² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your
presence!
³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not
expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your
presence.
⁴ From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵ You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy
cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷ There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered* us into the hand of our
iniquity.
⁸ Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people. [NRSV]

Communion Prayer

- Men** Before we take the body of the Lord,
before we share his life in bread and wine,
we recognize the sorry things within:
these we lay down.
- Women** The words of hope we often failed to give,
the prayers of kindness buried in our pride,
the signs of care we argued out of sight:
these we lay down.
- Men** The narrowness of vision and of mind,
the need for other folk to serve our will,
and every word and silence meant to hurt:
these we lay down.
- Women** Of those around in whom we meet our Lord,
we ask their pardon and we grant them ours,
that every contradiction to Christ's peace might be laid down.
- All** Lord Jesus Christ, companion at this feast,
we empty now our hearts and stretch our hands,
and ask to meet you here in bread and wine
which you lay down. AMEN

(adapted from Sing the Story, 172, from the Iona Community)

Psalm 80:-1-7, 17-19

Reader 1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Congregation: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Reader 2 O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among themselves.

Congregation Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Reader 3 But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

Congregation Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Holy Communion....obliges you to see the person next to you as wanted by God.

- Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury

dear point grey mennonite church

I still cherish the best memories from when I stayed at the Menno Simons Centre in 2000/1 for one year. It is still a most memorable year not only because I met my future wife but also because I felt at home, truly at home in Vancouver embedded in a Christian community at MSC. Now, about 14 years later I would like to return to West Point Grey. Things have changed, e.g. I got married to that girl and together we raise two wonderfully naughty boys aged 3 and 5.

Working as a high school history teacher in Switzerland (Zofingen) I was granted an educational leave next spring in order to prepare the implementation of the bilingual program at our school, i.e. I'll teach history in English (not German). When I contacted West Point Grey Academy down the road they were very open and we agreed on an internship.

Here is my request: We are looking for an appropriate accommodation nearby. I know from experience that at the Menno Simon Centre only one bedroom accommodation is provided. Would it be possible to post this email at the pinboard of the church? Or attach it to a weekly letter? Do you know anyone with open doors / a two bedroom apartment for rent in the West Point Grey neighborhood?

a Swiss family (2 adults, 2 kids) from Mid-April till Mid-June 2015 searching for a 2 bedroom apartment / house for rent please contact me:v (available from webmaster)

many thanks in advance for your help!

kind regards
Michael Schwaller