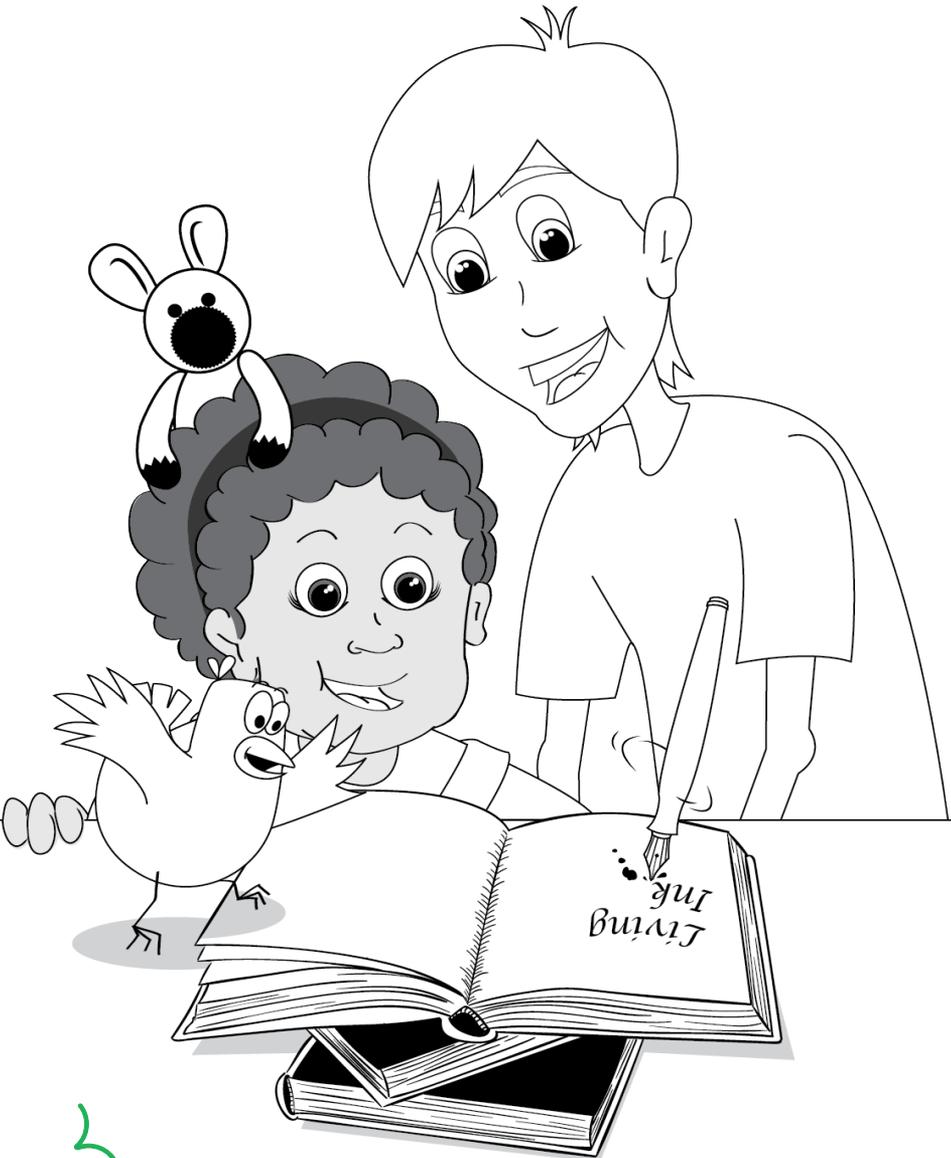


LIVING INK

Lent At-Home 2016



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by Elsie Rempel

Illustrations and layout by Irma Sulistyorini
Character design by Megan Kamei

Living Ink: Lent At Home Resource

2016 Lent to Easter
Lectionary Cycle C

Mennonite Church Canada

600 Shaftesbury Blvd, Winnipeg MB R3P 0M4
Toll-free: 1-866-888-6785
P: 204-888-6781
F: 204-831-5675
E: office@mennonitechurch.ca
W: www.mennonitechurch.ca

By Elsie Rempel, Formation Consultant
Illustrations and layout by Irma Sulistyorini
Edited by: Lois Bergen and Dan Dyck
Sources: Lent writing team, Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA

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Music Sources and Abbreviations:

HWB = *Hymnal: A Worship Book*

STJ = *Sing the Journey*

STS = *Sing the Story*

BMS = Bryan Moyer Suderman

Borrow or purchase these hymnals from CommonWord, www.commonword.ca, or at these direct links:

Hymnal: A Worship Book www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/502,

Sing the Journey www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/70,

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For a catalogue of audio CDs and links to samples and purchase opportunities by Bryan Moyer Suderman, see www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/275, or call 1-866-888-6785.

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Introduction

By Elsie Rempel

During the season of Lent, God's children enter a darker season to reflect on the life and death of Christ in special ways to prepare and share in the light of the resurrection at Easter. Ever since 325 CE, these preparations have lasted forty days each year, from Ash Wednesday to Easter Eve (not counting Sundays). They have been a time of spiritual cleansing that reminds people of Jesus' forty days in the wilderness, during which he prepared for his ministry. During Lent, many Christians practice withdrawing from society's hustle and bustle to identify with Jesus.

This year, our Lent materials for Sunday worship have the theme, "Living Ink," because this year's team was gripped by the story of God, the grand Author, inviting the people of God to join in the writing of the grand narrative of Jesus' ongoing kingdom. This booklet, and the practices it models, can help your family enter and participate in this story.

This resource for the home is adapted from the congregational resource for Lent, which is available in the bi-national Mennonite Church resource: ***Leader - Equipping the Missional Congregation***, prepared for us by Mennonite Church British Columbia. Use the resource whenever and however it fits into your home's routines and life stage realities. If your family has younger children, feel free to simplify, shorten, and paraphrase the prayers and pondering thoughts. To use this booklet for daily worship times, repeat the litany for each day of the week, read the daily scripture recommendation, and choose an appropriate response activity.

Pondering Questions

The pondering questions are designed to help each household member hear God speak in a personal way. Enjoy a short time of silence after each question and feel free to share or ponder these thoughts in your heart. The collection of recommended worship items listed below can help you make a holy space in your home and your hearts for God during the season of Lent. Adapt them to suit your home.

Songs for the week

Consider singing or listening to one of the suggested songs to open your devotional time. Good music has a way of preparing our hearts to worship.

Worship items:

1. **Cloth:** A festive cloth to cover a worship area. A purple table cloth would reflect both the royalty of Christ, our Lord, and the attitude of repentance, which dominates the season.
2. **Story Display:** Arrange some important family and church family books (perhaps photo albums and directories) on the worship table.

3. **Poster:** Create a poster of a storyboard that grows each week.
4. **Candles:** Set one larger white Christ candle in the centre and place six candles in transparent candleholders around it. Use simple tea lights or purple candles, representing repentance, to reinforce the Lenten theme.
5. **Family Lent Journal and/or Scrap book:** in which you can join in God's Living Ink project by drawing and writing responses to reflective activities.
6. **A Bible and this booklet.** Families with younger children may want to read from the International Children's Bible, the New International Reader's Version, The Adventure Bible, or the NIV Beginners Bible.
7. **Music Resources** such as *Hymnal: A Worship Book* (HWB), *Sing the Journey* (SJ); To sing along with Bryan Moyer Suderman's music, visit iTunes or www.commonword.ca/go/360

Getting Ready for Lent

Living Ink - Shrove Tuesday

February 9, 2016

“**Shrove**” comes from the old word, *shrive*, which means ‘to hear a person confess their sins and receive forgiveness.’ On Shrove Tuesday, it was traditional to make pancakes to use up the eggs, fat, and sugar that were in the house, because people used to give up eating these foods for Lent.

- **Invite** another family for a pancake supper, or invite a friend or family to your congregation if it already hosts such an event.
- **Decorate** your dining area together using balloons and cloth or paper banners to give it a festive look.
- **Write** words of praise, such as *Alleluia, New Life, Joy, Love Wins*, onto the banners.



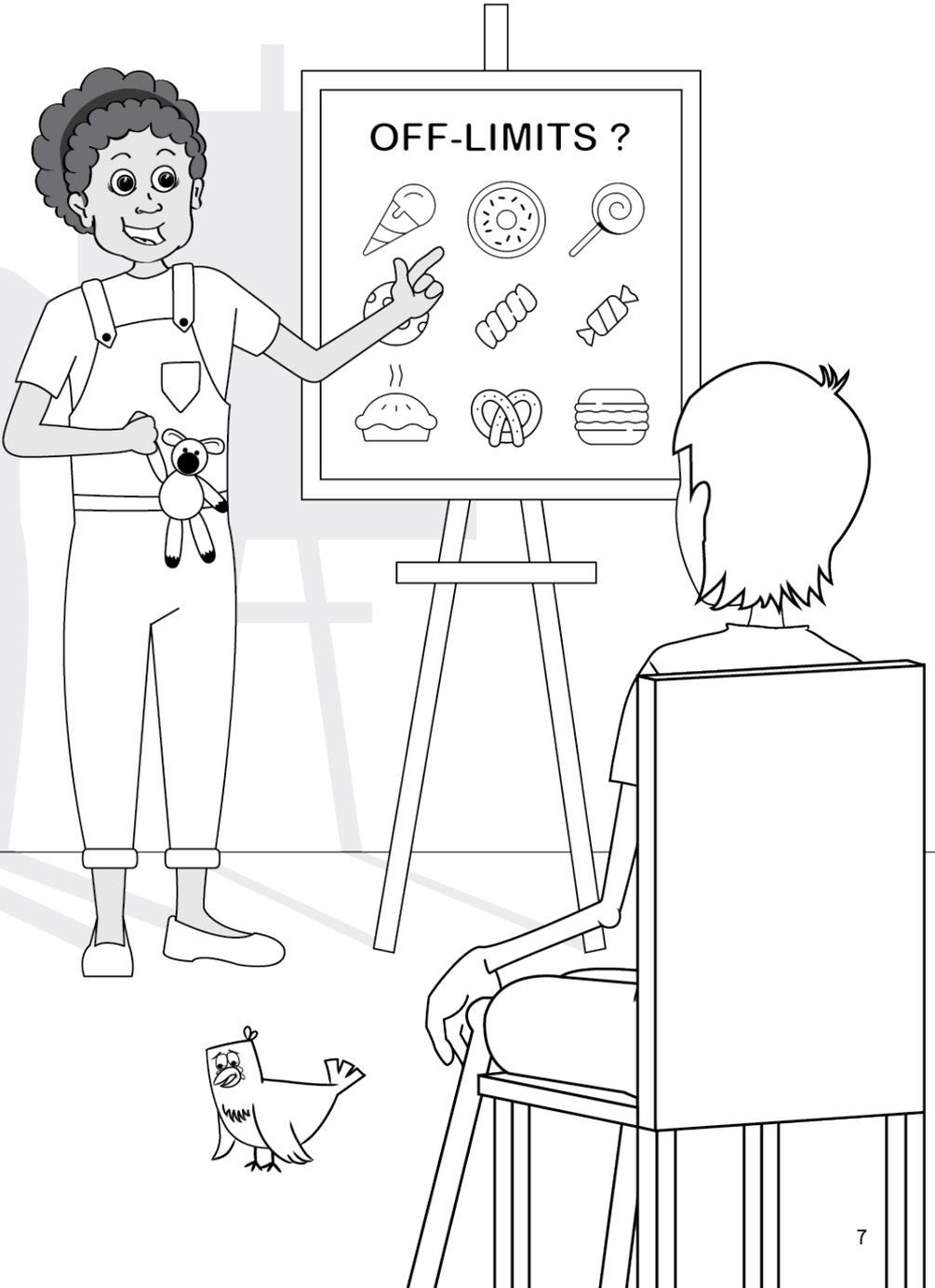
- **Promise** to encourage each other on your Lent journey this year.
- **Sing** STS 62 *Create in me a clean heart*, STS 59, *From ashes to the living fount*, STS 55 *Love the Lord your God*, or *Prayer of Agur* (downloadable at www.commonword.ca/go/361) or listen to the songs, *A New Heart* and *I will Trust in you* on the CD, *A New Heart*, by Bryan Moyer Suderman, ©2009 SmallTall Music, available for purchase at www.commonword.ca/go/360
- **Send** half of the banners home with the invited family.



Living Ink - Ash Wednesday

February 10, 2016

- **Take down** the celebration banners from your Shrove Tuesday supper. Fold them up carefully and bury them, or store them in a dark place until Easter morning.
- **Discuss** how Lent helps us look at ourselves and choose activities that renew, or strengthen, our faith in God. Lent helps us journey with Jesus and remember his journey to the cross and the resurrection.
- **Pick** some food or activity, from your normal family routine, that you would like to replace with faith-building activities during Lent.
- **Read God's Word: Psalm 51:1-17**
- **Write a letter**, in which you thank and tell God about your family Lent plan for the next 40 days. Brainstorm freely and respect the ideas of your children. Children are excellent teachers about what it is like to trust others with their lives and often have a very deep and intuitive trust toward God. Prepare your hearts to learn from them as you worship together and learn to trust God more completely this Lent.
 - Your plan could be something like taking the time for daily devotions with this booklet during the time of a TV show you usually watch, or going for family walks where you practice listening for sounds of God at work. Perhaps there are foods you will give up eating, or activities you will stop participating in, so you can donate the saved money to a ministry project.
 - Pick a family giving project that will help others feel like part of God's saving story from https://donate.mennonitechurch.ca/projects/by_theme
 - Write the letter to reflect your family plan and the attitudes with which you are entering Lent. Create a small amount of ashes and use them to 'sign' your fingerprints on the letter.
 - Burn up the letter, in a safe manner, as a way of sending it to God. Watch the smoke rise and disperse.
- **Sing**, or listen to, your Shrove Tuesday song again.
- **Call** the family you shared Shrove Tuesday with and tell them about your plan.
- **Set up** your Lent Worship Centre, using the suggestions in this booklet.



Living Ink : Letting go of the Pen

Lent 1, February 14, 2016

Call to worship

One: As we gather, let us be drawn into the safety of your big love.

All: Lord, you are the one we can always trust.

Candle Lighter: God, as we light this first candle of Lent, we ask you to write our stories. Amen.

Listening to God's Word

Read Deuteronomy 26: 1- 3, 4-11; Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16; Romans 10: 8b-13; Luke 4: 1-4, 5-8, 9-13.

Pondering thoughts

1. I wonder what the Bible characters learned about trusting God in today's reading.
2. I wonder what keeps us from trusting God today.
3. I wonder how we could show that we trust God when we are tempted.

Songs for the week

STS 62, *Create in me a clean heart*; HWB 532 *I am leaning on the Lord*, or *Groove with God*, by Bryan Moyer Suderman (CD-*Can't Keep Quiet*, www.smalltallministries.com/music/recordings/cant-keep-quiet/).

Closing prayer

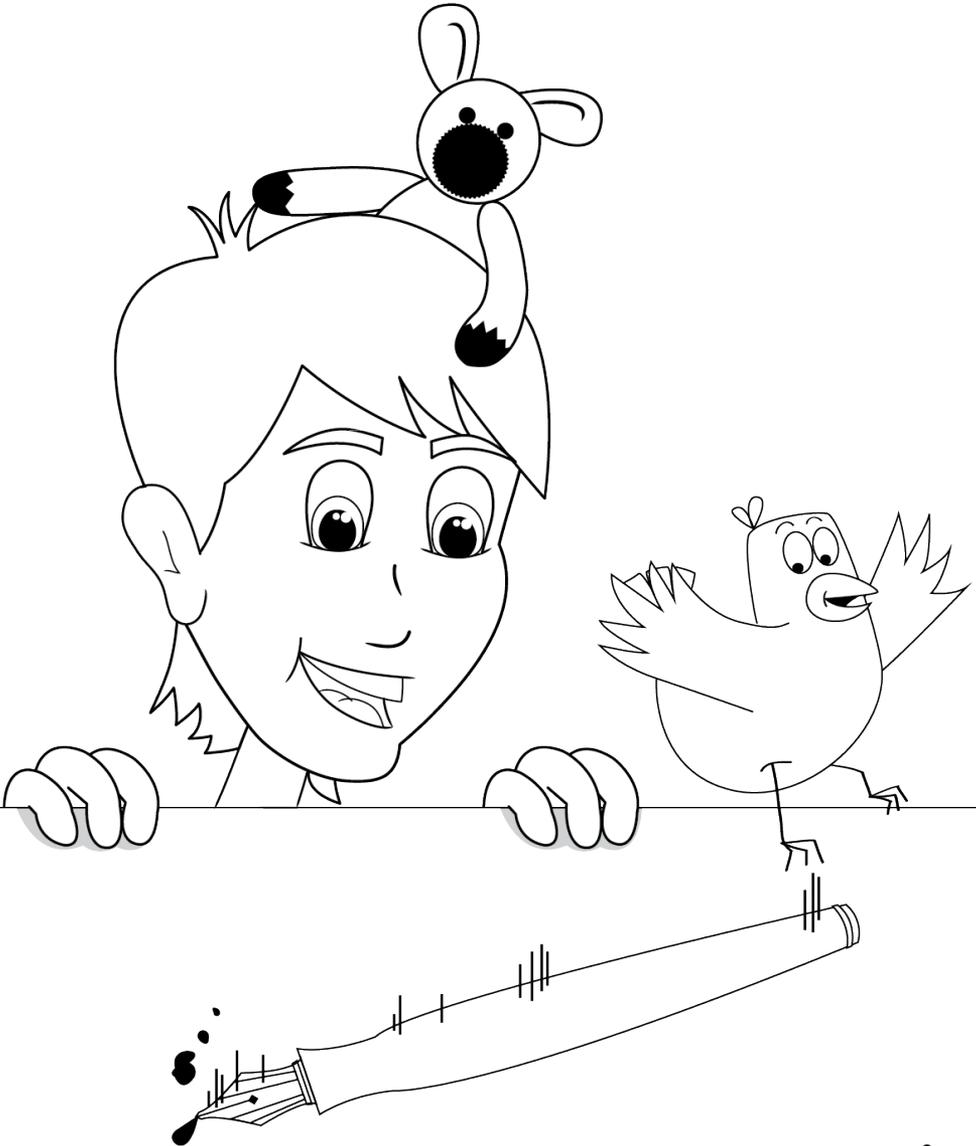
One: Saving God, we remember how you cared for your people when they were in danger. Thank you, God, for continuing your story with us.

All: May God's story live on and shine through us even after we blow out this first Lent candle. Amen.

Suggested activities

1. Read one of the listed Scripture texts.
2. Start your Lent Poster. Title it Living Ink. Decorate the border with colourful ink splashes. Draw a large circle in it. Divide it into six wedges, one for each week. In the first wedge, draw a pen falling out of a person's hand.
3. Start a Lent scrapbook about the Bible texts you will read this Lent.

4. Ask an old person in your family or church about a time they trusted God to shape their life story, and record it your Family Lent Journal.
5. Look for signs of God's creation depending on God's care. Find some ways of joining God in caring for that part of creation.
6. Create your own play or puppet play about God's care in a hard time.
7. If you haven't done so yet, pick a family giving project that will help others experience God's care from https://donate.mennonitechurch.ca/projects/by_theme.



Living Ink: Finding Light in Dark Text

Lent 2, February 21, 2016

Call to worship

One: As we gather, let us be drawn to the saving light of Christ.

All: Lord, your light gives hope to our darkness and fears.

Candle Lighter: Lord, as we light this second candle of Lent, we ask to see your beauty rather than our fears. Amen.

Listening to God's Word

Read Psalm 27: 1-6; Psalm 27: 7-14; Philippians 3:17 – 4:1; Genesis 15: 1-6, 7-12, 17-18; Luke 13: 31-35.

Pondering thoughts

1. I wonder what situations seem dark today.
2. I wonder how looking for the light of God helps us be hopeful.
3. I wonder who can help us live as hopeful, light-sharing friends of Jesus.

Songs for the week

HWB 558, *When the storms of life are raging*; STS 31 *Jesus, be the center*; *Groove with God*, by Bryan Moyer Suderman (CD-*Can't Keep Quiet*, www.smalltallministries.com/music/recordings/cant-keep-quiet/).

Closing prayer

One: Hope giving God, we seek you, and are grateful that you still wait for us, like you did in Bible times. Help us be strong, take courage, and wait for your light.

All: May God's hope-inspiring love shine on us and through us even after we blow out this second Lent candle. Amen.

Suggested activities

1. Read one of the listed Scripture texts.
2. Continue your Lent Poster. In the second wedge, draw a light which is shining in a dark place.
3. Check out the flashlights in your home and renew your household's emergency

response or fire safety plans. Describe or draw these plans in your scrapbook.

4. Continue your own family Lent journal with stories of how God has helped you be hopeful. Search the Bible texts to find out who God helped to have courage and be patient.
5. Do something where the benefit will take years to show: Plant a tree or or help a family or church group achieve a sustainable income. See donate.mennonitechurch.ca
6. Decide on, and then do something as a family that family that requires hope and partners with what God is already doing.
7. Read stories of courage in *Plant a Seed of Peace*, by Rebecca Seiling, (Herald Press, 2007). www.commonword.ca/go/362



Living Ink: Leaping off the Page

Lent 3, February 28, 2016

Call to worship

One: Lord, we come to this place to worship you, the author of our story.

All: When we drink in the good news of your story, we turn into living words that jump off the page into a love filled life.

One: As we light this third candle of Lent, we join your story making and thank you for this opportunity. Amen.

Listening to God's Word

Read Psalm 63: 1-8; Isaiah 55: 1-4, 5-9; 1 Corinthians 10: 1-5, 6-13; Luke 13: 1-5, 6-9.

Pondering thoughts

1. I wonder what it is like to cry out to God for help.
2. I wonder how God satisfies our thirst.
3. I wonder how we can participate in God's story today.

Songs for the week

STS 63 Herr, full mich neu (God, fill me now); HWB 495, O let all who thirst; or Giving and Growing in the Garden of God,

by Bryan Moyer Suderman (CD-Detectives of Divinity, 2011,

www.smalltallministries.com/music/recordings/detectives-of-divinity/)

Closing prayer

One: Loving God, forgive us for not trusting you to help us. Forgive us for pretending we can do things on our own. Help us to trust and learn from you, so that your love leaps off the pages of our lives.

All: May God's story embrace us and shine through us, even after we blow out this third Lent candle. Amen.

Suggested activities

1. Read one of the listed Scripture texts.
2. Continue your Lent Poster. In the third wedge, draw something leaping, like popcorn.
3. Use pictures from a sports catalogue or flyer to make a collage of things that help you leap. Add it to your scrapbook.
4. Continue your own family Lent journal with stories of how seeking God has helped

you join God's story joyfully. Search the Bible texts to find out how God helped the characters in them do so.

5. People who share the rich satisfaction of living as children of God are filled with joy for God's good gifts in creation. Find a way of showing your joy and appreciation for the world we live in.
6. Make a big bowl of popcorn and invite someone who needs company to help you eat it.
7. Plan an evening where everyone in the family plays the music that makes them feel like leaping. Enjoy.



Living Ink: Turning over a New Leaf

Lent 4, March 6, 2016

Call to worship

One: Lord, we come to praise you for giving us chances to return to you and start over.

All: We thank you that you help us start good new chapters in your big story.

One: As we light this fourth candle of Lent, we think of your love in the new beginnings we can share. Amen.

Listening to God's Word

Read Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32; Joshua 5: 9-12; Psalm 32: 1-5, 6-11; 2 Corinthians 5:16-17, 18-19, 20-21.

Pondering thoughts

1. I wonder why it is so hard to say "I'm sorry" when we've done wrong.
2. I wonder why it feels so good after we've been forgiven.
3. I wonder how we could celebrate our new beginnings with God.

Songs for the week

STJ 27 *God of the Bible*, or HWB 491 *Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling*, or *Beloved Child*, by Bryan Moyer Suderman (CD-Can't Keep Quiet, www.smalltallministries.com/music/recordings/cant-keep-quiet/)



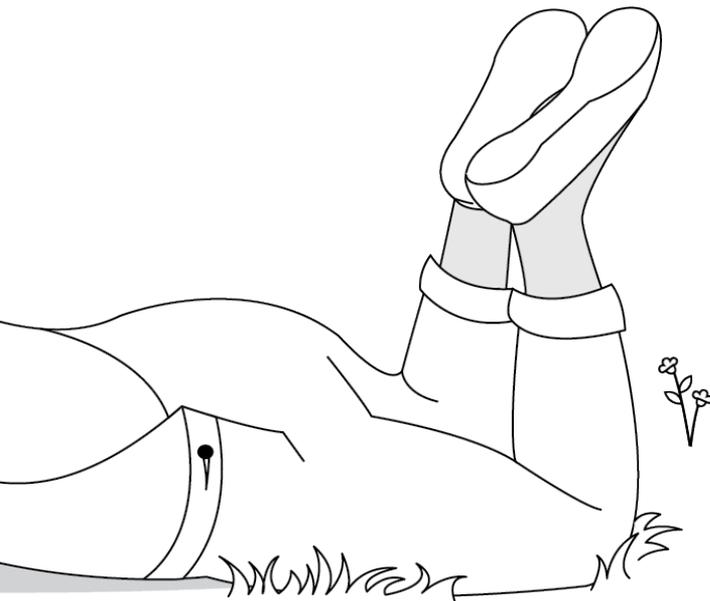
Closing prayer

One: Thank you, God, for helping us begin new chapters with you whenever we are sorry for our poor choices.

All: May God's story shine on and help us accept and celebrate each other's new beginnings, even after we blow out this fourth Lent candle. Amen.

Suggested activities

1. Read one of the listed Scripture texts.
2. Continue your Lent Poster. In the fourth wedge, draw an open book with a page being turned.
3. Continue your Lent scrapbook by adding current pictures of new beginnings to it. Add images that remind you of the new beginnings in this week's Bible texts.
4. Tell your parents about some new beginnings for which you are thankful and get them to write it down in your family Lent journal. Then celebrate with a snack.
5. Ask a senior or elderly person to share their memories about new beginnings.
6. Spend some quiet time pretending you are the prodigal son returning home and enjoying your father's loving hug.
7. Enjoy the picture book, *Enemy Pie*, by Derek Munson © 2000, Chronicle Books, San Francisco, about how celebrating can lead to forgiving and becoming friends with your enemies (www.commonword.ca/go/363)



Living Ink: An Unexpected Twist

Lent 5, March 13, 2016

Call to worship

One: Lord, we come as your children, to worship you who surprises us with new life in places we see only sadness..

All: We praise you for surprising us with life and hope.

One: Accept our thanks as we light this fifth candle of Lent. Amen.

Listening to God's Word

Read Isaiah 43: 16-21; Psalm 126: 1-3, 4-6; John 12: 1-8, Philippians 3: 4b-8a, 8b-11, 12-14.

Pondering thoughts

1. I wonder what unexpected things God is doing now.
2. I wonder how Jesus transforms sadness and loneliness.
3. I wonder how we can let God's love overflow through us today.

Songs for the week

HWB 397 *God loves all his many people*; STS 49 *I will come to you in the silence*; *I Can Give With Joy*, by Bryan Moyer Suderman (CD-My Money Talks, 2007, www.smalltallministries.com/music/recordings/my-money-talks/)

Closing prayer

One: Generous and loving God, we are amazed by the unexpected ways you keep on giving. Help us notice and join with the surprising, good things you are doing.

All: May God's Spirit bless us and flow through us to surprise others even after we blow out this fifth Lent candle. Amen.

Suggested activities

1. Read one of the listed Scripture texts.
2. Continue your Lent Poster. In the fifth wedge, draw an open book or a face with signs of surprise on it.
3. Add to your Lent scrapbook pictures of things that have filled you with holy laughter. If the Bible texts you read this week surprise you, draw pictures of those things as well.

4. Surprise someone who can't return the favour by spending some money you have been saving on them. Record what happens and how you feel about it in your Family Lent Journal.
5. Plant some barley for Easter, or start some sprouts to show how new life and joy springs forth from seeds.
6. Interview an older person from your congregation, or a grandparent, about when they partnered with God in an unexpected way.
7. Wash each other's feet or hands around the supper table and imagine what it was like when Mary washed Jesus' feet with perfume.



Living Ink: The Plot Thickens

Lent 6, Passion Week, March 20, 2016

Call to worship

One: Lord, we worship you because you are good and because your love endures forever, through days that are happy and days that are sad.

All: Lord, we thank you for your never-ending love.

One: Blessed is the One who appears (replace with “loves”, or “dies” as the week progresses) in the name of the Lord! As we light this sixth candle of Lent, we confess Jesus as Lord and bring ourselves to God. Amen.

Listening to God’s Word

Read Luke 19: 28-40; Psalm 118: 1-9, 10-18, 19-29; Isaiah 50: 4b-6, 7-9; Philippians 2: 5-11.

Pondering thoughts

1. I wonder what it was like to be a disciple in that first passion week.
2. I wonder what Jesus was feeling and praying about this week.
3. I wonder just how big God’s love is.

Songs for the week

HHWB 58 *This is the day*, STS 73 *Jesus is coming*; and *He Has made Me Glad* (Leona Von Brethorst) <https://us.songselect.com/songs/1493/he-has-made-me-glad>

Closing prayer

One: Almighty and gracious God, for loving us with all our weaknesses, we are thankful. Inspire us to love others as you love us.

All: May God’s love help us live out of Jesus’ healing, redeeming love, even after we blow out this sixth Lent candle. Amen.

Suggested activities

1. Read one of the listed Scripture texts.
2. Complete your Lent poster this week. The final wedge could be filled with question marks and some symbols of the week: palm branches, bread and cup, towel and basin, cross and tomb.
3. Ask someone with an older but durable vehicle if your family can wash their car

for them. Add pictures of them to your Lent scrapbook alongside of pictures of the people you meet in this week's Bible texts.

4. Water and quietly watch the barley or sprouts you planted last week grow. Invite Jesus' spirit to watch with you and be quiet.
5. Read the Passion stories from pages 248-269 in *Shine On: A Story Bible* www.commonword.ca/go/152
6. On Maundy Thursday, wash each other's feet, using the instructions on the next page. Add your reflections on it to your Lent journal.
7. On Good Friday, use your Lent candles and the litany on the following pages to help you understand why Jesus had to die and why God raised him back to life.



Maundy Thursday Foot Washing

March 24, 2016

Maundy comes from the Latin, "dies mandatum" which means "the day of the new commandment".

On that first Maundy Thursday, Jesus surprised his disciples by washing their feet. This was something that servants regularly did when people came indoors, because the Palestinian roads were dusty and their sandaled feet were dirty. But Jesus was their teacher! By kneeling in front of them and washing their feet like a servant, Jesus taught them something very important. Jesus expects his followers to be like servants to each other, instead of trying to boss each other around. Listen to the Gospel words: "After he had washed their feet...he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.'" John 13: 12-14.

Even though Canadians don't wear sandals and walk on dusty roads in March, we can still wash each other's feet, obey Jesus' new commandment, remember what Jesus taught us about serving others, and experience/imagine what it is like to have our Lord Jesus, the Son of God, kneeling in front of us and washing our feet.

Can your family participate in a congregational foot washing service on Maundy Thursday? If not, here's a way you can have one in your home.



Getting Ready:

Invite the family that joined you on Shrove Tuesday, to join you for this activity.

Gather and/or Prepare:

- A stack of towels, one for each person who is participating.
- A large bowl, or plastic dishpan, to catch the water.
- A jug filled with warm water for pouring over each other's feet.
- Music CDs with suitable songs to accompany the activity.
- Readers to practice reading the scripture and prayers so that they will communicate well.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening song

STS 49 *I will come to you in the silence*, *Sing The Story 2*, CD, © 2008 Herald Press, track 18 www.commonword.ca/go/364

Scripture Reading

John 13:1-20.

Leader's Words of Invitation:

Because Jesus, our Lord and Teacher, washed all of his disciples' feet, and told us to wash each other's feet, we invite you to do so with us, even if your feet aren't dusty and dirty. When Jesus washes us, his love cleans us, even on the inside, where bad attitudes can dirty our lives. Because we follow Jesus, we can help each other be cleaned by Jesus' love. **(Pause)**

(Quietly take off your shoes and put them to the side so no one can trip on them. Take a moment to breathe out all the ideas and attitudes that make it hard for you to follow Jesus.)

Leader: Lord Jesus, you washed the feet of your disciples to show us what you expect us to do. Let our participation in this foot washing strengthen us for your service, and fill us with your fairness, love, and peace.

All: To you be glory forever. Come, Lord Jesus.

Sing, or listen to

STS 40 *We will follow*, *Sing the Story 2*, CD, © 2008 Herald Press, track 15 www.commonword.ca/go/364

Foot washing instructions

Everyone sits around the worship centre during the foot washing.

The oldest person goes to the foot washing chair and invites the youngest one to come and sit on the chair with the basin in front of it.

Kneel down in front of the child, place a dry towel over one arm, take one bare foot in the non-dominant hand, make sure it is centered over the basin, and pour some warm water over the foot from the pitcher.

Put down the pitcher and rub the foot gently. Rinse with some more water from the pitcher.

Dry the foot gently, and then do the same with the other foot.

Then the child washes the feet of the adult in the same way. After this is completed, get up and give each other a hug.

This process continues until everyone's feet have been washed. If there is an odd number of people, the first person to wash feet can also be the last.

After everyone's feet have been washed and dried, they pass the peace of Christ to each other, by shaking hands and saying, "The Peace of Christ be with you."

All return to their seats for the final blessing.

Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, for showing us how we can kneel and serve each other. Thank you for honouring our willingness to serve and to be served. Thank you that your peace and love fill us as we obey and follow you. And now we pray the prayer Jesus taught us: (recite the contemporary version of the Lord's Prayer together, HWB 731).

After this foot washing ritual it would be good to have a snack to remember the way Jesus ate with his disciples. If you wish to have a Seder meal together, and celebrate Passover, a number of resources for this can be found at www.commonword.ca/go/365. Seder is a traditional Jewish feast ritual that marks the beginning of the Passover festival.

Good Friday Litany

March 25, 2016

This Friday is considered "good" because nothing, not even Jesus' painful death, could overwhelm God's saving love and grace.

Getting Ready:

1. Make a copy of the litany page for each reading participant.
2. Prepare for this service with some quiet worship music and silence.
3. Light all the Lent candles and the Christ candle.
4. Write or draw personal confessions on slips of paper before beginning the litany. (Keep them for the middle of the litany.)
5. Add a metal bowl to your worship centre, in which you can burn up your confession slips.
6. Have family or household members take turns snuffing out the candles.
7. Have family or household members take turns reading the "One" part.



Good Friday Litany

One: When we hate or are unkind to each other, the world becomes a darker place.
(Extinguish one candle)

All: Jesus taught us to love each other.

One: When we want everything for ourselves, the world becomes a darker place.
(Extinguish one candle)

All: Jesus taught us to share with others.

One: When we scare or bully others, the world becomes a darker place.
(Extinguish one candle)

All: Jesus taught us that love is better than fear.

One: When we are jealous of others, the world becomes a darker place.
(Extinguish one candle)

All: Jesus taught us contentment.

One: When we lie, the world becomes a darker place. **(Extinguish one candle)**

All: Jesus taught us honesty.

One: People's hatred, greed, selfishness, jealousy, and dishonesty placed Jesus on the cross. **(Extinguish one candle)**

All: For Jesus' friends the world seemed like a very dark place.

One: In the darkness, Jesus said, "O God, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." **(Extinguish one candle)**

Sing

HWB 257 *Were you there* or SS 84 *So much wrong* while you safely burn up your confessions, lighting them with the still-burning Christ candle.

(The litany will continue on Easter Morning)

Holy Saturday

March 26, 2016

Holy Saturday is a day for silence and quiet anticipation of Easter Sunday joy. The sadness of Jesus' sacrificial death lingers with us, but we already anticipate resurrection joy. Let your young children know that we will soon be singing alleluias! This is a day where Easter eggs are traditionally painted, so we can crack them open and eat them on Easter Sunday, like the tomb that held Jesus' body was opened on Easter morning.

Activities to enrich this day in a silent, anticipatory way:

Take the chocolate that you may have been resisting during Lent and quietly chop it into chunks. Use the chunks in your favourite chocolate chip cookie recipe, and quietly shape the cookies into rock shapes, so they can remind you of the rock closing the tomb in which Jesus' body lay. Allow the smell to remind you that Easter and its joy are almost here. Save the "Rock-Chocolate" cookies for Easter breakfast and beyond.

Bake "Empty Tomb" buns. Use your favourite dinner roll recipe and quietly shape each dinner roll around a marshmallow. Seal it tightly, place the seams facing up on the pan, and wait for them to rise. Quietly wonder what will happen. As the roll bakes, the marshmallow will dissolve and leave a mysteriously empty, but sweet, tomb. Save these "Empty Tomb" buns for sharing the good news, "Christ is risen! He is not in the grave!" with each other on Easter morning. *(If you save the unbaked rolls in the "tomb" of the refrigerator and take them out early Sunday morning, they will taste even better, especially if you give them an hour or more to warm up before baking.)*



Easter Sunday

Easter, March 27, 2016

Easter Litany

One: On that first Easter, God raised Jesus to life and the world became a brighter place.
(Light Christ candle)

All: Jesus' love came to lighten the world.

One: Jesus' love shines through each of us and makes the world a brighter place.
(Light one candle)

All: Jesus' love shines through loving actions and words.

One: When we share with those who have less, the world becomes a brighter place.
(Light one candle)

All: Jesus wants us to share.

One: When we trust God and are no longer afraid, the world becomes a brighter place.
(Light one candle)

All: Jesus wants us to trust.

One: When we are content with what we have, the world becomes a brighter place.
(Light one candle)

All: Jesus will supply our needs.

One: When we are honest, the world becomes a brighter place. *(Light one candle)*

All: Jesus helps us be truthful.

One: When Jesus lives in us, the world becomes a brighter place. *(Light one candle)*

All: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
(Add your own spontaneous prayers here.)

Listening to God's Word

Read John 20: 1-18, or *Shine On: A Story Bible*, "Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene," p. 273.

Pondering thoughts

1. I wonder why Mary didn't recognize Jesus.
2. I wonder which part of today's story you liked best.
3. I wonder how this story makes you feel.

Suggested song

HWB 58 *This is the day*, HWB 275 *Lift your glad voices*, SS 89 *Christ is alive*, or listen to *In Christ Alone* <http://www.worshiptogether.com/songs/in-christ-alone>

Easter Prayer of Thanks

Dear God and Father of our living Lord,
we praise you for the power of your forgiving, life-giving love!

We thank you for raising Jesus from the dead.

We thank you for the wonderful gifts of forgiveness and salvation that we can enjoy because of Jesus.

We thank you for the Bible, which helps us see how God's love transformed the lives of Jesus' first followers.

We thank you for Christians through the ages, who have loved and followed you as they were transformed by your love.

We thank you for inviting us to follow you, too, and for your willingness to transform our lives and faith communities.

We love you and want to follow your son, Jesus.
Thank you for continuing to live in us and with us.

Thank you that your love, which is stronger than sin and death,
can and does lead through suffering to joy.

Amen. Alleluia!

Feasting with Jesus

Enjoy your Easter Breakfast. The breakfast Jesus served his disciples after he was raised from the dead consisted of fried fish and bread. What will you eat?

Closing Ritual

Leader: Thank you God, that you are like Living Ink and help write our stories into your great big, world-saving story. As the stories of our lives continue, help us always remember our place in your Great Story of healing, saving love.

One: God of all creation, help us be welcoming, generous, and hopeful as we share your love with others, even after we blow out these candles.

All: Amen. Alleluia!





Please help us serve you better by
completing a short 5 question evaluation at
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LivingInk>



**Mennonite
Church**
Canada

600 Shaftesbury Blvd
Winnipeg MB R3P 0M4
Toll-free: 1-866-888-6785
P: 204-888-6781
F: 204-831-5675
W: www.mennonitechurch.ca

Available at
CommonWord:
Toll free: 1-877-846-1593
info@commonword.ca