



Mennonite  
Church  
Canada

Resource Centre

# From our Churches

*Church: Peace Mennonite, Richmond MC*

*Date: November 2005*

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## 25<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary

Worship Service

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord!

**Congregation: Praise the Lord! Give thanks to our God!**

L: God has blessed us and brought us to this time.

**C: God has blessed us and brought us to this place.**

L: In our 25 years together, our Family Tree has weathered winters, storms, periods of drought.

**C: In our 25 years together, our Family Tree has enjoyed gentle sunshine, nourishing rains, the leisurely warmth of summer blessings.**

L: For 25 years, God has nurtured and fed us, caused our roots to sink deep.

**C: For 25 years, God has shown us his grace, growing fruit of abundant varieties.**

L: For 25 years, God has made us his witnesses in the world.

**C: For 25 years, God has placed us in loving fellowship with one another.**

L: Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord!

**C: Praise the Lord! Give thanks to our God!**

L: Praise the Lord for 25 years! Praise our God for 25 more!

**C: Praise the Lord for evermore! Oh, praise the name of the Lord!**

WELCOME & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

HWB 12 *"Come Let Us All Unite to Sing"*

HWB 99 *"We Praise Thee O God"*

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

CHOIR AND CHILDREN

*"This Little Light of Mine"*

*"Lift Your Light"*

LOOKING BACK

Sharing

Litany

L: We are a remembering people.

C: **We look back to God's saving acts  
in the Creation, the flood, the covenant, the Exodus, the Incarnation, the  
Crucifixion, the Resurrection, the Church.**

L: And we remember that God has chosen us, baptized us, welcomed us into the family  
of Jesus Christ, rooting our story within this eternal story.

C: **I will open my mouth with a parable;  
I will teach you lessons from the past –  
Things we have heard and known,  
Things our ancestors have told us.  
We will not hide them from their descendants;  
We will tell the next generation  
The praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,  
His power, and the wonders He has done.**

(Psalm 78:2-4)

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

*"Open Our Hearts Lord"*

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 17:7-8

SERMON (PART 1)

"Our Family Tree: Deep Roots"

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

*"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"*

LOOKING AROUND

Sharing

Litany

- L: Gratitude for the past, hope for the future,  
And faith in God's guidance and loving care for today.
- C: **Sing about a fruitful vineyard:  
I, the Lord, watch over it;  
I water it continually.  
I guard it day and night  
So that no one may harm it.**  
(Isaiah 27:2-3)

#### LOOKING AHEAD

Sharing  
Litany

- L: As a remembering people, we give thanks for our past,  
And thus we face the future with hope.  
Our roots shape and define our fruits.
- C: **In days to come Jacob will take root,  
Israel will bud and blossom  
and fill all the world with fruit.**  
(Isaiah 27:6)

#### CHOIR

*"Anthem of Gratitude"*

#### SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 27:2-6

#### SERMON (PART II)

"Our Family Tree: Fruitful Branches"

#### CONGREGATIONAL SONG

*"Faithful One"*

#### OFFERING

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- L: Almighty God, we give you thanks  
for the work you have done in this place  
over the past twenty-five years.
- C: **We give you thanks for your love and faithfulness.  
When we called on your name,  
You made your presence known to us.**
- L: When we prayed, you heard us.
- C: **When we proclaimed and heard your Word, and shared your Sacraments, you  
have been in our midst.**

L: You have accepted our humble sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving.

C: **You have listened to our confessions and forgiven our sins.**

L: You have sent your Holy Spirit to heal and comfort our hurts,  
Our sorrows, our infirmities, and our losses.

C: **Continue to empower us with your Spirit, O Lord,  
That we might proclaim your Gospel to all people.**

L: Help us as we move into the next twenty-five years  
To witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ  
In all that we do and say.

C: **Show us how we may give care and support to the needy,  
Love and mercy to the broken and forlorn.**

L: Break down those prejudices and barriers which divide us,  
And make us all one in your Son, Jesus Christ.

C: **Show us new ways of loving one another and those around us.**

L: Renew us by the Spirit, so that we might be challenged to move  
Beyond our ruts, our apathy, and our anxieties of inadequacy.

C: **Grant that we may continually grow in the Spirit,  
Being rooted firmly in your love.  
Empower us to joyfully and fruitfully  
Carry out your mission of service and love  
In our neighbourhood and abroad.**

L: Continue to comfort, heal, and lift up the broken  
And afflicted among us. By the promise of your presence,  
Bring us your healing love.

C: **Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

L: Bring us at last to the joy of your eternal kingdom, where,  
with the faithful of this church who have gone before us  
and with all your saints, we may evermore praise your name.

C: **Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

L: Blessed Lord, draw our hearts to you, guide our minds,  
fill our imaginations, control our will and make us wholly yours.

C: **Use us as you will, to the glory of your holy name  
and the welfare of your people;  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen**

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

HWB 118 "Praise God from whom All Blessings Flow"