

Order of Worship: Sunday January 28, 2024

10:00 am – In-person worship

Pastor: Jim Brown

Worship theme: *Building the church*

Prelude

Welcome

Call to worship

1 Peter 2:4-10 (NIV) As you come to Him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to Him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.”

Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Opening prayer

Opening Hymn: #308 HWB – I Love Thy Kingdom Lord

Prayer of Confession/Affirmation: #921 VT

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 (NIV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us.

Hymn #397 VT – The Church’s One Foundation

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 (NIV) Gary Z

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

Message: *Caution, Church Under Construction ~ Maurice Martin*

Hymn of Response: #4 VT – Christ is the Cornerstone

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Announcements

Offering

Closing Hymn: #363 HWB – Renew Your Church

Benediction

Postlude

We welcome Maurice Martin as our guest speaker this morning. Maurice taught secondary school English in Hamilton for three years before he went to seminary at AMBS from which he graduated in 1974. Since then he has been pastor or interim pastor in MCOQ/MCEC - Full time at Elmira, Hagerman, Hanover-Chesley and Hillcrest, and short- term part time interim at Bloomingdale, Hawkesville, Shantz and Bethel. He was a Regional Minister in MCEC for five years, and retired in 2014. He has written extensively for Adult Bible Study Guide and Christian Living as well as publishing several books. He was president of Mennonite Publishing House board for ten years. Maurice taught the course Anabaptist History and Thought in the AMBS program Distance Pastoral Studies, as well as leading a variety of Christian Education workshops in the area church..

Maurice and Phyllis have two children and two grandchildren. They enjoy playing table games, reading, watching Jeopardy, walking and gardening together. They attend Mannheim Mennonite Church.

****Please join us downstairs for sermon discussion/coffee time**

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**Announcements:**

**Refugee Sponsorship Fund.** We are now receiving donations for our Refugee project. If you are writing a cheque make it out to St Agatha MC as usual and then designate it for the Refugee Sponsorship fund. If you want to donate securities [stocks, mutual funds] but aren't sure how to do that talk to Pastor Jim, or you can also contact Abundance Canada. You can also talk to the committee members: Karen G, Masuma B, Rudy & Yvonne S, Donna J or Heather M. Last week we had a donation of \$2,000 that was accidentally omitted from the email version of the Bulletin.

**\*Sunday, Feb 4, we will be having a potluck followed by our annual meeting and dessert.**

**We are planning a Family night to MCC's Material Resource Centre in New Hamburg** on Friday April 12th for a tour of their facility and also to pack Hygiene Kits. In order to pack the kits, we need to bring funds or supplies with us. You are welcome to purchase the following items for these kits. You are also welcome to give a financial donation as well. There is a box for items and a jar for spare change at the back of the church. If you would like to allocate funds and receive a tax receipt for it, please designate your offering accordingly. Here are the items to include. New items only.

1 adult-sized toothbrush (in manufacturer's packaging)

1 large bar bath soap (in original wrapper)

1 nail clipper (good quality)

1 hand towel (medium weight, dark or bright colours preferred, approx. 40cm x 65cm/16in x 26in)

1 wide tooth comb 15-20cm/ 6-8in

**Join us for Founders' Day at Rockway on Thursday, February 15.** Whether it's Chapel, the Alumni & Former/Retired Faculty & Staff Tea Reception, our Soup Supper Fundraiser or the Alumni Sports Challenge, there is something for everyone! More information is available at [rockway.ca/foundersday](http://rockway.ca/foundersday) URL for [rockway.ca/foundersday: https://rockway.ca/foundersday/](https://rockway.ca/foundersday/)

**February 13 and 15 | Ontario Livestock Exchange, St. Jacobs.** Since 1981, the Livestock Sale (formerly Heifer Sale) has raised over \$5.1 million to support the work of Mennonite Central Committee through the auctioning of heifers and other donated items. For more information, to sponsor or donate to the sale, visit [mcc.org/events](http://mcc.org/events).

**Save the date: Sunday, December** 1, evening for a Christmas Choral Concert. All MCEC churches in Wilmot Township as well as East Zorra MC and Tavistock MC are invited to participate. Each church (or combination) choir will present 2 selections on their own. Together the mass choir will sing a few selections. Steinmann Mennonite Church will serve as host; Nancy Steinmann Yantzi has agreed to serve as choral conductor for the mass choir. More details will be coming later in the year.

**Material Resources is organizing two shipments to Ukraine**, one at the end of January and one in March. Our partners in Ukraine are in need of various items such as [comforters, assorted kits and bars of laundry and bath soap](#). We are blessed to have received everything needed for January, but we still need more items for March. Your contribution can make a significant difference in the lives of those in need. Learn more at [mcc.org/get-involved/kits](http://mcc.org/get-involved/kits).

**Employment Opportunity - Rockway Mennonite Collegiate** is now accepting applications for the role of PRINCIPAL. To read the job posting, visit: [rockway.ca/employment](http://rockway.ca/employment). Applicants should send their resumes with cover letters to [careers@rockway.ca](mailto:careers@rockway.ca) by Monday, February 5, 2024. URL for [rockway.ca/employmenthttps://rockway.ca/contact/employment-opportunities/](https://rockway.ca/contact/employment-opportunities/)

**The MCC New Hamburg Thrift Centre is searching for a new associate** to join their [Softline](#) team. Don't miss out on this chance to be part of something meaningful! Go to [mcc.org/careers](http://mcc.org/careers) for more information and to apply.

**Do you know an 18-30 year old looking for job experience** in their field? **Serving and Learning Together (SALT)** is a year long service experience with one of MCC's international partners. SALT service opportunities for 2024-2025 include placements such as tech support, community development, public health, project management, teaching and childcare. To explore SALT assignments, click [here](#). Ready to go? [Apply now](#).

**Upcoming Worship Services:**

Jan 28: Maurice Martin

Feb 04: Pastor Jim – We will be having a potluck followed by our annual meeting and dessert

Feb 11: Pastor Jim

Feb 18: Pastor Jim

Feb 25: Catherine Hunsberger

Mar 03: Pastor Jim