

OUR COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER

As believers in Christ, we understand the covenant we are making to each other here at Crossroads to be this:

- I will encourage you to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, by urging you to live a life full of love and good deeds.
- I will offer myself to God so that, in serving him, I might serve you spiritually, physically, and emotionally.
- I will seek to live at peace with you, guarding the unity of the Body. This means that I will speak to you and about you only in ways that will build you up.
- Because God has forgiven me and keeps forgiving me, I will forgive you when you hurt or offend me.
- I will walk alongside you in your joys and sorrows. In the same way as I accept your help and your gifts, I will wholeheartedly offer you my help and my gifts.
- I will encourage you, pray for you, help you, be patient with you, and work to say and to do what is beneficial for you.
- I will meet regularly with you, sharing the personal, practical, and financial cost of being a part of God's work here at Crossroads and beyond.

*Lord, make our love
increase and overflow
for you,
for each other,
and for everyone else.*



CONTACT US



Church Office
231 Kitson St.,
Winnipeg, MB, R2H 0Z4
204.233.8435
www.crossroadsmb.ca

Joe Welty, Pastor
204.253.9685

WELCOME TO
CROSSROADS MB CHURCH
AUGUST 3, 2025



WELCOME TO CROSSROADS MB CHURCH AUGUST 3, 2025

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.
Psalm 107:1*

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship	
Worship in Song	
Sharing & Prayer	Marvin Dyck
Offering	
Videos of Junior Camps at Simonhouse Bible Camp	
Scripture Reading	<i>Hosea 4:1-11; 11:1-11; 13:9-14</i>
Message	Marvin Dyck
Communion	
Worship in Song	
Apostle's Creed	
Announcements and Lord's Prayer	

*You are encouraged to invite someone to your house for lunch or coffee sometime!
There will be no snacks at church today.*

*-Please note that Crossroads Sunday worship services
are live, recorded and posted on-line.
-Crossroads strives to be a scent-reduced environment*

CROSSROADS INFORMATION

Information for this Sunday morning worship service, August 3 at 10:00am:

In-person—We welcome you to 231 Kitson at 10:00am.

On-line—Crossroads worship service will be livestreamed at 10:00am and can be viewed anytime on Youtube.com. Search for 'CrossroadsMB Wpg'.

Pastor Joe is away the next few weeks. If you have any pastoral questions or prayer requests, please send them to Nellie or Edith or the church office.

Food Offering—you are invited to bring non-perishable food items for people in need in our community. The bin is in the front east stairwell.

What's Happening @ Crossroads

Sunday, August 10—Bring a picnic lunch to eat on the front lawn after the 10:00am worship service! You are welcome to bring a bit extra to share with others.

Thursday, August 14—Quilting for MCC and Men's Coffee Time from 10:00am til noon. Everyone welcome!

Sunday, August 17—Snacks on the front lawn of the church after the 10:00am worship service!

Options for donating Electronically to Crossroads:

Through Canada Helps—see link on the church website: crossroadsmb.ca

Do you know an 18- to 20-year-old seeking to grow in their faith and personal development? Encourage them to join Seek – a transformative six-month discipleship program designed to deepen their understanding of what it means to be an Anabaptist follower of Jesus in a complicated world. The next Seek cohort will be travelling to Cambodia in January 2026. Applications close soon – [apply before Aug. 4! mcc.org/seek](http://mcc.org/seek)

A. Why do the prophets talk so much about God's judgment? Why is God unhappy with Israel?

1. God made everything. It was very good. God made us in His image. He put us in charge. Gen. 1

2. God loves humans and enjoys human companionship Gen. 3:8
...the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden. "YHWH's appearance in the garden reflects the openness of his relationship with its inhabitants." Block, *Covenant* Baker Academic, 2021, 29

3. Sin is deadly

And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." Gen. 2:16-17

"The couple's rebellious action unleashed horrific forces that caused the disintegration of the cosmic order and transformed a blissful paradise into a dysfunctional environment characterized by alienation at every level." Block 32

4. God planned to rescue humans through His chosen people

"...we may witness many evidences of divine grace in the face of human rebellion... By grace God promised an answer for the sin introduced by our first parents; it will come through the descendant(s) of the Woman (3:14-15)." Block 35

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing."^[a]

³ **I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."** Gen. 12:2-3 "[T]he entire Bible is rich in evidence of the missionary purpose of God.... God chose one man and his family in order, through them, to bless *all* the families of the earth." Stott, "The Living God is a Missionary God," *Worldwide Perspectives*, Crossman, ed., William Carey Library, 1996, p. 1-14. See also Matthew 5:14-16

5. God made a covenant with Israel with the goal of reaching other nations

See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the Lord my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it. ⁶ Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." ⁷ What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him? ⁸ And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today? Deut. 4:5-8

So be careful not to break the covenant the LORD your God has made with you. ... If you disobey me, you will quickly disappear from the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy.... For the LORD will scatter you among the nations....

³⁰ when you are suffering all these things, you will finally return to the Lord your God and listen to what he tells you. ³¹ For the Lord your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon you or destroy you or forget the solemn covenant he made with your ancestors. Deut. 4:23-31 *NLT*

B. The Rebellious Nation

“The language of love dominates once again [in Hosea 11:1-11]. But here it is not the imagery of marital love that is employed, as in chapters 1-3, but rather that of parental love. As a parent loved a child, so too God loved Israel intimately, from the moment of birth and on through the years of later life. And yet, from the very beginning, this narrative of love is expressed in a context with various discordant notes. First, the language and form of the passage imply a quasi-legal setting. Just as, under Hebrew law, a parent was required to bring a totally delinquent child to court (Deuteronomy 21:18-21), so too the Lord is bringing to court Israel, the beloved but delinquent child. Second, though the divine speech is consistently expressed in the glowing terms of love, Israel is depicted as perpetually spurning love.” Craigie 72

1. God's Charges against Israel 4:1-2

“Israel is charged with nine crimes in three different categories.” Guenther, *Believers Church Bible Commentary: Hosea, Amos* Herald 1998, 90

a) They have no integrity, love (hesed), knowledge of God

“When [integrity] is absent, people are cavalier with the truth in casual conversation, as well as when under oath... Its opposite is deceit, lies, ... perverting justice, and fickleness. People without [integrity] cannot be trusted.” Guenther, p. 91

“There is no *hesed* refers to a failure to maintain community in a wholesome, intimate, caring relationship ... *Hesed* expresses itself in acts of caring for a weaker person who is in a desperate plight.” Guenther 91

“The way to know God is to reflect on his works in creation (Psalm 100:3; Isaiah 40:28-31) and history (Exodus 6:6-8) and to acquire an understanding of his will and his ways through instruction and experience (1 Samuel 3:7; Deuteronomy 34:10; contrast Pharaoh, Exodus 5:2). To know God is to be passionate for the things about which God is passionate (Jeremiah 9:23-24) ...” Guenther 91-92.

b) Sins that violate the Ten Commandments: Cursing, Deception, Murder, Stealing, Adultery

“[T]he reference is not simply to bad language, but to the formal cursing of a neighbour in the name of God, thereby breaking the third commandment (Deut. 5:11). Craigie 31 “*Deceiving* pictures appearance and reality at odds with one another...Unwary...persons are fleeced at every turn.” Guenther 92

c) Blaming someone else 4:4,5

“Don't point your finger at someone else and try to pass the blame!” 4:4 NLT

“But we are no less responsible for refusing to follow when the leaders choose to walk in the wrong path, away from the clear direction of the gospel. In the last resort, we are responsible for our own actions, whether leader or follower.” Craigie *Daily Study Bible: Twelve Prophets, Vol. 1* Westminster 1984, p. 37

d) The consequences – i) Nature in mourning 4:3 See Genesis 3:17-18

³ Because of this the land dries up, and all who live in it waste away; the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea are swept away. 4:3 “The dire consequences in the world of nature are seen as a direct result of the collapse of the moral structure of human society.” Craigie 32

ii) a clouded mind 4:10-11

“They will eat but not have enough; they will...not flourish, because they have deserted the Lord...; old wine and new wine take away their understanding. “The moral lapses of those who are ignorant of God cloud the mind and have a deadening effect on moral judgment (4:11).” Carew, “Hosea” in *Africa Bible Commentary* Zondervan, 2006, 1044

2. A Parent's anguish – What to do? What to do?

a) God rescued His son from slavery – and His son ignored Him 11:1-2

“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. ² But the more they were called, the more they went away from me. 11:1-2

b) God gave Israel a mother's love 11:3-4

“I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks.” 11:4 NRSV “God is pictured as the child's mother, who carries the infant Israel strapped to her back or hip in a carrying pouch made of *CORDS OF HUMAN KINDNESS, ... BANDS OF LOVE*. ... What more can a child ask for? Could any mother give her child more tenderness ...? The divine Mother holds infant Israel in her lap and bends over to nurse the child (11:4c); the Lord of history suckles Israel. The metaphor breaks our stereotypes of God. ... The image ends abruptly, as though interrupted by a mother's pain at her child's ingratitude.” Guenther 179-80

c) So it's back to slavery for them! To exile! 11:5-7

Will they not return to Egypt and will not Assyria rule over them because they refuse to repent?

d) How can I do that to my own son? 11:8-9 The whole land will be a burning waste of salt and sulfur—nothing planted, nothing sprouting, no vegetation growing on it. It will be like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboyim, which the Lord overthrew in fierce anger. Deut. 29:23

“Here one must picture God, hands extended in love, sobbing at the thought of punishing this rebellious and wayward son. Pain pervades the scene.... The text assumes the punishment of exile (Hos. 11:10-11). That punishment is an expression of God's anger (5:10; 8:5).” Guenther 182-183

e) So they'll go into exile – but I will bring them back later 11:10-11

“While these lines describe Israel's return, it is not a joyful return... The Israelites respond to God's demand to return only when he utters it with the voice of a *lion*... Some had fled to Egypt as refugees (cf. ... Jer. 42-44)... God draws them back to their homeland, like migratory flocks of birds, directed mysteriously and unerringly by forces deep within. Others had been taken into Assyrian exile. These too return, frightened and insecure, but drawn by the Holy One.” Guenther 184

C. How does God's compassion work with God's justice? 13:9-14

a) Giving in to a request that's not good for them

...you said, ‘Give me a king and princes?’ ¹¹ So in my anger I gave you a king, 13:10-11

“The nation resented the insecurity of depending on leaders (judges) whom God chose. So under Samuel, they petitioned for a king ‘like other nations’ (1 Sam. 8:12). Such a leader would be able to fight their battles and provide security for the people (cf. 1 Sam. 8:20). In that respect, their request was a rejection of God as King.” Guenther 202

b) The cross – taking the guilt, suffering and punishment that humans deserve on Himself 13:14

“I will deliver this people from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction?

“I will have no compassion,... See 1 Corinthians 15:53-56

“Our Lord affirms that he will ransom and redeem Israel from the grip of death and the grave. *To ransom* means to buy the freedom of a person by paying the stipulated price for such a deliverance.... Our God will deliver mankind by fulfilling the law (Mt 3:15), removing the guilt (Jn 1:29) and personally suffering the penalties due to mankind for their sin (Jn 3:16)... God can and will ransom them from the power of the grave. He can deliver them even after death has done its worst... He will have no repentance, says the end of verse 14. There will be no regrets or remorse over this decision in the divine mind, for God has spoken and that will be that.” Kaiser, *Hard Sayings of the Old Testament* InterVarsity 1988, 221-2 “God is closing His eyes to them as death marches in. Paul (1 Cor. 15:55) shows that in invoking death and destruction He was not overwhelmed but has actually overcome this enemy in His Son.” Hindley, 715