

# Christ Moravian Church

## WEEKLY PASTORAL LETTER

Christ Church Watchword for the Year 2021

“As the deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.”

Psalm 42:1

Congregational Newsletter for the weekend of May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Sunday Worship Focus:

Jesus says, “I am the true vine, and my father is the vinedresser.” John 15:1



### *Dear Friends in Christ:*

Spring is here. On Saturday we will reveal the calendar for May, and the anticipation of gardening, planting, fertilizing, cultivating and vine-dressing will become reality. Our scripture focus for this weekend’s worship invites us to consider the presence of God’s “green-thumb touch” as a gardener. The Gardener nurtures each branch, plant, seedling, or bulb with the expectation that each will be fruitful, abundantly beautiful, and seed bearing for future seasons.

It seems our worry and concern and precautions over the serious wave of COVID-19 cases has had us feel like the “Gardner” has went on vacation. Yet might we come to realize into the next days, weeks, months, how carefully the attention of God has been to nurture the vineyard and the community. I am so heartened at the number of folks who are vaccinated and getting in line for the vaccine. So, this may be one of the ways the Gardner is preparing the seedbed for healthy fruitfulness into the next seasons.

In today’s digital newsletter you’ll find important information for the church community.

Board Chair, Bernard Amiot, offers an update in congregational events, plans, information.

Some congregational events are highlighted with the invite to a Moravian Mission Presentation on the Moravian Clinic in Ahaus, Honduras. This zoom event is planned for May 1, at 1pm and information is found within. See the event links page.

The Bible Buddies Sunday Study Group will meet again on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9am. All are welcome to come and join this thoughtful and insightful time of Biblical exploration led by the Rev. Michael Ward.

CMC Men’s Group will have its monthly virtual get-together on Sat. May 1 at 8:30am. The zoom information is included on the events links page, and guys are invited to join in for a time of fellowship, stories, devotions and togetherness.

For over a year this newsletter has been a weekly connection for the congregation, and I sense it is one of the tools that Jesus continues to use to “dress the vines” within CMC.

Springtime blessings,

Pastor Steve Gohdes

### Upcoming Events

**Mission Presentation**  
Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup>  
@ 1:00 pm  
Details are on the Events page

**“Bible Buddies”**  
Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup>  
@ 9:00 am  
Zoom details are on the Events page

**Wed. May 5<sup>th</sup>**  
District Dialogue Group for Synod meets via Zoom  
@ 7:00 pm



*Moravian Daily Text Watchword for the Week*

*Jesus says, "Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me." John 15:4*

Please check out the information items from CMC. Let's all keep safe as we navigate the next days!

**Worship Will Continue Online into the Future!**

We have all seen the staggering number of cases of COVID-19 recently, and CMC leadership has recognized the need to continue to offer online worship service into the future. At such a time as it is reasonable and safe to begin gathering in person, the Executive Board will assist in making those decisions and plans. Until then, do stay safe and get in line for the vaccination for COVID-19.

- IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE in getting registered or traveling to your Vaccination location, please contact us at the church office and a volunteer will assist.

**Suggest a Favourite Hymn!**

In continuing to include the voices and ideas of the congregation in our virtual worship experience, you are invited to suggest a favourite hymn or worship song. Our worship planning team will endeavor to find a special Sunday to include these songs and add your ideas to the planning of worship.

Email your suggestion to: [moravian@nucleus.com](mailto:moravian@nucleus.com) or Phone the church office at 403-271-2700.

Help us make a joyful sound unto the Lord!

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Moravian Clinic in Ahuas, Honduras**

Information to the upcoming celebration of the Moravian Clinic in Ahuas, Honduras on May 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 pm MDT. An attachment is included with this email, information and links are on the events page.

**Moravian Music Festival Info**

Check out the opportunities for the upcoming Moravian Music Festival to be offered virtually this year. The website can be found on the event links page.

**Weekly Reminders...**

- Please know that Pastor Gohdes continues to be available for any needs that may arise. Feel free to phone the church office (403-271-2700) to speak with us or leave a message. Or you can contact the church office by e-mail at [moravian@nucleus.com](mailto:moravian@nucleus.com) with any questions or communication.
- Indranie Perera continues to receive recycling for support of Sri Lanka. Sincere thanks to all who contribute to this worthwhile cause.
- Donations are still being collected for the Acadia Food Pantry. If you're able to assist, or perhaps volunteer some time, please contact Donna Gordon for details.

*In All Things Love...*

# Children's Worship Bulletin

*Color Me!*

## The True Vine

John 15:1-8

### Word Search Puzzle

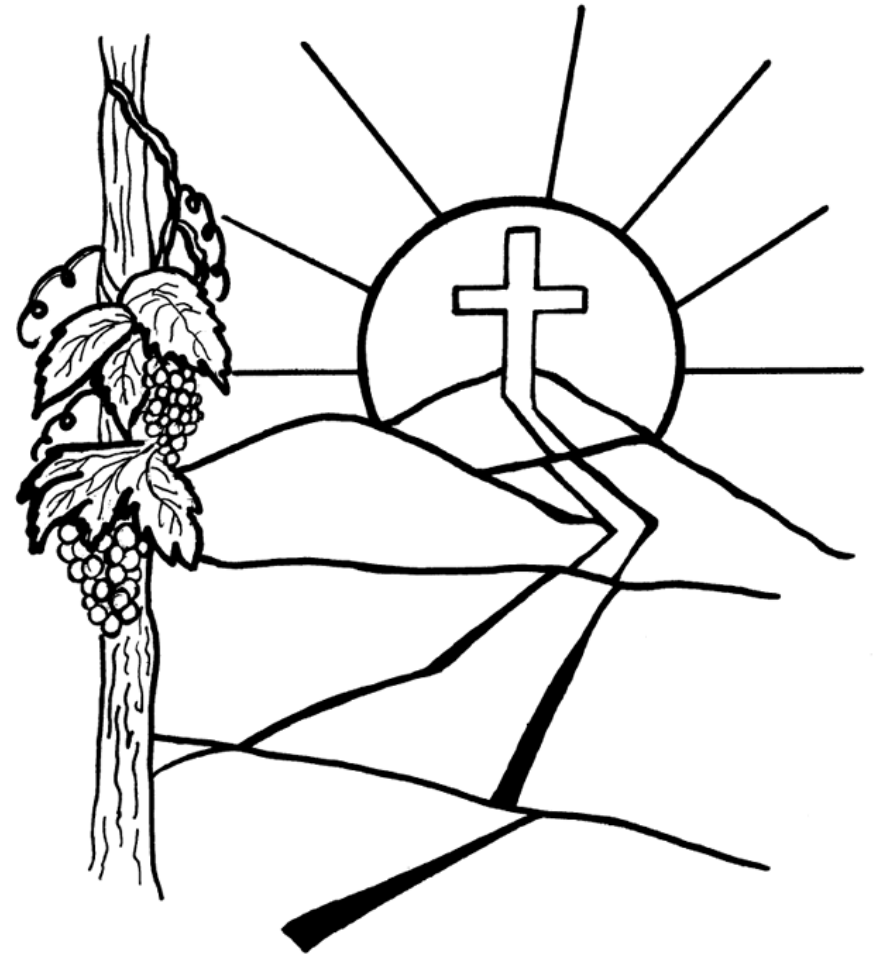
F O P Z G A R D E N E R V X R  
I N Z G H A V A K N Y W L W S  
R R S I C Z E G L O R Y U E O  
E M E J Q R V J V W I K N K C  
R Y C M E C H Y T O P U N P L  
D O U H A Q Q M E H R H M S E  
E B T H N I S B I P R Q O B A  
U A R Z S K N L D B B O T X N  
F W D A Y C Z Q M R D C W G F  
V C I G N P T T M E O D C N N  
W I U T A C G W N B T R U E T  
I O N O H A H R I E X K Z I H  
Y T R E T E U U F A X V U M O  
V J A D X B R K H R N R M H V  
Q N P Y S H T S O K F H R H X

true  
vine  
father  
gardener

branch  
bear  
fruit  
prunes

clean  
remain  
withers  
thrown

fire  
burned  
words  
glory



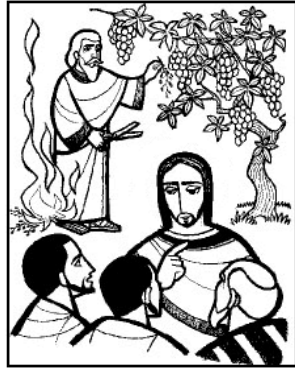
"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

John 15:5, 8 (NIV)

Christ Moravian Community Church  
Calgary, Alberta

# Word Jumble

Unscramble the four words and use the letters in the numbered boxes to solve the puzzle.



"I am the \_\_\_\_\_ vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5 (NIV)

UTRIF

BNUR

BAER

FIER

# Decoder Puzzle

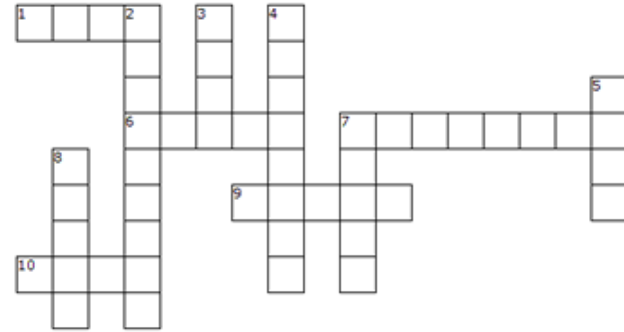
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
X	M	E	O	L	V	C	I	T	Q	D	Z	R	U	F	B	H	Y	J	A	W	P	K	N	S	G

- 22-13-14-24-3-25 \_\_\_\_\_
- 13-3-2-20-8-24 \_\_\_\_\_
- 26-20-13-11-3-24-3-13 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6-8-24-3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 9-13-14-3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 15-13-14-8-9 \_\_\_\_\_
- 16-3-20-13 \_\_\_\_\_
- 16-13-20-24-7-17-3-25 \_\_\_\_\_

TRUE	BRANCHES	BEAR	GARDENER
VINE	REMAIN	FRUIT	PRUNES

**WORD JUMBLE ANSWERS**  
 Words: FRUIT, BURN, BEAR, FIRE  
 Puzzle Solution: TRUE

# Crossword Puzzle



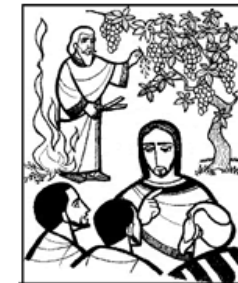
## ACROSS

- Something that is spoken
- Not dirty
- A person who works with plants and flowers
- To toss something through the air
- A plant that climbs or creeps along the ground

## DOWN

- Those who follow Jesus
- Burning flame
- Arms that grow out from the trunk of a tree
- The opposite of false
- Praise or honor
- The part of a vine or tree which is eaten

FIRE	GLORY	BRANCHES	CLEAN
DISCIPLES	GARDENER	THROW	VINE
FRUIT	TRUE	WORD	



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## CHRIST MORAVIAN CHURCH

600 Acadia Dr SE, Calgary, AB, T2J 0B8

April 29, 2021

### **Re: A Message from the Executive Board**

Spring Greetings CMC friends!

It is hard to believe that the Easter season is already behind us, and that the warm days of summer will soon be here. Wow, how time flies.

While we continue to be physically separated due to the COVID pandemic, our spiritual bonds are stronger than ever. Our frequent ZOOM gatherings, the recent Shepherd's group sessions we held in February and March, and our last council meeting are all examples of our unity and the love we have for one another.

Considering that we may be distanced a few more months, the CMC Executive Board would like to take a moment to provide an update to the congregation.

### *REALM SOFTWARE UPDATE*

As most of you know, our new Church Management Software has been implemented and is now functional. Invitations were sent to all members to create an account online. Many of you have already logged in to track the events of your small groups or committees and to stay connected with one another. Our envelope steward, Mr. Ken Schultz, has also transitioned from our previous outdated software to the new REALM platform, and encourages everyone to start making donations using the new mobile app. There is simply no easier way to manage and track your tithes and offerings in real-time than with a click of a button. Don't hesitate to ask for help if you need to, we will be glad to guide you through it.

### *DIGITAL CAMPUS MINISTRY*

Since we began recording and sharing our worship services online, we have received tremendous feedback from people within and outside of our congregation. Thanks to the hard work of our worship team, we estimate that our online worship services receive around 170 views each week. That is a tremendous accomplishment for our church and such a rapid transition. Even the Moravian Church Northern Province noted the quality of our video recordings. Indeed, because of our creative and effective presence online, the Provincial Elder's Conference has selected Christ Moravian Church to participate in a pilot ministry opportunity referred to as the **Digital Campus Initiative**. It is truly an honor for CMC to join forces with our denomination and explore new ways to enhance our scope of ministry. Hence, we are presently forming a team to envision what the future may look like beyond COVID, and how the love present within the walls of our congregation can overspill into the digital space. Stay tuned for more information on that topic in the months to come.

*In All Things, Love...*



## CHRIST MORAVIAN CHURCH

600 Acadia Dr SE, Calgary, AB, T2J 0B8

### *LONG RANGE PLANNING TASK FORCE*

Many of you are also aware that our Long Range Planning Task Force has been very active during these months of isolation. The team is exploring ways to improve our organizational structure and enhance our day-to-day operation. Our goal is not only to prepare for tomorrow, but to continue to adapt and grow in a world rich with change and blessings alike.

### *CHURCH RE-OPENING*

Given the prolonged restrictions at all levels of government, we will continue to offer online worship services for a little while longer. We hope that the current vaccination program will allow us to resume in-person worship and fellowship soon. Meanwhile, we wait patiently, for we know that God's plans are to prosper us and not to harm us, plans to give us hope and a future.

### *ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING*

Lastly, we would like to inform all of our members that our next annual general meeting will take place on Sunday, September 21, 2021 at 12 noon. The Executive Board will provide a brief update on the affairs of the church, and proceed with the election of new candidates. We hope that you will join us for this important event.

In closing, I pray that you will all stay safe, knowing that God is always there watching from above. I leave you with a few words from one of my favorite hymn:

Go now in peace, never be afraid;  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true;  
Go now in love, and show you believe.

Kind regards,

**Bernard Amiot**

Chair, Executive Board

*In All Things, Love...*

## Focus on John 15:1–8

### WHAT is important to know?

— From “Exegetical Perspective,” Sarah S. Henrich

All the language of this passage turns on the image of Jesus as the vine. He twice declares this of himself (vv. 1, 5), in each case developing the image in a different direction. Bearing fruit is a phrase also repeated in verses 2 (three times), 4, 5, and 8. How does Jesus as the vine connect with the disciples’ bearing of much fruit? The relationship is one of mutual abiding. A third cluster of repeated terms has to do with abiding or remaining (*menein*): there are seven occurrences of this verb in these verses. It is the interconnection of these images that Jesus presses.

### WHERE is God in these words?

— From “Theological Perspective,” Stephen A. Cooper

Jesus’ parable, however, through its imagery suggests a living and growing community of faith, a site of productivity and increase. Based on its presence on the vine, each branch is to recognize its part in the whole and do its part. That part involves the production of fruits, or goods, which accrue not to the private good of the individual but to the good of the whole. Or, to extend the logic of the simile, these fruits accrue to the farmer: they are God’s goods, with a view to which God planted and tended the vine. Thus the passage is ultimately about divine providence and the goodness of creation when it acknowledges its dependence on the Creator.

### SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?—

From “Pastoral Perspective,” Nancy R. Blakely

As Jesus counsels and prays with his disciples, he invites them to stay close to him by placing their trust in him. He warns them that they cannot go it alone, trusting in their own strength. On their own they would be cut off from their life source. The temptation to go it on our own is great. We live in a society that promotes independence and making something of yourself. Though a valid goal, self-worth often becomes equated with our own success and what we can produce. It becomes very easy to think that it is all up to us and our own resources as we try to solve problems and meet challenges.

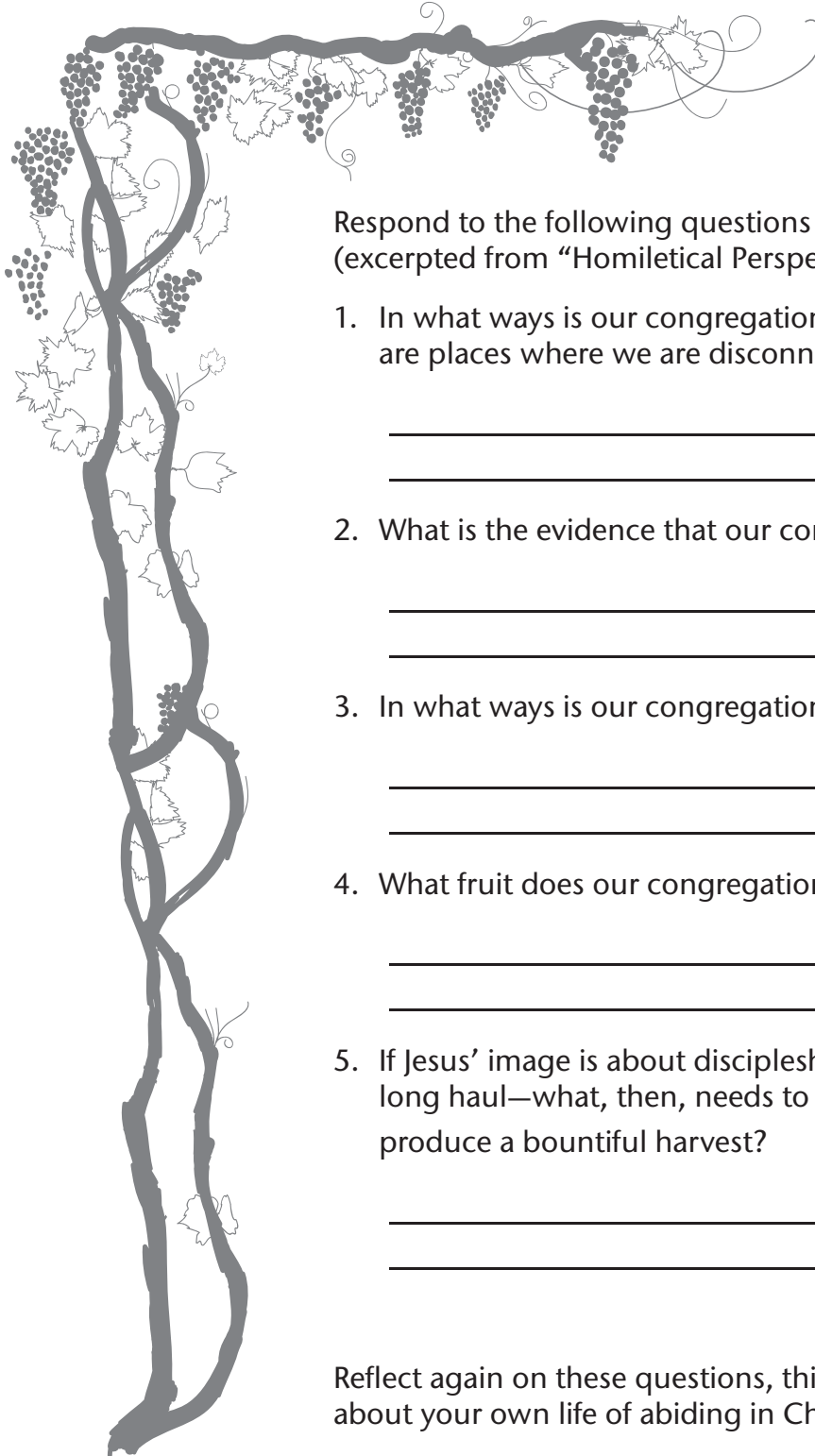
### NOW WHAT is God’s word calling us to do?

— From “Homiletical Perspective,”

Barbara J. Essex

The community that Jesus calls forth is one that embodies an African proverb: *Because we are, I am*. The branches that do not yield fruit are the ones in the community who profess faith but do not engage in acts of love. This does not mean that one can *earn* salvation; rather, those who see and hear Jesus are moved to respond to the gift of salvation through their own acts of love. In other words, a sign of discipleship is doing good works for the right reasons.

## Questions for Congregations



Respond to the following questions about your congregation (excerpted from “Homiletical Perspective” by Barbara J. Essex).

1. In what ways is our congregation connected to the vine? Where are places where we are disconnected?

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2. What is the evidence that our congregation is fruitful?

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3. In what ways is our congregation abiding in Christ?

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4. What fruit does our congregation produce?

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5. If Jesus’ image is about discipleship and community over the long haul—what, then, needs to happen for our congregation to produce a bountiful harvest?

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Reflect again on these questions, this time posing them to yourself about your own life of abiding in Christ.



## Worship & Event Links ~ May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

### Topic: CMC Men's Breakfast Group

Christ Moravian Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: CMC Men's Breakfast

Time: May 1, 2021 08:30 AM Calgary

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82652052955?pwd=dGZZdXpENFF0N0ZIQTNjSUwwbEdZZz09>

Meeting ID: 826 5205 2955

Passcode: 999999

One tap mobile

+17789072071,,82652052955# Canada

+12042727920,,82652052955# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

Meeting ID: 826 5205 2955

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdfU5B3RAb>

### Topic: Moravian Mission Presentation: Saturday May 1 @ 1pm

It's not too late to register for this presentation coming up this Saturday: Moravian Clinic in Ahuas Honduras.

*Learn about the important work of this clinic in providing much needed medical support to Indigenous people in an isolated part of Honduras.*

*Learn how Canadian Moravians were instrumental founding this mission and have continued to support it through the years.*

*Learn how your donations have been used to provide for basic medical care, infant feeding programs, pre-natal and obstetric care, surgeries, food production, solar power and disaster relief.*

Sponsored by the Canadian Moravian Mission Society and the Board of World Mission

Register

at: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEIcuygqTsuGNbp8aOryRDUnMpEDH\\_q6dmj](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEIcuygqTsuGNbp8aOryRDUnMpEDH_q6dmj)

Or visit [christmoravian.com](http://christmoravian.com)

Please pass this invitation along to other members of your congregation.

**Topic: CMC Bible Buddies**

Hi Everyone,

Attached is May 2<sup>nd</sup>'s Bible study hand out – Abiding in the Vine – John 15:1-8

We'll meet at 9:00 AM

Link to join is below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82817516868?pwd=OHhGNThlUUJjOTZkOTI1VE5SYU5tQT09>

Meeting ID: 828 1751 6868

Passcode: 323942

One tap mobile

+12042727920,,82817516868# Canada

+14388097799,,82817516868# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

Hope you have a great week,

Barb: - )

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**Links to Online Worship:**

Christ Moravian <https://www.christmoravian.com>

Good Shepherd <https://www.gscmoravian.ca>  
<https://www.goodshepherdmoravian.org>

Millwoods <https://www.mcchurch.ca/>

Rio Terrace <https://www.rioterracechurch.org/live>

Moravian Church Northern Province <https://www.moravian.org>  
for details of events happening within the wider Moravian Church

**Moravian Music News** <https://www.moravianmusic.org>