



April 14th, 2024 9:30 a.m.

*Eastertide
Treasure in Clay Jars*

Prelude

Annie Schulz

Gathering Thoughts

Darrell Winger

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather today to worship the One who created us,

People: The One who calls us to new life.

Leader: The One who empowers, equips,
and works through us by the Spirit,

People: Even in our brokenness.

Leader: The One who loves us without end.

People: With joyful hearts, let us worship God.

Opening Congregational Prayer

Spirit of the Risen Christ,

In our weakness we crave your strength.

Prepare us once again for your coming at Pentecost.

Kindle in our hearts the flame of your love.

Inspire us with dreams of a new era in our mission. Amen.

Hymn

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing

HWB #278

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the People

Darrell Winger

Hymn

Thine is the glory

HWB #269

Scripture Reading

Psalm 4 (OT p.490)

Grace Singers

The Risen Christ

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:36b-48 (NT p.90)

Meditation

“Speaking With Authority”

Kevin McCabe

Hymn of Response

Open My Eyes

Back of Bulletin

Benediction

Sending Hymn *As you go out from here,
may the Lord go with you.
The face of God shine on you ev'ry day.
We are sent by God wherever we are living,
salt and light as people of the Way.*

Postlude

It is good to be together in worship this morning!
The ushers are pleased to help any who need assistance.

[Offering plate is available on table at back of sanctuary]

Coffee Time after the service today

Adult Bible Study ~ Today is also Coffee Time, so we will begin our study at 10:45. Sundays when there is no coffee time, Adult Bible Study will begin at 10:30. There will be no Adult Bible Study on April 28th, because of the congregational meeting. Kevin McCabe

GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday April 7th ~ Attendance – 49

Sunday, April 21st Speaker: Darrell Winger
Scripture Texts (Focus texts highlighted): Acts 4:5-12; **Psalm 23**;
1 John 3:16-24; **John 10:11-18**

Coffee Times at Grace~ April 14th, and 28th

Worship Committee ~ April 17th at 10:30 a.m.

♪ **Women's Chorus** ~ April 18th at 9:30 a.m.

Church Council ~ April 24th at 1:30 p.m.

Grace Peace Group ~ We are still planning for a seminar in May on relief, development, and peace in Gaza and the West Bank, but don't have a confirmed date. Keep watching your bulletin!
Peace! Shalom! Salaam! Kit, Diane K, John R, Laur and Jan.

We are moving into the church season of “Eastertide”, the weeks between Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday on May 19th; a time to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and anticipating the promise of the Holy Spirit. We are made alive in Christ (Ephesians 2:5) and empowered by his Spirit (Acts 1:8)! Enabled by the Spirit of the risen Christ, we move forward with new visions and dreams of what it means to participate in the unfolding of God’s new creation. These wonderful gifts from God, however, are shared with frail human beings; “treasure in jars of clay” (2 Corinthians 4:7). The theme for our Sundays in these coming weeks is “Treasure in Clay Jars”.

Clay jars in the first century were made of raw clay and were not the beautiful, glazed pots we see today. While they did keep the water cool, being porous vessels, the water seeped out over time. Like those clay jars, we are filled with the treasure of the Spirit to be witnesses of the risen Christ, but given our human weakness, we need the continued, fresh filling and strength of the Holy Spirit. May we be open to all that God has for us in this season of Eastertide.

A Moment for Meserete Kristos Church (MKC), the Mennonite body in Ethiopia

Grace Peace Group is devastated to learn that over 1,000 Mennonites have been killed in Ethiopia. From the Canadian Mennonite: “Violence has devastated Meserete Kristos Church (MKC), the Mennonite body in Ethiopia. As of February 12, armed groups had burned 49 MKC churches to the ground, looted and damaged another 81 churches, and killed 1,231 MKC members, including 31 church leaders.”

MKC President Desalegn Abebe wrote: “We taught our church members the theology of non-violence and they have been living with all people peacefully for years. Some of the victims’ families stated that the losses they experienced were something they could not explain. On behalf of the MKC, I kindly request your solidarity with us during this trial time.”

Mennonite Church Canada has launched an urgent relief appeal in support of MKC. To contribute, you can give through Grace Mennonite Church by cash, cheque, or e-transfer. Be sure to indicate that this is an “MKC” donation on the offering envelope or message box in e-transfer.

Open My Eyes

*Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.
Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.*

*Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.
Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.*

*Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.
Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.*

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father who art in heaven.
Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory.
For ever and ever. Amen.*

Tel: 905-935-6112 Email: gracemennonite@bellnet.ca

Office Hours: 8:30-2:30 ~ Wednesday, Thursday

www.gracemennonitechurch.com

www.facebook.com/gracemennonitechurchstcatharines

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GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

After the service on April 28th, Grace will hold a Special Congregational Meeting (after coffeetime) to consider our revised constitution. Please take some time to review the whole document again. Documents were placed in your mailbox containing revisions Council has made to the **Membership** section and to the **Vice Chair** section in response to suggestions from members. If members have other items they wish Council to consider before the April 28th meeting, we ask that they send questions or comments or requests to Council Chair Laur Steven by Friday April 19th. He will bring them to a Council meeting on April 24th.

Also feel free to call him at 289-990-4839.

Niagara Region Mennonite Church Outdoor Service and Picnic
Sunday, June 23rd at 10:30 am we will be joining the other area Mennonite congregations for an outdoor service together at the Virgil Sports Grounds, 1567 Four Mile Creek Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake. (In case of rain we will be at the Niagara United Mennonite Church.) Following the service, we will enjoy BBQed hamburgers and hotdogs, plus veggies and dessert. All food and beverages will be provided. A cash offering will be received for the costs and any extra given to Mennonite Church Eastern Canada. Bring your own lawn chairs, plates & napkins. (Please note: There will be no service at Grace that morning.)

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



*Please pray for the **MCEC community of congregations**. This week we pray for **Hagerman Mennonite Church** in Markham, ON. Roberson Mbayamvula provides pastoral care for this congregation. Please pray for this congregation as they minister in their Markham, ON neighbourhood.

***Continue to pray for Myanmar, Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine and throughout a world that cries for peace.** Pray for those who are displaced, those who search for family members, those who make decisions and those who attempt to provide aid. Lord, hear our prayers.

***MCEC Annual Church Gathering** is April 26th and 27th in Leamington ON. Theme is *Inspired by Hope*. Speaker is Doug Klassen, MC Canada Executive Minister. This event will be livestreamed without interaction or chat. Pastor Darrell Winger will be representing Grace at the Annual Gathering.

“German Service on a Sunday Afternoon” on Sunday Apr 21, 2:30 p.m.: Honouring church history and the local historic Mennonite community, mark your calendars for a “German Service on a Sunday Afternoon” at St. Catharines UM Church (335 Linwell Road, St. Catharines), followed by light refreshments in the gym. We will sing, share, and engage with each other in the German “heart language” Alle Willkommen!! (All Welcome!!) ***if elevator is needed, please enter through front doors***

Canadian Mennonite subscriptions: All who attend Grace may receive a subscription to *Canadian Mennonite*. **Please note**, starting April 2024, *Canadian Mennonite* magazine will be printed monthly. Current subscribers have the first opportunity to receive one email a week with select stories, interviews, and news from behind-the-scenes. If you already receive *Canadian Mennonite* as a PDF every second Friday, the new service is already included in your subscription. If you currently only receive your magazine by mail, don't miss out! Ask Ester in the Grace office to add your email address to your subscription.

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