



April 7th, 2024 9:30 a.m.

*Eastertide
Treasure in Clay Jars*

Prelude

Ester Funk

**Gathering Thoughts
Lighting the Christ Candle**

Robert Dell

Call to Worship

Leader: O God, because you are the source
of all life and love and being.

People: We call you Creator;

Leader: Because we know the history of your presence
and honour your mighty works.

People: We call you Lord;

Leader: Because our Saviour, Jesus Christ, your obedient Son,
knew you intimately.

People: We call you Father;

Leader: Because we have known you in our pain and suffering.

People: We call you Comforter;

Leader: Because beyond pain lies your promise of all things
made new.

People: We call you Hope;

Leader: You hold us up and give us strength and courage.

**All: Blessing and power, glory and honour
be unto you, our 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 O sons and daughters, let us sing HWB #274, vv.1,4,5

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Musical Reflection Bless This House

Prayers of the People

Robert Dell

Hymn Christ has arisen

HWB #267 vv.1,3,4

Scripture Reading 2 Corinthians 4:5-12 (NT p.180)

Chaplain's Corner ~ Let us continue to keep in touch with church friends who are not able to attend our Sunday services and who welcome prayers, phone calls, cards, and visits. Their contact information is in the Church Directory. These friends include (but are not limited to): Tom B, John B, Erna & Jake B (Ester's parents), Reg F, Agnes G, Abe H, Francine & Theo I, Erika I, Kathy & Jake H, Hertha J, and Marlene W. Have I missed anyone? Let me know. Would you like a pastoral care or friendly visit? Let Pastor Darrell or Chaplain Jan know. Our contact information is at the end of the bulletin. 😊

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.*

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. Also, please see a document placed in your mailbox **today** 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.)

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.*

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

www.gracemennonitechurch.com

www.facebook.com/gracemennonitechurchstcatharines

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ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



*Please pray for the **MCEC community of congregations**. This week we pray for **Grace New Life Mennonite Church** in Hamilton, ON. Sririsack Saythavy provides pastoral care for this congregation. Please pray for this Laotian congregation as they minister in their Hamilton 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.



A Moment for MCC Thrift: MCC Thrift on Grantham is now open! MCC Thrift and Volunteers are thrilled to announce the reopening of MCC Thrift Shop in St. Catharines! After closing for renovations in December 2023, we've been hard at work revamping our space to better serve our community. We're delighted to welcome you back to our refreshed and improved store! Join us as we unveil our newly renovated shop and discover all the wonderful treasures waiting for you.

254 Grantham Ave., St. Catharines • 905-682-8944 •

grantham@mcco.ca <https://mccthriftontario.com/stcatharines>

MCC Thrift – Where Every Purchase Is A Gift To The World.

“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.

Subscriptions are paid for collectively through MCEC. To start a new subscription or to change your delivery preference (to receive print, digital or both), please contact Ester by April 17th.

A BIG SUCCESS!! Many thankyou's go out to all ladies who helped with the Pleasant Manor Spring Bazaar last week. To those that baked delicious paska, cookies, squares and buns, it was so appreciated. We had enough for everyone except for buns and zweiback. We'll try to make more of that for the November sale.

Thank you to those ladies who helped with cash and directing visitors in the food room AND the ladies serving tea, coffee, and goodies in the Tea room.

Couldn't do it without you ! After expenses we raised \$5,500

Many things can be purchased for the residents at Pleasant Manor!

Again Thanks

Anne Litke, Chair of Women's Auxiliary