



August 24th, 2025 9:30 a.m.
God in Extraordinary Times

Prelude Annie Schulz

Gathering Thoughts
Lighting the Christ Candle Darrell Winger

Call to Worship

Leader: We can place our trust in God.
Who invites us all to come as we are to worship him.

**People: God's love extends to all people:
to the poor, the ill, the stranger, the outcast, and to me.**

Leader: We can depend on God,
who feeds the hungry, heals the sick,
restores relationships and forgives our sin.

**All: Praise our Loving God.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

Prayer

Hymn *To God Be the Glory* HWB #102

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Grace Singers *Beauty for Brokenness* VT #712

Refrain: *God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion, we pray.
Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

Prayers of the People Darrell Winger

Hymn *Come Thou Fount* HWB #521

Scripture Reading James 2:1-4 (NT p. 229)

Hymn*Open My Eyes*

VT #732

*Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.**Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.**Open my eyes, 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.**And the first shall be last, and our eyes are opened,
and we'll hear like never before.**And we'll speak in new ways, and we'll see God's face
in places we've never known.**Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.**Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.***Scripture Reading**

Luke 13:10-17 (NT p.76)

Meditation

"Holy Disruption"

Mac Plunkett

Hymn of Response*Brothers and sisters of mine*

HWB #142

Benediction

Mac Plunkett

Sending Hymn*We Have Been Sent by God*

VT #771

*We have been sent by God, with our hands prepared to serve,
and we build along with God a fam'ly here on earth. 2x**The angels are not sent to change this world of pain
into a world of love where peace and justice reign;
it falls to each of us to do this work today.**We seek to do your will. Oh, help us, God, we pray. 2x***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]***GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS****Sunday, August 17th** ~ Attendance – 42**August 27th, 1:30 p.m.** ~ Church Council**August 28th, 1:30 p.m.** ~ Preaching Team**Sunday, August 31st** ~ Speaker: Doug Schulz

Scripture Readings: Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

August 31st, 4:00 p.m. Grace Church Social

at Doug & Ester's Farm (3017 8th Avenue, Jordan)

Watermelon and Rollkuchen, etc. Bring your own lawn chair.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the foyer!

September 3rd, 10:30 a.m. ~ Worship Committee

Women's Chorus begins September 11th, 9:30 a.m.
every other week

Coffee Times ~ September 14th and 28th

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



The MCC has a long history of humanitarian work in Afghanistan, dating back to 1970.

Relief and Development: MCC provides food assistance, mental health support, and literacy training, especially for girls and women.

Peacebuilding: They collaborate with local partners to promote sustainable peace and education in conflict-affected areas.

Long-Term Commitment: MCC has supported Afghan communities for over 50 years, including a more permanent presence since 2008.

Impact Highlights: 250 teacher households received monthly food support; 5 MCC projects with 3 local partners; \$10.5 million maternal and child health initiative funded by Global Affairs Canada from 2016–2019

To support the work of MCC in Afghanistan, through your giving, mark your offering envelope “MCC Afghanistan” or e-transfer and write “MCC Afghanistan” in the message box. Thank you for your gifts.

Walking with Grace: New Testament Wisdom for the Journey - A 12-Week Bible Study at the Grace Linwell Apts!

First meeting – Wednesday, September 3, 1 to 2 pm in The Lounge. BYOB! Bring Your Own Beverage and Bible! I'll Provide Some Cookies!

Week 1: A Life of Purpose; Scripture: Matthew 5:13–16

Theme: Embracing your ongoing role in God's work.

Reflection:

- *How have you been “salt and light” to others recently?*

- *What does it mean to still have a purpose in later life?*

Study Coordinator – Jan Steven, Community Chaplain



Please pray for the **MCEC community of congregations**. This week we are praying for **Victory Christ's Ambassadors Church**. Bereket Mekonnen, Esayas Desta and Samauel Lemma provide pastoral leadership for this community. Pray for this community in Scarborough, ON who are committed to discipleship, renewal and following Jesus Christ in all aspects of life. They are one of the newest MCEC congregations, welcomed this spring.



God of all nations, in a world torn by conflict and division, we ask that you bring peace where there is war, understanding where there is hatred and healing where there is deep and ancient pain. Stir the hearts of your people to be makers of peace, listen more deeply, act more justly and love more boldly.

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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Fall 2025 Sunday Bible Study Group Opportunities

Study Group #1 – Laur Steven and John Rempel facilitators

A vital part of congregational life is ongoing conversation concerning issues that matter in being faithful Christians. An important expression of that conversation is Adult Sunday School. We are eager to gather people of different ages and concerns to grapple with issues together. Here is our proposed schedule for the fall. We will meet on Sundays when there is not a coffee hour.

September 7

A group chat inviting suggestions for topics that engage or perplex class members. We will take the themes that arise for study beginning on Nov 2 so we have time to prepare for them. On the Sundays before that we will have a three-week study with resources from the Kairos Apartheid Study. It focuses on concrete commitments to help Christians act justly.

September 21, October 5, 19

Kairos Apartheid study using PowerPoint Slides

November 2, 16, 30, December 14

Study topics we will have agreed on September 7

One option is to follow the preaching theme "Shaped by the Spirit" for each of these weeks and build on them.

Study Group #2 – Kevin McCabe facilitator

"Practical Christianity" starting Sunday, September 28th and meeting on the same Sundays as coffee time and running from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Participants will be free to pick up coffee and snacks and bring them along. Late-comers will be welcome.

This study intends to take a less theological and less textual analysis approach, except where the text itself suggests it. So, the first part of the study will be looking at one chapter of Titus, 1st Timothy and 2nd Timothy per study (and in that order of readings). The second part will be making applications of the text. There seems to be an element of urgency and even impatience in the Pastoral Epistles which reflects both problems in the churches and the threat of persecution. Titus and Timothy are instructed to pick up the torch and pass it on.

Shaped by the Spirit

This fall we are exploring what it means to be “shaped by the Spirit”. In John 14, Jesus promised his followers that he would send his Spirit to teach and guide them in the way of truth and life. The Apostle Paul picks up on this teaching in his writing to the church at Corinth: “And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate (or reflect) the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Spirit.” It is encouraging to know that God, by his Spirit, is shaping us so that we increasingly reflect the life of Christ. But how are we shaped by the Spirit?

We want to consider some of the ways we are shaped by the Spirit at Grace:

- Shaped by Scripture, liturgy, music, preaching, and praying as we gather each Sunday
- Shaped by being in community together – listening to and learning from each other as we discern the way of Christ (even when we don’t all agree!)
- Shaped as we actively respond to the needs of others locally and globally
- Shaped as we pursue ways of furthering peace and justice in our world
- Shaped as we serve using our gifts, abilities, and resources
- Shaped as we care well for the environment and all of creation
- Shaped as we keep our eyes open to God’s presence in the “ordinary” all around us
- Shaped as we endeavour to be a safe and welcoming place for all

There are many ways the Spirit desires to shape us into the image of Christ if we are open. May we listen to and learn from each other this coming fall as we follow the guidance of the Spirit of Jesus.