



December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 9:30 a.m.

*Be Amazed!*  
Third Advent

**Prelude**

Annie Schulz

**Gathering Thoughts**

Pam Pauls

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, all who hunger and thirst for more  
– God calls us to the feast!

**People: We are weary exiles, longing for home,  
caught in a world that drains our hope.**

Leader: "Listen, so that you may live! My covenant is everlasting,  
my promise sure."

**People: Can joy reach us here, in this place of waiting?**

Leader: God's vision is higher than the heavens,  
stretching beyond what we can see.

**People: The invitation is for all people,  
from the farthest reaches of the earth.**

Leader: The word of the Lord does not return empty  
– it brings forth life!

**People: The mountains and the hills will burst into song,  
the trees of the field will clap their hands!**

**All: You are the source of true joy, O God.  
You expand our vision, lifting our eyes  
beyond the moment,  
beyond despair, into amazement.  
We stand before you, ready to enter your story  
and be amazed.**

**Prayer**

**Lighting the Candle of Joy**

Leader: We have been wandering in the dark, cold desert of grief  
and despair, and we feel heavy, dry and lifeless.

**People: Come, Joy of the world. Come amaze us.**

**All: May your joy water our thirsty souls,  
that we may become your fountains of joy,  
freely sharing your joy with the world.**

**Theme Song**

*Come Hope of the World*

Grace Singers

**Hymn**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

HWB #178

**Passing of the Peace**

## Offertory Prayer

Hymn *Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming* HWB #211, vv.1,2

Prayers of the People Pam Pauls

Women's Chorus *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

Scripture Reading Psalm 42 (OT p.515)

Hymn *As a Deer in Want of Water* VT #552

Scripture Reading Isaiah 40:1-5 (OT p.667)

Meditation "Joy in the Desert" Laur Steven

Hymn of Response *Comfort, comfort, O my people* HWB #176

Benediction Laur Steven

Sending Hymn *You shall go out with joy* HWB #427

## 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]*

**Semi Annual Meeting** today after the service in the Church Hall

## GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Attendance** ~ Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> – 40

**December Graceletter** is in your Grace mailbox.

**Advent 4 Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup>** ~ Speaker: Darrell Winger

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 9:2-7 and John 1:1-14

**Women's Chorus** ~ December 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

**Coffee Time** ~ December 21<sup>st</sup> after the service

**Christmas Eve Service, December 24<sup>th</sup>** at 4:00 p.m.

Coffee, Cider and Cookies in the Church Hall after the service  
Let's invite our family, friends and neighbours.



**Hi Grace Church Family!** I encourage you this week (and every week) to scroll through our Church Directory and note the names of people who are not able to attend regularly. Give them a phone call, send them a card, offer a visit, and pray for them. / Jan

**I Thessalonians 5:11** – “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

## ***ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD***



**Please pray for** the MCEC community of congregations.

This week we are praying for **Bethany Mennonite Church.**

Herb Sawatzky provides pastoral leadership for this community. Pray for this congregation in Virgil, ON as they follow their mission of serving each other and the world.

## **A Moment for Bethlehem Bible College (BBC) - Training Leaders in the Land of Christ's Birth**

BBC is an evangelical Christian institution in Bethlehem, founded in 1979 by Rev. Bishara Awad to train Arab Christian leaders and serve the wider community in the Holy Land. Rooted in Christ-centeredness, humility, and peacebuilding, the college has become a key centre for theological education and dialogue in the Palestinian context.

As well as offering degree and diploma programs in Biblical Studies, Theology, Justice and Peace, and Counseling, BBC offers outreach programs including the Shepherd Society (humanitarian aid) and the Christ at the Checkpoint conference (faith, justice, and peace.)

Bethlehem Bible College is an official partner of Mennonite Church Canada through its International Witness program.

**Friends: if you are able and willing to contribute** to the bake table at Westview centre4women Christmas party, on **December 18th**; can you please bring your cookies or squares to church by Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> a.m. Thanks so much in advance for supporting the women in our community struggling throughout this season and beyond. If you have any questions, please reach out. Erika

## **Invitation from Niagara United Mennonite Church**

\*Candlelight Service on Sunday December 21st at 7:00pm.

\*Christmas Day Service at 10:00am

## MCC – Give Gifts of Comfort & Joy!



Check out the magazine MCC “Gifts of Comfort and Joy” on the round table in the foyer. Help yourself to a copy.

You can give online at

<https://mcc.org/christmas> or you can give at our church through cash, cheque, or e-transfer.

Be sure to note that the donation is for MCC – Give Gifts of Comfort & Joy!



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### 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

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