


December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 9:30 a.m.

*Third Advent ~ How Will We Know?*

<b>Prelude</b>		Ester Funk
<b>Gathering Thoughts</b>		Pam Pauls
<b>Advent Candle Lighting</b>		
<b>Song</b>	<i>Wait for the Lord</i>	
	<i>Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.</i>	
	<i>Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart! (repeat)</i>	
<b>Call to Worship &amp; Prayer</b>		
Leader:	My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour! For the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God's name. God has brought down the powerful and lifted up the lowly.	
<b>People: What will God do next?</b>		
<b>All: Together we wonder.</b>		
<b>Hymn</b>	<i>Hark! The glad sound</i>	HWB #184
<b>Passing of the Peace</b>		
<b>Offertory Prayer</b>		
<b>Musical Reflection</b>		
<b>Prayers of the People</b>		Pam Pauls
<b>Grace Singers</b>	<i>Poor of the Earth</i>	
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Isaiah 61:1-4 (OT p.691)	
<b>Women's Chorus</b>	<i>My soul is filled with joy</i>	
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Luke 1:46b-55 (NT p.57)	
<b>Meditation</b>	"Mary – No Shrinking Violet!"	Jan Steven
<b>Hymn of Response</b>	<i>Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming</i>	HWB #211
<b>Benediction</b>		Jan Steven
<b>Sending Hymn</b>	<i>O come, O come, Immanuel</i>	HWB #172, vv.5,6
<b>Postlude</b>		

***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 December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023** ~ Attendance – 46

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> ~ Fourth Advent**

Speaker: Darrell Winger

**Scripture Texts** (Focus texts highlighted): 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16;  
Luke 1:46b-55; Romans 16:25-27; **Luke 1:26-38; Luke 2:8-20**

♪ **Women's Chorus** ~ December 21 at 9:30 a.m.

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

Cider and cookies following the service in the  
Church Hall.

**December 31<sup>st</sup> ~ Brunch Coffee Time** after the service

**Chaplain's Corner** ~ The MCC Thrift Shop on Grantham is temporarily closed for renovations. But there will still be a place to donate goods at their 254 Grantham St. location. Come visit Laur and I on Thursday mornings. Many of the teddy bears for Bears and Blakets come from the MCC Thrift shop. I will look for bears in good shape at other Thrift shops, but if you know of a good source, I'd love to hear about it. Contact Jan Steven at church or 289-990-4839 or [janscats@gmail.com](mailto:janscats@gmail.com).

**Last minute Christmas shopping!**

All things going well; after the service on Sunday on December 24<sup>th</sup>, I should have extra virgin olive oil, olive oil soap, and Za'atar thyme & sumac herb mix. These Fair-Trade items from Palestine help farmers with the greatest need. Cash, cheque or e-transfer works for me! Contact Jan Steven at church or 289-990-4839 or [janscats@gmail.com](mailto:janscats@gmail.com).



## ***How Will We Know?***

We are in the season of Advent from December 3<sup>rd</sup> to December 24<sup>th</sup>. Advent means “arrival”, and during this season we look forward for the arrival of God on earth, God-with-us, in the birth of Jesus Christ, as well as looking forward with hopeful anticipation toward Christ’s second coming.

During Advent our theme is: ***How Will We Know?*** Unfortunately, in the past the church has often not welcomed doubts or questions and those who voiced them were ignored. But God welcomes us with our uncertainties and questions! Advent is a time for our questions and our wonderings as we wait together for the Messiah, the Christ Child, the Light. Over these next four Sundays we will consider some common questions, not to look for easy answers, but to be reminded that our faith allows us to wrestle with doubting and questioning. God is with us and at work. As we wait together in this Advent season may we see clues of what God is doing among us and grow deeper in our relationship with Jesus, our Saviour.

Let’s be praying for each other in this time.

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

### **From Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC)**

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

This week we pray for **Église de Dieu Réparateur de Brèches (RBD)**. Ronald Alexandre & Rachelle Demosthene provide pastoral leadership for the congregation in Montreal, QC. Continue to pray for this congregation as they grieve the loss of one of their pastors, Jean Walton Magloire.





## **A Moment for MCC: A Gift of Hope**

Quack! Quack! Quack! How often can you give a gift that quacks?

Ducks that Ruzina Begum is raising in Bangladesh are high egg producers and are resistant to disease. A gift of \$15 covers the cost of 10 ducklings.

To give a gift of hope today, visit [mcc.org/Christmas](http://mcc.org/Christmas)

Or you can give by your offering. If by cash, designate the envelope "MCC Christmas." If by cheque, make the cheque payable to the church and designate "MCC Christmas" on the memo line/envelope. By e-transfer, put "MCC Christmas" in the message box. Any questions? Our treasurer Lorraine would love to help.

**MCC – Relief, development, and peace in the name of Christ**

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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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Tel: 905-935-6112      Email: [gracemennonite@bellnet.ca](mailto:gracemennonite@bellnet.ca)

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

[www.gracemennonitechurch.com](http://www.gracemennonitechurch.com)

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Pastor	Darrell Winger 905-483-2335	<a href="mailto:Darrell.winger@gmail.com">Darrell.winger@gmail.com</a>
Worship & Music Associate	Annie Schulz 905-941-5511	<a href="mailto:annieschulz@yahoo.ca">annieschulz@yahoo.ca</a>
Office Administrator	Ester Funk	<a href="mailto:gracemennonite@bellnet.ca">gracemennonite@bellnet.ca</a>
Community Chaplain	Jan Steven 289-990-4839	<a href="mailto:janscats@gmail.com">janscats@gmail.com</a>