



December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 9:30 a.m.



*Be Amazed!*  
Fourth Advent

**Prelude**

Ester Funk

**Gathering Thoughts**

Jan Steven

**Call to Worship**

Leader: In the beginning was love, and love was with God,  
and love was God.

**People: We gather in awe and amazement,  
watching and waiting for Love to come down.**

Leader: The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.

**People: We wait with hope,  
longing for the gentle light of love to fill the world.**

Leader: The word became flesh and lived among us,  
full of grace and truth.

**People: We have seen his glory, Love embodied among us.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who moves among us,  
the Christ who draws near,  
the Spirit who shines in our hearts.

**All: *The Light is coming!*  
*We tremble in excitement and uncertainty.*  
*Watching, waiting, for Love to be born.***

**Prayer**

**Lighting the Candle of Love**

Leader: We have been wandering in the long, dark night,  
looking into the vastness,  
looking for even a glimmer of light, to usher in your love.

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

**All: *May your love dispel the darkness and reveal your path  
of grace and mercy, inviting us to journey with you.***

**Theme Song**

*Come Hope of the World*

Grace Singers

**Hymn**

*In the Beginning*

VT #270, vv.1,2,4,5

**Passing of the Peace**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Grace Singers**

*Ready My Heart*

<b>Prayers of the People</b>		Jan Steven
<b>Hymn</b>	<i>Here I am to Worship</i>	VT #227
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Isaiah 9:2-7 (OT p.638)	
<b>Hymn</b>	<i>Love came down at Christmas</i>	VT #255
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	John 1:1-14 (NT p.91)	
<b>Meditation</b>	“An Amazing Gift Received??”	Darrell Winger
<b>Hymn of Response</b>	<i>Love Has Come</i>	VT #258
<b>Benediction</b>		Darrell Winger
<b>Sending Hymn</b>	<i>He Came Down</i>	VT #239
<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]*

*Coffee Time after the service today in the Church Hall*

### **GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Attendance** ~ Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> – 47

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

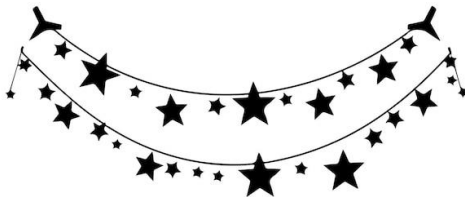
Coffee, Cider and Cookies in the Church Hall after the service  
Let's invite our family, friends and neighbours.

**Sunday December 28<sup>th</sup>** ~ Speaker: Mac Plunkett

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 40:3 and John 1:19-35

**Coffee Time** ~ January 11<sup>th</sup>, January 25<sup>th</sup> after the service

**Women's Chorus** ~ Thursdays January 15<sup>th</sup>, January 29<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am



## Grace Donation to Bethlehem Bible College

At its discernment meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup>, Council decided to make a donation on behalf of Grace MC to the scholarship program of Bethlehem Bible College in the occupied West Bank city of Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. We invite all Grace folk to add personal gifts to the Grace donation. See Lorraine Sawatsky and Laur Steven at the donation poster in coffee time after the service today if you wish to donate cash, or by a cheque made out to Grace Mennonite Church. You can also e-transfer to [gracemennonite@bellnet.ca](mailto:gracemennonite@bellnet.ca). In the message box, please enter BBCollege, and also include your name and address to receive a receipt. We will also request donations at the Christmas Eve service, and you can donate then if you'd prefer. Together we can make a difference in the church's witness for peace in the Holy Land by supporting the scholarship program of Bethlehem Bible College, a partner of Mennonite Church Canada.

## ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



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

This week we are praying for **Bloomington Mennonite Church**. Zac Klassen provides pastoral leadership for this community. Pray for this congregation as they follow their call to a dynamic relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

## 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!



## Christmas Prayer

Let the love that shaped earth and heaven  
dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that created humanity  
dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that overcomes suffering and hatred  
dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that causes us to rejoice with loved ones  
dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that forgives and renews  
dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that brings reconciliation after separation  
dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that brings the blessing of peace  
dwell within us this Christmas.

May we share that peace with all people near and far.  
Amen

— from the [Christian Aid](#) website.



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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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