



**December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 9:30 a.m.**

*Advent 2*

*Together Toward the Light*

**Prelude**

Annie Schulz

**Gathering Thoughts**

Doug Schulz

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken our longings. The Christ candle flame in front of us today calls us to be true to the hopes in our hearts. And it calls us to be true seekers of God's peace.

**People: Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.**

Leader: Where there is division near or far, we long for unity.

**People: May our hearts be ruled by the peace of Christ.**

Leader: Where there is hostility far away or close at hand, we long for resolution.

**People: Let Christ guide our hearts by the rule of peace.**

Leader: Where there is distance or separation, we long to be drawn toward reunion.

**All: We seek to let Christ's peace rule in our hearts.**

**Prayer**

O God, Giver of Good Hope, you touch and transform our lives through the peace of Jesus your Son. In this world of division, brokenness and uncertainty, summon our hearts to see the peace that is in Jesus, and to be that peace for others to see wherever we are, whatever we do. May we embrace and extend your Deep Peace today in all we do and say. Amen.

**Lighting the Candle of Peace ~ Moment of Silent Reflection**

**Hymn**

*Bless'd be the God of Israel*

HWB #174

**Passing of the Peace**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Musical Reflection**

*Come Now, O Prince of Peace*

Women's Chorus

**Prayers of the People**

Doug Schulz



## GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup> ~ Attendance – 45**

**Third Advent Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>**

Speaker: David Brubacher

Scripture Texts: **Zephaniah 3:14-20**; Isaiah 12:2-6;  
Philippians 4:4-7; **Luke 3:7-18**

♪ **Women's Chorus** ~ Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.  
December 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>

**Coffee Time** ~ December 22<sup>nd</sup>

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

Coffee, Cider and Cookies in the Church Hall after the service

**Jan and Laur are away** for the month of December but you are welcome to contact them at 289-990-4839 or [janscats@gmail.com](mailto:janscats@gmail.com) / [laursteven53@gmail.com](mailto:laursteven53@gmail.com)

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



\*Please pray for the **MCEC community of congregations**.  
This week we pray for **Oromo Evangelical Church of Ottawa**.  
Please pray for this congregation that meets in Ottawa.

**Senior's Event (Silver Foxes) - On Dec. 18** we will head to Betty's Restaurant for a choice of four delicious dinners (turkey, fish and chips, roast beef and chicken parmesan). Please meet at Bethany Mennonite Church between 4:00 and 4:15 p.m. The bus will leave at 4:30 p.m. After dinner, we will enjoy a Lights Tour and plan to be back at Bethany Mennonite Church by 9:00 p.m. Price of \$65 includes dinner, taxes, gratuity, the Coach, the Lights Tour, some carol singing and some laughter! Please pay Bud and Ella Andres, Paul and Jo Thiessen or Ted and Sylvia Wiens by **Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>** to hold your reservation.

**You are warmly invited to the 75<sup>th</sup> annual Candlelight Service at Niagara UM** ~ We invite you to join us on **Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm** for a retelling of the Christmas story through song.

**GriefShare:** It hurts to lose someone you love. GriefShare provides a safe place of supportive people who will walk along side you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. This 13 week program starts on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 6-7 pm.

The only cost to this program is a \$20 workbook. Sign up at [www.niagaralifecentre.ca](http://www.niagaralifecentre.ca) or call 905-934-0021 to register.

## **Advent Prayer**

*In our secret yearnings we wait for your coming,  
and in our grinding despair we doubt that you will.*

*And in this privileged place*

*we are surrounded by witnesses who yearn more than do we  
and by those who despair more deeply than do we.*

*Look upon your church in this season of hope*

*which runs so quickly to fatigue and this season of yearning  
which becomes so easily quarrelsome.*

*Give us the grace and the impatience*

*to wait for your coming to the bottom of our toes,  
to the edge of our fingertips.*

*We do not want our several worlds to end.*

*Come in your power and come in your weakness  
in any case and make all things new. Amen.*

by Walter Brueggeman

---

### **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.*

---

Tel: 905-935-6112

Email: [gracemennonite@bellnet.ca](mailto:gracemennonite@bellnet.ca)

**677 Niagara Street, St. Catharines**

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

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

[www.facebook.com/gracemennonitechurchstcatharines](https://www.facebook.com/gracemennonitechurchstcatharines)

Pastor

Darrell Winger

[Darrell.winger@gmail.com](mailto:Darrell.winger@gmail.com)

905-483-2335

Worship & Music

Annie Schulz

[annieschulz@yahoo.ca](mailto:annieschulz@yahoo.ca)

Associate

905-941-5511

Office Administrator

Ester Funk

[gracemennonite@bellnet.ca](mailto:gracemennonite@bellnet.ca)

Community Chaplain

Jan Steven

[janscats@gmail.com](mailto:janscats@gmail.com)

289-990-4839