



February 11th, 2024 9:30 a.m.

Transfiguration Sunday

Prelude Annie Schulz

Gathering Thoughts Pam Pauls

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: Holy God, mighty and immortal,
we see your glory in Jesus Christ,
whose compassion illumines the world.

**People: God of covenant relationship,
God of goodness and love,**

Leader: Renew our humanity in Jesus our Lord.

People: Write your law of love on our hearts today.

**All: So that we might lead each other
and others into your presence.**

Hymn *Immortal, invisible, God only wise* HWB #70

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the People Pam Pauls

Hymn *Lord of light, your name outshining* HWB #410, vv.1,4

Scripture Reading 2 Kings 2:1-12 (OT p.332)

Hymn *Christ upon the mountain peak* HWB #232

Scripture Reading Mark 9:2-9 (NT p.44)

Meditation "...But Only Jesus" David Brubacher

Hymn of Response *Lord, you sometimes speak in wonders*
HWB #594

Benediction David Brubacher

Sending Hymn *Spirit of the loving God* HWB #349

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]

Coffee Time after the service today

Adult Sunday School Postponed

The Grace Adult Sunday School will be postponed until Sunday April 7, when we will continue our discussion and fellowship. All are welcome to join us.


GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday February 4th ~ Attendance – 41

Sunday, February 18th ~ Speaker: Darrell Winger
Scripture Texts (Focus texts highlighted): Genesis 9:8-17;
Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

The budget offering for January 2024 was \$13,965.00

♪ **Women's Chorus ~ February 22nd at 9:30 a.m.**

 **Coffee Time ~ February 25th after the service.**

Ash Wednesday Service

In partnership with Scott Street MB Church we will be holding a brief Ash Wednesday service at Grace on Wednesday, February 14th at 11:00 a.m. This will be a simple but meaningful way to prepare for and enter into the season of Lent.

Annual Meeting ~ After the Worship Service on Sunday, February 25th in the Church Hall. Report Books are in your mailboxes.

Revised Constitution for discussion at the Annual General Meeting: In your church mailbox today you will find a copy of the revised Grace Mennonite Church of St. Catharines Constitution and By-laws. Please take some time over the next two weeks to read it over in preparation for the AGM on Feb. 25th. Bring your comments and or questions to the meeting.

Bears and Blankets ~ The cupboard is almost bare. I welcome donations of medium sized teddy bears and small home-made or homey blankets. These don't have to be new. They'll get washed up! Jan, Community Chaplain.

Grace Peace Group ~ Members of the Grace Peace Group brought a kind and informative letter and rose candles to Mayor Matt Sisco and the 12 St. Catharines City Council members. We asked for Ceasefire in Gaza:

- a) To reduce – if not stop – the number of people in Gaza being killed or injured every day;
- b) To allow humanitarian aid to enter and be distributed; and
- c) To assist with Israeli hostages being returned.

Our letter is posted on the bulletin board in the lobby.

World of Tension, Christ Among Us ~ This is the theme our church has chosen for Lent this year, beginning Sunday, February 18th. It acknowledges that our world is living in a wilderness, burdened by wars and rumours of wars. We do not want to turn our eyes away from human suffering. Added to that are the small wildernesses each of us experiences - giving up hope, holding onto grudges - each of us has a list. At the same time we have a reason not to despair. Let's remind one another as a congregation with words and deeds of the good news that God keeps his promise that he will never abandon his people: in Christ, God is in our midst, no matter what assails us. He makes himself known in worship (in Bible reading, preaching, and Communion), in our hearts, and in everyone who loves their neighbour. Whether we look at our larger world, or we consider our personal experience, we hold this tension – the experience of brokenness and pain, as well as the presence of our faithful God. Lament and hope. The orders of service for Lent try to hold all these elements together.

Lent is a time to reclaim habits that easily fall by the way - personal devotions, visiting someone who needs us, forgiving the people closest to us. In short, making Christ first in our hearts and how we live. We are invited to join Christ on a forty day journey whose destination is the Cross - and then the Resurrection. Will we risk joining him?

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



Please pray for the **MCEC** community of congregations. This week we pray for **Faith Mennonite Church**. Ruth Boehm provides pastoral care for this congregation. Pray for the congregation and their leadership team as they learn together, grow together and minister together in the Leamington area.



A Moment for MCC The Mennonite Central Committee is a Member Organization of the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability

You may have heard on the news that since, in 2013 when the Rana Plaza garment factories collapsed in Bangladesh – killing 1,100 people and injuring 2,500 others – there has been really no improvement in wages, rights or working conditions. Thankfully there are non-profits in Canada working hard to rectify this situation including the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability. The Mennonite Central Committee is a Member Organization of this group.

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

Wild Hope for God's Garden: February 23-25 at the First Mennonite Church, Vineland. Join us for a weekend exploring the intersection of Creation Care and Faith. No charge for event. (More information posted on foyer bulletin board.)

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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