



February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 9:30 a.m.

**Lent 1**

**World of Tension, Christ Among Us**

**Prelude** Annie Schulz

**Gathering Thoughts** Mac Plunkett

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Lenten Hymn** *Sign Us with Ashes, Merciful God* Back of Bulletin

**Call to Worship & Prayer**

Leader: Teach us your pathways, O God—  
our eyes and our souls are trained on you.

**People: For you are the greatest guide,  
and your map is always good.**

Leader: Other paths have left us lost;  
other ways have left us confused.

**People: You guide us along the trail of your mercy,  
Drawing sinner and saint down this well-worn way.**

**All: All your paths are love,  
made smooth by your faithful walking.  
We are led into your truth  
by following the tread of your feet.**

**Hymn** *God is here among us* HWB #16

**Passing of the Peace**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Musical Reflection**

**Prayers of the People** Mac Plunkett

**Hymn** *To God be the glory* HWB #102, vv.1,2

**Scripture Reading** Psalm 25:1-10 (OT p.502)

**Hymn** *The glory of these forty days* HWB #225

**Dramatic Scripture Reading** *The Temptation of Jesus*  
(with texts from Matthew, Mark & Luke)  
Anita Stephen, Mac Plunkett, Kevin McCabe

**Meditation** “Deserts, Decisions and Discernment” Darrell Winger

**Hymn of Response** *I want Jesus to walk with me* HWB #439

**Benediction** Darrell Winger

**Sending Hymn** *Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us* HWB #352

***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 February 11<sup>th</sup>** ~ Attendance – 46

**Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>** ~ Speaker: Jan Steven

**Scripture Texts** (Focus texts highlighted): Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16;  
Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; **Mark 8:31-38**

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

**Church Council** ~ Wednesday February 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 p.m.



**Coffee Time** ~ February 25<sup>th</sup> after the service.

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

**World of Tension, Christ Among Us** ~ This is the theme our church has chosen for Lent this year, beginning Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**A Lenten Guided Prayer Resource *Hungering for Hope***, for use at home, is available in the church foyer. This resource is produced by the Mennonite Spiritual Directors of Eastern Canada.

**Chaplain's Corner** ~ Let us continue to keep in touch with church friends who are not able to attend our Sunday services and who welcome prayers, phone calls, cards, and visits. Their contact information is in the Church Directory. These friends include (but are not limited to): Tom B, John B, Erna & Jake B (Ester's parents), Reg F, Agnes G, Abe H, Francine & Theo I, Erka I, Kathy & Jake H, Hertha J, and Marlene W.

Have I missed anyone? Let me know. Would you like a pastoral care or friendly visit? Let Pastor Darrell or Chaplain Jan know.

Our contact information is at the end of the bulletin. 😊

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



\*Please pray for the **MCEC** community of congregations. This week we pray for **Famille Assemblée de la Grâce**. Jean Westerne Joseph provides pastoral care for this congregation in Montreal Quebec. They minister to Haitian people both in Canada and in the Caribbean.

\*Please pray for the family of **Reynold Kipfer**, MCEC retired pastor, who died on January 26, 2024 at the age of 89. He served as interim pastor at Grace in 2001.

**Ecumenical Prayer Service** on **Friday February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 p.m.** at St. John Ukrainian Catholic Church, 91 Lakeshore Road, St. Catharines. Praying for peace in Ukraine.



#### **A Moment for MCC**

“It became a healing balm for me, and I felt relieved,” Wanla Napo, the man whose six children were abducted, says. “I used to think so much about what happened, but after the workshop I learned to forge ahead, asking for his grace. Each morning, I pray that God will bring peace and security to our people.”

The need for trauma healing workshops increases as people in northeastern Nigeria are attacked and displaced again and again. Read the full story at <https://mcc.org/our-stories/healing-when-trauma-builds> or in the next issue of *The Common Place*.

**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.)

## ***Sign Us with Ashes, Merciful God***

*Sign us with ashes, merciful God,  
children of dust, as to dust we return.  
Sign us with ashes, merciful God;  
mark us and make us your own.*

*Gather your people, merciful God,  
gather the longing, the lost and unsure.  
Gather your people, merciful God;  
name us and claim us as yours.*

*Feed us and guide us, merciful God;  
Light when the shadows of life cloud our view.  
Feed us and guide us, merciful God,  
people who hunger for you.*

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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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