



February 25th, 2024 9:30 a.m.

Lent 2

World of Tension, Christ Among Us

Prelude Annie Schulz

Gathering Thoughts Kevin McCabe

Lighting the Christ Candle

Lenten Hymn *I stand amazed in the presence* HWB #528, vv.1,3

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: Come, you who seek God, proclaim God's glory!

People: All you descendants of Jacob and Rachel,

Leader: come.

People: All who are isolated and feel alone,

Leader: come.

People: All who are hungry,

Leader: come.

People: All who wander,

Leader: come.

People: Come, from all ends of the earth.

**All: Come, you who seek God, proclaim God's glory,
and walk in faith.**

Hymn *Great is thy faithfulness* HWB #327, vv.1,2

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the People Kevin McCabe

Women's Chorus *Bless the Lord, My Soul*

Scripture Reading Selection of verses from Amos 5 (OT p.853)

Hymn *We walk by faith* HWB #570

Scripture Reading Mark 8:31-38 (NT p.44)

Meditation "A Tale of Two Churches" Jan Steven

Hymn of Response *Jesus, Be the Center* Back of Bulletin

Benediction Jan Steven

Sending Hymn *As You Go Out from Here* Back of Bulletin

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]

Annual Meeting and Coffee Time after the service today.

GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday February 18th ~ Attendance – 46

Sunday, March 3rd ~ Speaker: Darrell Winger

Scripture Texts (Focus texts highlighted): Exodus 20:1-17;
Psalm 19; **1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22**

♪ **Women's Chorus** ~ March 7th, 21st, 28th at 9:30 a.m.

World of Tension, Christ Among Us ~ This is the theme our church has chosen for Lent this year. 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.

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 ~ Quotes from Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brethren."

"The community of the saints is not an 'ideal' community consisting of perfect and sinless men and women, where there is no need of further repentance. No, it is a community which proves that it is worthy of the gospel of forgiveness by constantly and sincerely proclaiming God's forgiveness."

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



Crosses are coming to Grace for Easter:

The Shepherds' Trail (www.theshepherdstrail.com) is a group of Palestinian-Christian artisans working in partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bethlehem to support programs for youth, women, and marginalized communities. Amidst the turmoil in Israel/Palestine Grace can support the compassionate way of Jesus in this gesture of peace.

From the Shepherds' Field through Bethlehem to the World

We offer wholesale olive wood handmade hand crosses (Size: 9.5x4.5x1.2 cm.) individually packed including a bookmark with information about our initiative and ready for resell made by Palestinian artisans in Bethlehem.

Grace has made an initial order for 25 crosses. They will be \$10.00CDN, first come first served. No money now, just sign up in the foyer after the service. If we have more than 25 requests, we can reorder. There will be no receipts for tax purposes. And this purchase is over and above your regular givings. We will have a blessing of the crosses and a prayer time for Gaza during a service near Easter.



*Please pray for the **MCEC community of congregations**. This week we pray for **First Hmong Mennonite Church**. Chung Vang provides pastoral care for this congregation. Pray for this congregation as they learn how to live the Christian life faithfully together as a community and share the gospel with others.



A Moment for MCC

It's always a good time for Raw Carrot Soup

By the way, it's not raw, and there are many kinds – eight at my last count. The top seller is their Flying Noodle (chunky chicken noodle.) Normally you can buy this soup at the MCC Thrift Store on Grantham. But while the store is being renovated – reopening in April – you can purchase Raw Carrot Soup at the Niagara MCC Office at 505 Carlton St. Their hours are 9 to 4 on Monday to Thursday. Always call ahead – (905) 646-3161.

<https://therawcarrot.com/>

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

Jesus, Be the Center

Jesus, be the center, be my source, be my light, Jesus.

Jesus, be the center, be my hope, be my song, Jesus.

Refrain: *Be the fire in my heart. Be the wind in these sails.*

Be the reason that I live, Jesus, Jesus.

Jesus, be my vision, be my path, be my guide, Jesus.

Refrain

Jesus, be the center, be my source, be my light, Jesus.

As You Go Out from Here

As you go out from here, may the Lord go with you.

The face of God shine on you ev'ry day.

We are sent by God wherever we are living,

salt and light as people of the Way.

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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