



February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 9:30 a.m.

*Jesus, Hope in Bewilderment*

**Prelude**

Annie Schulz

**Gathering Thoughts**

Darrell Winger

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Call to Worship & Prayer**

Leader: Why do you say, Israel, my way is hidden from the Lord;  
my cause is disregarded by my God?  
Do you not know? Have you not heard?

**People:** The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

Leader: He will not grow tired or weary,  
and his understanding no one can fathom.

**People: He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.**

Leader: Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and the young stumble and fall;

**People: but those who hope in the Lord  
shall renew their strength.**

**All: They shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they will walk and not faint.**

**Hymn**

*Sing praise to God who reigns*

HWB #59

**Passing of the Peace**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Musical Reflection**

**Prayers of the People**

Darrell Winger

**Hymn**

*The Lord is King*

HWB #69

**Scripture Reading**

Psalm 147:1-11 (OT p.582)

**Grace Singers**

*Speak, O Lord*

**Scripture Reading**

1 Corinthians 9:16-23 (NT p.171)

**Meditation** "What to do when the Bible is Silent"

Mac Plunkett

**Hymn of Response**

*Eternal Light, shine in my heart*

HWB #518

**Service of Communion**

Darrell Winger

**Benediction**

Darrell Winger

**Sending Hymn**                      *God Calls Us*

*God calls us to be followers of Christ,  
and by the pow'r of the Spirit  
to grow as communities of grace, joy, and peace,  
so God's healing and hope flow through us to the world,  
so God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.*

**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]

***Adult Sunday School meets today after the service  
in the Fellowship Room***

## **GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup>** ~ Attendance – 45

**Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>** ~ Speaker: David Brubacher

**Scripture Texts** (Focus texts highlighted): **2 Kings 2:1-12;**

Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; **Mark 9:2-9**

♪ **Women's Chorus** ~ February 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 a.m.



**Coffee Times** ~ February 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup>** in the Church Hall

**Our Nursery** 😊 Greetings! Sometimes we have visiting children. My goal in February is to update the nursery and put together some “fidget boxes.” Re the Nursery...Do you have any toys or books in there that you are attached to? Let me know. I hope to replace much of our current stock with more modern toys and books. I may be asking for donations.

Also, do you have a computer you no longer use that is internet friendly and uses CDs” Veggie Tales can be very entertaining. (At least it is for me.)

Regarding the fidget boxes for older kids who will stay in with the adults, I’ll wait until the reopening of MCC Thrift! – Jan Steven

**A Memorial Service for John Derksen (friend of Annie & Doug Schulz, and Erika & Will Klassen)** will be held on Feb. 11 at 2:00 pm at River East Church, Winnipeg, MB. John passed away surrounded by the love of his family on January 14, 2024. An obituary is posted on the website of Tallman Funeral Homes in Vineland, On. The service will be live-streamed via ZOOM, with access through the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84751377160?pwd=NVZ1c00zNGw3b1YrT1ZOL0toSzNaUT09>

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



**\*Continue to hold our world in prayer** as war and rumours of war resound. Pray for those who experience grief and pain; live in fear and danger because of armed conflict and call out to God from such harsh realities. **Pray for Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Russia, Myanmar and more.** Lord, hear our prayers.



**A Moment for MCC and MDS:** One volunteer, two organizations, many needs met. That’s the short version of Jeff Koller’s story about a trip he took from North Newton, Kansas, to Texas. In November, Mennonite Central Committee – MCC (Central States region) put out the call for a volunteer to haul 750 health kits to Brownsville, Texas, to help meet the needs of migrants. Jeff Koller, who recently retired as Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) Region 3 Operations Coordinator, wanted to meet that need. “I’ve been there a lot and I’m familiar,” he said.

<https://mds.org/story/one-trip-many-hands-warmed-hearts/>

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

**Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario** Annual Meeting & Niagara Russlaender Centenary Tour, Saturday, June 15, 2024. Join the Society for a day tour of sites in the Niagara region to commemorate the centenary of the arrival of *Russlaender* Mennonite immigrants in Ontario. Visit [www.mhso.org](http://www.mhso.org) and fill out a form to be notified when registration opens.

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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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## **Communion Service Litany**

In this season of Epiphany, we find ourselves in bewildering and difficult times. However, we know that God's light and love are present in Jesus Christ, to bring reconciliation, justice, hope and healing to our world. We come to this table today, not because we must but because we may. It is made ready for those who love him and those who want to love him more. It is Jesus who invites us to come, to find in him the grace, guidance, and strength we need to follow him in challenging times. Jesus promises to be present with us as we come.

### **We Confess Our Faith and Need of God's Forgiveness**

Leader: Let us confess our faith together.

All: We believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

Leader: Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our need of God's forgiveness.

All: Have mercy on me, O God,

According to your steadfast love.  
For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.

Leader: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation,  
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.  
In the name of Jesus,  
we are forgiven, loved, and free.

## **Prayer**

Loving God, you walk with us in the ways and the wilds of life.  
You journey with us in our joy and in our distress.  
We are thankful for the light you bring into  
our lives regardless of the circumstance.  
Holy One, each time we think we have you figured out,  
you surprise us again, revealing yourself in new ways;  
ways that disrupt our traditions and unsettle our comfort zones.  
In Jesus, we see your radical welcome of strangers, extending the  
table.  
We see Jesus breaking religious rules in order to include all  
people, lifting up both people and places deemed unclean; and  
caring more about the well-being of the oppressed than his own  
reputation.  
By his Spirit, Jesus teaches us to rethink your presence among us,  
bringing to us and our world, hope and guidance in confusing  
times.  
Send now your Spirit upon us so that the bread we break and the  
cup we share might be a communion of the body and blood of  
Christ.  
May this table be an extension of your welcome that knows no  
bounds.  
By your Spirit may our lives reflect Christ Jesus.  
Fill us with the courage and faith to join you in the work to bring  
peace and reconciliation in these bewildering times.  
Amen.

## **Words of Institution**

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

### *The Bread*

Servers come forward to serve the bread.

Prayer for the Bread

Distribution of the Bread

(Please hold the piece of bread until all are served and we are able to partake together.)

Leader: The body of Christ, broken for you.

(We eat the bread together.)

### *The Cup*

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Please take a cup from the pew holder near to you.

(Please wait to partake until we are able to do so together.)

Prayer for the Cup

Leader: The blood of Christ shed for you.

(We drink the cup together.)

## **Prayer After Communion**

Leader: In hope and peace let us pray:

All: God, our provider,  
you nourish us with your Word,  
who is the bread of life.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit,  
that through your love and light  
may shine in our world.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## **Benediction & Blessing**

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
send us from this time with our hope renewed,  
so that we are strengthened to serve you and  
further your radical embrace of the outcast and oppressed.  
May this time of communion,  
encourage us to open our minds and hearts  
to new ways of recognizing your presence among us.  
Amen.