



January 14th, 2024 9:30 a.m.

Jesus, Hope in Bewilderment

Prelude

Annie Schulz

Gathering Thoughts

Robert Dell

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: Silence of God, you enfold us.

People: We are here. We are listening.

Leader: Word of God, you come to us.

People: We are here. We are listening.

Leader: Spirit of God, you live in us.

People: We are here.

Speak to us, for your servants are listening.

Leader: The Holy One calls us. Do we hear?

**People: Sometimes, when the chaos of the world is quiet,
we decide to listen.**

Leader: How do we answer God's call?

**People: We worship today seeking to hear
and answer God's call.**

All: Here I am God! Speak for I am listening. Amen.

Hymn

Our Father God, thy name we praise

HWB# 32

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the People

Robert Dell

Hymn

God of our life

HWB #486

Scripture Reading

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (OT p.577)

Hymn

O God, You Search Me

Insert

Scripture Reading

John 1:43-51 (NT p.92)

Meditation

"Seeing is Believing, But..."

Doug Schulz (with Erika Klassen)

Hymn of Response

Be thou my vision

HWB #545, vv.1,2,5

Benediction

Doug Schulz

Sending Hymn *We Have Been Sent by God*

*We have been sent by God, with our hands prepared to serve,
and we build along with God a family here on earth. (2x)*

*The angels are not sent to change this world of pain
into a world of love where peace and justice reign;
it falls to each of us to do this work today.*

*We seek to do your will.
Oh, help us, God, we pray. (2x)*

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

GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday January 7th ~ Attendance – 43

Sunday, January 21st Speaker: Arli Klassen, Mennonite World Conference coordinator, Regional Representative

Scripture Texts (Focus texts highlighted): **Psalm 8, Job 42:1-6**

Coffee Time after the service

Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday

Next Sunday, January 21st, we welcome Aril Klassen, senior staff person from Mennonite World Conference (MWC) as our guest speaker for the worship service. Arli will also share with us during Coffee Time. Mennonite World Conference links Anabaptists to a global community for fellowship, worship, service and witness. It represents the majority of the global family of Christian churches rooted in the 16th century Radical Reformation in Europe, particularly in the Anabaptist movement. MWC membership in 2023 included one international association and 108 Mennonite and Brethren in Christ national churches from 60 countries, with around 1.45 million baptized believers in close to 10,180 congregations. About 84% of baptized believers in MWC member churches are African, Asian or Latin American, and 16% are located in Europe and North America.

Preaching Team meets January 17th, 10 a.m.

♪ **Women's Chorus** ~ January 25th at 9:30 a.m.

Coffee Times at Grace ~ Please sign up on the bulletin board if you'd like to contribute baked goods.

Adult Sunday School will resume on January 28 with a discussion of Pastor Darrell's sermon, followed by further consideration of *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today*. Mac Plunkett and Kevin McCabe will be leading the group going forward.

Annual Reports ~ Please submit annual reports for the Grace Annual Report Book, via email, to the church office (Ester) by **Thursday January 25th**. Contact the office for assistance if necessary, or if you wish to hand in a hard copy.

Annual Meeting ~ After the Worship Service on **Sunday, February 25th** in the Church Hall

Chaplain's Corner ~ John Berg and Agnes Gossen send a sunny and warm hello to their Grace MC friends. Our friends in assisted living welcome your prayers, cards, and visits.

Grace Mennonite Church sent a year end gift of \$600 to Pastor Accilien in Haiti through Waldo and this was his response. *Dear friend Pastor Waldo, thank you so much! Thank you for your prayers and your support. Please give my greetings to your family and church members. Your gift is really welcome as we are in construction and are blessed by your help. I'm praying that God continues to pour his blessing on your church. Love you.*
Pastor Accilien

Illness Awareness ~ During the fall and early winter Grace folk – like everyone else-have experienced a good deal of illness, whether flu, rsv, or the latest version of covid. At Grace we have been careful and that is encouraging. But we can expect that through the winter we will experience more cases. We ask all who attend please to continue considering risks of contagiousness in our community and stay home if you become ill. If you attend, masks are not required, though they are available at the entrance table and you are welcome to wear one. You'll find hand sanitizer there as well. We have plenty of pew space for you to socially distance if you wish. Thank you for your heightened awareness. Take care everyone.

Update from Bridge of Hope

Bridge of Hope began in 2015 as a joint effort of Grace and the Islamic Society of St. Catharines to welcome Syrian Refugees to Canada. Many people from Grace have contributed financially, given leadership to BoH as an organization and have assisted personally in welcoming newcomers to Canada. To date, between 30 and 40 people have been welcomed. The initial partnership has expanded to include representatives from 6-8 congregations or faith communities. Many of the first participants from the Islamic community were persons with younger families. For family and professional reasons many of these people are no longer as directly involved. During the pandemic the flow of newcomers slowed down. We are currently anticipating the arrival of 3 families from South Sudan. These sponsorships also represent a shift from BoH personnel doing the primary resettlement work, to using the network and expertise BoH has developed to assist other congregations and faith groups in being the primary resettlement groups. Your ongoing financial and prayerful support continues to be welcomed.
Dave Brubacher and Doug Schulz

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



Please pray for the **MCEC community of congregations.**

This week we pray for **Église Mennonite Agape.** Jean-Ematiel Bossicot provides pastoral leadership for the congregation in Drummondville, QC. Pray for this congregation as they preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and put gospel into action in their under-resourced neighbourhood.



A Moment for MCC: “In the name of Christ” – The story of David Suh and MCC meat canning.

The article begins... “My Korean name is Kwang-Eel Suh.

I was born in what is now know as South Korea...everything changed overnight when I was 8 years old.”

In 1953, the Mennonite Vocational School welcomed and provided shelter, food, education and job training for hundreds of children. MCC also sent canned meat to provide nutritional support for students attending the school.

Suh expresses his gratitude for the numerous service workers and volunteers he met over the years when he was a student and later an employee at MVS and MCC Korea: “I could glimpse Jesus in their loving kindness and dedication. Their action spoke louder.”

Read the full story at <https://mcc.org/our-stories/name-christ>

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

Jesus, Hope in Bewilderment

From January 7th through February 11th the theme for our Sunday morning worship services will be *Jesus, Hope in Bewilderment*. Epiphany gives us opportunity to celebrate and focus on God manifesting or revealing himself in Jesus Christ. Yet, we find ourselves in dark, confusing, and bewildering times. However, as followers of Jesus, in this time of Epiphany, we are reminded that God's light and love are present! Our hope in Christ emerges in us *in the wilds*. As we journey through life we never really get fully beyond times of bewilderment, but our hope in Christ and the company of the Spirit enables us to live meaningfully, takes steps of faith, and to be witnesses of Christ's hope to others.

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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O God, You Search Me

*O God, you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me:
ever the maker and keeper of my days.*

*You know my resting and my rising.
You discern my purpose from afar,
and with love everlasting you besiege me:
in ev'ry moment of life or death, you are.*

*Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
You have known its meaning through and through.
You are with me beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past, and future, too.*

*Although your Spirit is upon me,
still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.*

*For you created me and shaped me,
gave me life and knit me in the womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.*