



January 26th, 2025 9:30 a.m.

*Epiphany
Together in the Light*

Prelude

Annie Schulz

**Gathering Thoughts
Lighting the Christ Candle**

Mac Plunkett

Call to Worship

Leader: The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

**People: Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.**

Leader: They have no speech; they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.

**People: Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.**

Leader: In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

**People: It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.**

**All: *It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.***

Epiphany Prayer Holy God, creator of light,
in your Son's incarnation you showed us yourself, face to face.
Surprise us with signs and wonders of your presence,
as you did long ago.
Send your Spirit to show us the path that leads to you,
so that we might see you more clearly,
love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly
through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn

Morning has broken

HWB #648

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Musical Reflection

GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, January 19th ~ Attendance - 57

Sunday February 2nd ~ Speaker: Darrell Winger
Scripture Texts: Jeremiah 1:4-10; **Psalm 71:1-6**;
1 Corinthians 13:1-13; **Luke 4:21-30**

Coffee Times ~ February 2nd, February 16th

♪ **Women's Chorus** ~ Thursdays January 30th, February 13th,
February 27th at 9:30 a.m.

Annual Reports ~ Please submit annual reports for the Grace Annual Report Book, via email, to the church office (Ester Funk) by **Wednesday February 19th**. 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, March 23rd** in the Church Hall

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



Please pray for the MCEC community of congregations. This week we pray for Poole Mennonite Church, in Poole, ON. Fred Redekop provides pastoral leadership for this congregation.



A Moment for MCC - For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. Devoted workers and volunteers at MCC-supported church shelters in Mexico welcome migrants. Victor Lampón Leon and Rocio Valencia Islas lead a church that revolves around providing respite, attention and care to migrants passing through Ecatepec, a town just outside of Mexico City. MCC has provided support to the ministry, La Mano de Dios en Apoyo al Migrante or Hand of God in Support of Migrants, for the past three years.

The space they have is small—five bunk beds and a single bed completely fill one room, while the one car garage-sized remainder hosts church services, meals, additional guests and whatever else the ministry requires. Lampón says the most they've ever hosted for a night was 48, but 35 to 40 is typical. Women and children double up on the beds when needed, turning 11 spots into 22, and the church puts down sleeping mats anywhere else someone could lay their head for the night.

Work your wonders

*Liberator, Redeemer, Emancipator (The terms roll easily off our lips.)
For your power that notices,
your passion that descends, your freedom that liberates,
We thank you.*

*We hold in your presence all those bonded,
in fear and despair, in poverty and weariness,
in crime, war, and violence, in narcissism and self-indulgence.*

*Work your wonders among us,
in your strength like war, in your gentleness like nursing,
in your abiding love like forever.*

*Work your wonders,
we pray in the weak name of Jesus. Amen.*

By Walter Brueggemann

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.*

Contact Us: Telephone: 905-935-6112 Email: gracemennonite@bellnet.ca

677 Niagara Street, St. Catharines

Office Hours: 8:30-2:30 ~ Wednesday, Thursday

www.gracemennonitechurch.com

www.facebook.com/gracemennonitechurchstcatharines

Pastor	Darrell Winger 905-483-2335	Darrell.winger@gmail.com
Worship & Music Associate	Annie Schulz 905-941-5511	annieschulz@yahoo.ca
Office Administrator Community Chaplain	Ester Funk Jan Steven 289-990-4839	gracemennonite@bellnet.ca janscats@gmail.com

Praying for a just peace for Israelis and Palestinians

All: ***God of justice and compassion,***

Leader: We give thanks to you for the news of a temporary ceasefire in Gaza, for the pause of the relentless violence that has destroyed so much. We give thanks to the many witnesses who have prayed for justice and peace with their hearts and their feet over the last 400 days. And yet, God, we lament how much was lost.

All: ***God of justice and compassion,***

Leader: We cry out to you for the people of Palestine – from Gaza to the West Bank to the refugee camps and global diaspora – and especially those who have been living under constant bombardment from Israel. We pray that this ceasefire will be permanent, an end to this bloodshed. We pray for food, water, and medical aid to flow freely and for the flow of weapons to stop. We pray for the release of all hostages, prisoners, and those held captive under the Israeli occupation. We pray for those displaced from their homes, that they may return safely. We pray for those grieving the loss of loved ones, that they may be comforted and protected.

People: May the Palestinian people, made in your image, know your comfort and love. And let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream.

All: ***God of justice and compassion,***

Leader: We pray for the Jewish people living in Israel and across the world, for peace and safety. We pray for those displaced from their homes, seeking refuge from rocket attacks. We pray for those still held hostage by Hamas, that they would be set free. And we pray that they may find healing and the restoration of hope in the months ahead. We pray for those grieving the loss of those they once held close, those that never returned home.

People: May the Jewish people, made in your image, know your comfort and love. And let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-ending stream.

All: *God of justice and compassion,*

Leader: We continue to pray for a just and peaceful tomorrow, a future of liberation for all; we know that the peace we seek is bound together with the peace of Palestine/Israel. We pray that the walls of separation would be dismantled and that the demonization of the other would cease. We pray for world leaders to see the sanctity of every life and to pursue justice without partiality.

People: May all people living in the land, each one made in your image, know your comfort and love. And let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream.

All: *Loving God, you taught us that if one part of the body suffers, the whole body suffers with it. We remember that we are one, bound together in the household of God. May we, your church, made in your image, be disquieted, and emboldened to action in response to the suffering we have witnessed. And let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream.*

**We pray this to you, God of justice and compassion for all.
Amen.**



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