



July 21st, 2024 9:30 a.m.

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude		Ruth MacVicar
Gathering Thoughts		Darrell Winger
Lighting the Christ Candle		
Call to Worship*		
Leader: We gather together in the name of Jesus Christ-		
People: Members of God's family,		
and brothers and sisters to one another.		
Leader: There are no outsiders here among us,		
no one has any special standing or bragging rights.		
People: For we have been brought together		
by the redeeming love of Jesus.		
All: Let's join together in worship!		
Prayer		
Hymn	<i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i>	HWB #37, vv.1,2,4
Passing of the Peace		
Offertory Prayer		
Musical Reflection		
Prayers of the People		Darrell Winger
Hymn	<i>Praise, I will praise you, Lord</i>	HWB #76
Scripture Reading	Psalm 89:1-8 (OT p.545)	
Grace Singers	<i>Make Us One and Make us Holy</i>	
Scripture Reading	Ephesians 2:11-22 (NT p.192)	
Meditation	"For He Himself is our Peace"	Laur Steven
Hymn of Response	<i>Renew Your Church</i>	HWB #363, vv.1,4
Benediction		Laur Steven

Sending Hymn *We, Your People, Sing Your Praises*

*We, your people, sing your praises as together we are sent
to reveal your new creation in the shadows of lament.
Give us courage for the journey, shepherd Jesus, be our guide;
help us lead with hope and passion till all things are reconciled.*

Postlude

*Christine Longhurst

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]

Welcome to Ruth MacVicar, our supply pianist during Annie's leave. Ruth has served as music director in several churches, currently teaches piano and is a member of Chorus Niagara.

Questions for further reflection after the meditation

1. We "pass the peace" every Sunday. How does reading Ephesians 2:14 change how we think of passing the peace?
2. In Matthew 5:17 Jesus says, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." How does this help us more fully understand Ephesians 2:15?
3. In Ephesians 2:11-22 Paul is speaking of Christ making peace between Gentiles and Jews. How is this passage still speaking to us today?
4. Ephesians 2:11-18 speaks of Christ breaking down the wall of hostility between enemies. Then verses 19-22 speak of a new building being built. What makes this new building different?

GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday July 14th ~ Attendance – 35

Sunday, July 28th ~ Speaker: Darrell Winger
Scripture Texts: Psalm 96; Ephesians 3:14-21

Coffee Time ~ Sunday August 4th

Grace Newsletter ~ Would you like to help us communicate all the good things happening in and through our congregation? We are planning to develop a Grace Newsletter to send out 2 or 3 times a year. If you would be interested in doing any writing, collecting of stories, sharing of photos, editing, or providing any other creative input, please let Darrell know (email, text, conversation) in the next couple of weeks. We will then plan a meeting of those interested. Our aim is to send out our first newsletter this fall.

Grace Arts ~ We are blessed to have many creative and artistic people in our congregation. As a way to honour God with our diverse gifts, a space has been created in the foyer for sharing various expressions of creativity, handiwork, writing, and artistic expression. You are welcome to share some of your work. If it can be easily placed on the board, please do so. If you need some assistance, let Darrell or Ester know.

The ANABAPTIST COMMUNITY BIBLE is now on sale in honour of the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist movement! There are short commentaries on every part of the Bible by groups of Mennonites all around the world. People from Grace participated in this process. If you would like to order one or more copies, please let John Rempel know or sign up in the foyer until July 28th, and he will make a bulk order. The shipping costs are vastly reduced with a bulk order. You can pay John when the books arrive.

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD

A Peace Walk for Gaza and the West Bank

This afternoon – July 21 at 1 p.m. – many community and faith groups will meet at Hwy 20 and Stanley Ave in Niagara Falls, calling for an end to the war against our Palestinian brothers and sisters. There are Christians in Palestine who are suffering terribly too. At the same time, groups will be uniting for peace across the U.S.-Canada border in Niagara Falls, NY. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. The local contact person for Mennonite Action is Kit Friesen Andres. You can reach Kit at buns-not-bombs@protonmail.com or connect with Kit after church.

Traditions in Peacemaking: Pathways to Reconciliation - Come hear presentations on Peacemaking from Indigenous and Mennonite perspectives, followed by a corn roast. Indigenous teachings by Tim Johnson and Sean Vanderklis, followed by Mennonite reflections. August 11th starting at 2pm at the First Nations Peace Monument, 2370 Decew Rd. Please bring lawn chairs, hats, sunscreen, and reusable water bottles. Parking is limited; carpool if possible. Donations to help with costs appreciated. More details to follow.

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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