



July 23rd, 2023 9:30 a.m.

Prelude

Annie Schulz

Gathering Thoughts

Robert Dell

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: Your word is the light of my life,
this word and light are a guide to my path.

**People: I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe your righteous ordinances.**

Leader: I am severely afflicted;
give me life, O Lord, according to your word.

**People: Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord,
and teach me those ordinances.**

Leader: I hold my life in my hand continually,
but I do not forget your law.

**People: The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from your precepts.**

Leader: Yours decrees are my heritage forever;
they are the joy of my heart.

**ALL: We incline our hearts to perform your statutes,
forever, to the end.**

Hymn

Immortal, invisible, God only wise

HWB #70

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the People

Doug Schulz

Hymn

Lord, with devotion we pray

HWB #79

Scripture Reading

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 [OT p.577]

Grace Singers *There's a Wild Hope in the Wind*

Scripture Reading Romans 8:12-25 [NT p.158]

Meditation “Hope: Gaining Perspective, Growing Patience”
Doug Schulz

Hymn of Response *O God, You Search Me* Grace Singers

Benediction (Congregation please stand) Doug Schulz

Sending Hymn *Spirit of the living God* HWB #349

It is good to be together in worship this morning!
The ushers are pleased to help any who need assistance.
[Offering plate available on table at back of sanctuary]



TODAY Sunday, July 23rd at 4:00 p.m.
Grace Social Gathering in the Church Hall
Watermelon, rollkuchen, salads and desserts.
Program: Grace Picture Show.

Donation basket for the meal will be available in the Church Hall.

GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday July 16th, 2023 ~ Attendance – 32

Sunday, July 30th – Speaker: Jan Steven

Scripture Texts (Focus texts highlighted): Genesis 29:15-28;

Psalms 128; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52;

Ruth 1:15-18

♥ Pastoral Care Team (Grace Friends)

Let us continue to keep in touch with church friends who are not able to attend our Sunday services but welcome prayers, phone calls, cards, and visits. Their contact information is in the Church Directory. These friends include (but are not limited to): Tom B, John B, Erna & Jake B (Ester's parents), Reg F, Agnes G, Jake & Kathy H, Abe H, Francine & Theo I, Erika I, Hertha J, Mary L, and Helene M. Have I missed anyone? Let me know. With love from your pastoral care chaplain, Jan Steven.

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



From Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC)

*Each week we pray for a **faith community within the MCEC community of congregations**. This week we pray for Lao Christian Fellowship in St. Catharines, ON.

***The MC Canada Palestine-Israel Network** calls us to pray. The last weeks in the Israeli-occupied West Bank have been marked by a rise in violence due to growing Israeli settlements and military control. Pray for the safety of Palestinians who live in fear of attacks and harassment. Pray too for the minority Christian communities of the land, that they may be strong and united in their witness to the hope, justice, and peace of the gospel.

*Continue to pray for **those who are living in areas impacted by war**. We pray using the words of Psalm 13: "How long O Lord? Will you forget me forever? But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation."



A Moment for MCC ~ Belonging in peace – A young adult reflects on her family and the Korean divide

Background: July 27, 2023, marks the 70th anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement. While the agreement ended three years of armed conflict, the war continues to this day. Families remain divided by a sealed border between the North and South. Those who can remember a united Korea are dying off. Yujin Kim, a young adult living in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, reflects on how separation and longing are part of her family narrative, shaping her identity and motivating her to work for peace.

->For me, my family, friends and church, the 70th anniversary of the Korean War could also be called the 70th anniversary of longing for peace on the Korean Peninsula. Many individuals and organizations have long worked for peace in response to the prolonged conflict.

This includes MCC's peace and development projects, and support for a formal end to the Korean War. From 1953-1971, MCC operated the Mennonite Vocational School in South Korea, providing access to education and humanitarian assistance. Since 1995, MCC has also responded to ongoing humanitarian needs in North Korea by providing things like canned meat, relief kits and agricultural supplies. Because of the pandemic, MCC's humanitarian work in the North has had to pause. But MCC continues its advocacy efforts, calling for a formal end to the conflict on the Korean Peninsula. MCC also advocates for more people-to-people engagement, including reunification for separated families.<-

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.*

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

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