



**July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 9:30 a.m.**

**Prelude** Karen Koop (VUM Church)

**Gathering Thoughts** Laur Steven

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Call to Worship & Prayer**

Leader: Here in this place, there are no foreigners,

**People: for all are welcome in God's house.**

Leader: Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,

**People: for love is the language of faith.**

Leader: Here in our lives, there are no divisions,

**People: for God dwells in each of us.**

***ALL: Come, let us worship in unity and love.***

**Hymn** *Let all creation bless the Lord* HWB #61

**Passing of the Peace**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Musical Reflection**

**Prayers of the People** Laur Steven

**Hymn** *Praise, I will praise you, Lord* HWB #76

**Scripture Reading** Psalm 128 [OT p.573]

**Hymn** *Blessed assurance* HWB #332

**Scripture Reading** Ruth 1:15-18 [OT p.241]

**Meditation** "The Book of Ruth" Jan Steven

**Hymn of Response** *God, who touches earth with beauty*  
HWB #511

**Benediction** (Congregation please stand)

Jan Steven

**Sending Hymn**

*As You Go Out from Here*

Back of bulletin

**Postlude**

***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]**

## **GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023** ~ Attendance – 44

**Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>** – Speaker: Laur Steven

**Scripture Texts** (Focus texts highlighted): **Genesis 32:22-31**;  
Psalm 17:1-7, 15; **Romans 9:1-5**; Matthew 14:13-21

### **♥ Pastoral Care Team (Grace Friends)**

It's a little early for your August love-note and treat, I know, but August will be here in two days. So come see Jan in the foyer when the service is over.

\*\*\*\* It's that time of year again when gardeners may have more produce than they can use. Never fear! Never waste! Laur and Jan are happy to take it to the Ozanam Centre (Soup Kitchen), the Food Bank at St. Alfred's, or to Seniors' Apartment buildings including Grace-Linwell, Jubilee Place, and Ina Grafton. You can bring it to church or we can come and pick it. 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 **Niagara United Mennonite Church** in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

\*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 ~ Raw Carrot is celebrating its five-year anniversary this year!**

The MCC Raw Carrot site opened in May 2017 and has operated in partnership with Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church in Kitchener. The location produces 500 to 600 bags of soup per month. For some staff, working at The Raw Carrot is a stepping stone to full-time employment elsewhere. They're able to learn new skills and have confidence in a supportive environment. For others, the Raw Carrot is exactly the type of workplace that they may need for the rest of their lives – where they can be supported during work by staff who understand the social, emotional, or mental health needs that impact their ability to work on a daily basis. These are needs that are simply not met by most workplaces. “We’re still accomplishing our goal – to make soup – but we’re able to do that within a community that values people over efficiency. It’s all worth it, even if it takes us a little longer.”

You can pick up a bag of Raw Carrot soup from our MCC Thrift shop!

**Sunday, Sep 24, 7:00–9:00 p.m.** at Bethany Community Church – 1388 Third Street Louth, St. Catharines, ON

**Effect Hope is excited to present our speaking tour "Restoring Hope" with accomplished Christian author Philip Yancey.**

### **About this event:**

Neglected diseases like leprosy affect 1.7 billion people worldwide – that’s 1 in 5 of us. Effect Hope is the only Canadian Christian global health organization exclusively focused on addressing diseases like leprosy. We are thrilled to partner with acclaimed Christian author Philip Yancey to share this message of hope with you. In a world that often seems dark, it can be easy to lose sight of the things that truly matter.

Together we will rediscover the power of hope and the difference it can make in our daily lives. Philip will also share his perspectives on understanding the purpose of pain, and how to make sense of human suffering. Philip Yancey’s writings have impacted millions of people around the world. He has a unique gift for blending deep theological insights with practical wisdom, and his books have been translated into dozens of languages. For tickets go to the following website:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/effect-hope-presents-philip-yancey-at-bethany-community-church-tickets-642376273727>

## ***As You Go Out from Here***

*As you go out from here,  
may the Lord go with you.*

*The face of God  
shine on you ev'ry day.*

*We are sent by God  
wherever we are living,  
salt and light as people of the Way.*



**Tel: 905-935-6112      Email: [gracemennonite@bellnet.ca](mailto:gracemennonite@bellnet.ca)**

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

**[www.gracemennonitechurch.com](http://www.gracemennonitechurch.com)**

**[www.facebook.com/gracemennonitechurchstcatharines](https://www.facebook.com/gracemennonitechurchstcatharines)**

Office Administrator	Ester Funk	<a href="mailto:gracemennonite@bellnet.ca">gracemennonite@bellnet.ca</a>
Worship Coordinator	Annie Schulz	<a href="mailto:annieschulz@yahoo.ca">annieschulz@yahoo.ca</a>
Crisis Care & Funerals	Waldo Pauls 289-407-5851	<a href="mailto:waldopauls@gmail.com">waldopauls@gmail.com</a>
Pastoral Care Chaplain	Jan Steven 289-990-4839	Pastoral Care, Friendly Visits <a href="mailto:janscats@gmail.com">janscats@gmail.com</a>
Pastoral Intern	Mac Plunkett	