



March 16th, 2025 9:30 a.m.

*Lent 2
Challenges on the Way*

Prelude

Annie Schulz

**Gathering Thoughts
Lighting the Christ Candle**

Darrell Winger

Lenten Hymn

*From the dawning of creation, you have loved us as your own;
stay with us through all temptation, make us turn to you alone,
make us turn to you alone.*

*In our call to be a blessing, may we be a blessing true;
may we live and die confessing Christ as Lord of all we do,
Christ as Lord of all we do.*

Call to Worship

Leader: We profess today that we want to follow Christ
as people of pure and simple faith.

**People: But we confess that in our devotion
to strong religion, we can be both overly
sentimental and overly judgmental.**

Leader: Christ challenges our hearts and minds
to be discerning without avoiding or condemning.

**People: When we seek the clarity of faithfulness
in following Jesus, God opens eyes.**

**All: Thanks be to God, that we can grow a patient,
peace-focused perspective. God has ways
of changing us and others to be faithful souls
seeing God's will for the world.**

Prayer

Hymn *Our Father God, thy name we praise* HWB #32

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the People

Darrell Winger

Hymn

Let Justice Flow Down

VT #791

Refrain: *Let justice flow down, down like a river,
down to the valleys where the helpless cry.
Let righteousness flow through us forever;
lead us to the stream that will never run dry.*

*Flow to the mouths of the hungry; flow to the hands of the poor.
Flow to the hearts of the orphans, healing the wounds of war.
Refrain*

*Flow to the streets of the homeless, finding no place they can go.
Flow to the cells of the prisoners, facing each day alone.
Refrain*

*Flow through the courts of our nation, guide us in love's decrees.
Lead us to streams of salvation; fill our lands with peace.
Refrain*

Scripture Reading

Psalm 146 (OT p.581)

Hymn

Lord, you have come to the Lakeshore HWB #229, vv.1,3

Scripture Reading

Mark 1:14-20 (NT p.35)

Meditation

"Ordinary People"

Stephen Roy

MCC Ontario, Church and Community Relations Associate

Hymn of Response

Where charity and love prevail HWB #305
(alternate tune)

Benediction

Darrell Winger

Sending

Move in our midst

HWB #418, vv. 1,2

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, March 9th ~ Attendance – 51

Preaching Team ~ Wednesday, March 19th 10:00 a.m.

♪ **Women's Chorus** ~ Thursday March 27th at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday April 10th at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday March 23rd ~ Speaker: Darrell Winger
Scriptures Readings: Isaiah 55:1-9 and Luke 13:1-17

Annual Meeting ~ After the Worship Service on **Sunday, March 23rd** in the Church Hall. **Report Books** are available in your Grace mailbox.

Coffee Times ~ April 6th, April 20th

Telephone Directory ~ A new Grace Telephone Directory will be available in the spring. Please contact Ester in the office by March 19th, if there are any changes to your information, or you wish to be added to the directory.

Free Books for Kids Update! Grace Mennonite Church's FREE program "FREE BOOKS FOR KIDS" has placed 195 books at two schools – Edith Cavell and Canadian Martyrs. The children's books are gathered and donated by Value Village, and Jan sorts and labels them. The boxes of books are brought to the schools, with help from Laur, along with a huge teddy bear with a scarf that says, "Reading is beary fun!" (Thank you Mary K for scarves!)

Getting the word out has been a challenge. If you have contacts at area elementary schools, do let them know about this program. It's free and it's fun. (Also, if ever you have an oversupply of baking, I'll gladly freeze it and then make up trays of goodies for the Managers and Staff at VV. They collect teddy bears, blankets, fabric, and books for us. And they give it to us for free!) Contact Jan at 289-990-4839 or janscats@gmail.com

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



Please pray for the **MCEC community of congregations**. This week we pray for **Shalom Worship and Healing Centre**. Yoni Abraham and Daniel Tela provide pastoral leadership to this community. This congregation, in Kitchener, ON, has been growing and planting churches across Ontario.



A Moment for MCC Thrift ~ In 1972, four visionary women — Linie Friesen, Selma Loewen, Susan Giesbrecht and Sara Stoesz — turned second-hand clothing into a global movement. What started as a small thrift shop in Altona, MB, has grown to 85+ MCC Thrift shops across North America, funding MCC's relief, development and peace work worldwide.

MCC Thrift on Grantham welcomes volunteers. Contact Tim Albrecht at 254 Grantham Ave St. Catharines, (905) 682-8944, or grantham@mcco.ca

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

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

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Community Chaplain	Jan Steven 289-990-4839	janscats@gmail.com

Update on Sunday Adult Study Opportunities

Faith and Action in Trying Times

The Adult Study Group will begin its spring session of 5 classes on March 30th. Session leaders Laur Steven and John Rempel encourage you to join us.

Our goals for the group are:

- * to better grasp the Bible's call to mission from an Anabaptist/Mennonite understanding
- * to read and discuss essays from the recently published Anabaptist Community Bible that address challenging issues of the day from a Christian stance
- * to offer resources that help us pursue peace and justice

At our first meeting on March 30th we want to hear what you find helpful in being a faithful Christian. Please bring your ideas with you. We will also share a number of possibilities. We have a sample we encourage you to read for our first session, "Early Anabaptist Understandings of Scripture" by Stuart Murray. Please ask Ester Funk (gracemennonite@bellnet.ca), to put a copy in your church mailbox. Or you can ask Laur Steven (laursteven53@gmail.com) to send you a copy via email.

There are plans for a second adult Bible study group to start in September. We are considering a study group with an eye to practical Christianity. The thrust would be along the lines of how do New Testament concepts such as the "Kingdom of God", and others of that sort, help us to deal with personal and social issues such as stress, anxiety, tariffs, and daily living in general. What teachings of Jesus and Paul seem especially useful or applicable in the 21st century? Stay tuned for more information from Kevin and Sue McCabe and Mac and Julie Plunkett.

MCEC (Mennonite Church Eastern Canada) Annual Church Gathering 2025

Called to Action by the Power of the Holy Spirit

Saturday, April 26th, 2025 10 – 11:30 a.m. Online
Registration opens at the end of March.

From Ben Cassels, MCEC Moderator

What a gift it is to be part of MCEC -a diverse community of 106 congregations across three provinces, united in following Jesus.

Though we worship in different languages and express our faith in varied ways, we are bound together by our shared calling and commitment to one another. This is the Good News made visible. May we be an encouragement to one another and a witness to our world.

We need and invite your voice, your wisdom, your challenge and your vision as we meet.

This year's Annual Church Gathering is different from past years. Instead of a two-day, in-person event, we meet online for one morning as a business meeting. Together, we'll discuss important updates, including slate positions, and finances. While this format has its limitations, it allows us to steward our resources wisely, especially as we prepare to host Mennonite Church Canada Gathering this July in Kitchener.

As moderator, I am consistently inspired by the many stories of hope, grace, and joy I hear throughout MCEC. It is a gift of God in the ways we come together, each of us called to faithfulness in our unique situations, making up the body of Christ.

MCEC exists because of you – your prayers, wisdom, and engagement. Thank you for your continued support and for walking this journey together. May God guide and bless us as we move forward in faith.

Mennonite Church Canada Gathering 2025 – July 2-5

Kitchener, ON at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate

Theme: *Each Gift*

“Each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of the varied grace of God” 1 Peter 4:10

Registration now open, check the MC Canada website for more information.