



March 17th, 2024 9:30 a.m.

Lent 5

World of Tension, Christ Among Us

Prelude Annie Schulz

Gathering Thoughts Laur Steven

Lighting the Christ Candle

Lenten Song *Beneath the cross of Jesus* HWB #250, vv.1,3

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel. No longer will they teach their neighbours, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord!' because they will all know me, from the least to the greatest."

People: This new covenant is being offered to us.

Leader: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

**People: Death must come before resurrection.
A seed fallen to the soil and broken open
can become life for many.**

**All: This new covenant is being offered to us:
to lay down our life and follow.**

Leader: The life-giving ways of God placed within our minds and written on our hearts, where we are forgiven and our sins remembered no more, where we are God's people and God is our God.

Hymn *Come, let us all unite to sing* HWB #12

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the People Laur Steven

Hymn *Open my eyes, that I may see* HWB #517

Scripture Reading Psalm 119:9-16 (OT p.566)

Grace Singers *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path. (2x)*

Scripture Reading John 12:20-33 (NT p.106)
Meditation "Unless a Grain of Wheat Falls" Darrell Winger
Hymn of Response *God, Be the Love* Back of Bulletin, vv.1,2,3
Benediction Darrell Winger
Sending Hymn *God, Be the Love* Back of Bulletin, vv.4,5

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 and Community Connections Time

Today, after the worship service. Time will be given to hear brief updates on ways we are serving in our community – Bridge of Hope, Grace Peace Group, and Bears and Blankets.

GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday March 10th ~ Attendance – 39

Grace Peace Group ~ March 17, 1 p.m.: Stamford Presbyterian Church is sponsoring Ceasefire Pilgrimage Peace Walks. This afternoon we will join them. We will begin at Dufferin Islands at 1:00 p.m. and will proceed along the Niagara Parkway, past the Horseshoe Falls towards Queen Victoria Park. We will then return back to Dufferin Islands. **March 27, 3 p.m.:** Friendly meeting with our area MPs to ask for a Cease Fire in Gaza. **May 4, afternoon:** Mark your calendars for a workshop about strengthening relationships between local church congregations and our Palestinian neighbours. For more information about Grace Peace Group, talk to John Rempel or Kit Andres.

Sunday, March 24th ~ Palm Sunday Speaker: Mac Plunkett
Scripture Texts (Focus texts highlighted): Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29;
Mark 11:1-11, 15-19; John 12:12-16

March 20th 10:00 a.m. Preaching Team
1:30 p.m. Church Council

♪ **Women's Chorus** ~ March 21st, 28th at 9:30 a.m.

Requesting Constitution Items for Council to Consider

If you have any questions or comments or requests about the revised Grace Constitution, speak to Council Chair Laur Steven by Monday March 18th. He will bring them to a Council meeting on March 20th. Feel free to call him at 289-990-4839.

Due to popular demand, we are restarting the adult Sunday school on March 24. We will be studying chapters 22-24 of The Bible Unwrapped. Please feel free to attend in the Fellowship Room after the service.

Good Friday Service ~ March 29th 9:30 a.m. with Communion, and Coffee Time after the service.

Easter Sunday Service ~ March 31st 9:30 a.m. and Coffee Time after the service.

Scuba Vacation Bible Camp (St. Catharines UM Church) -- 4 or 5 more volunteers needed. This is a way Grace could support a great summer program for children, from SK to grade 6, running from July 15 - 19 from 9:00 - 11:45 a.m. daily. Full program, registration, and volunteering details will be available on the church website, along with a registration link. **If you could help out in any way or for more info,** contact Megan VandenBerg or Marian Reimer Friesen (marianfriesen@gmail.com)

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD

Pleasant Manor Spring Bazaar and Team ~ Saturday March 23rd, 10 – 11:30 am in Chapel room. More information on the Community Events Bulletin Board.



*Please pray for the **MCEC community of congregations.** This week we pray for **Freedom Gospel Ethiopian Church** in Toronto, ON. Pastor Ashenafi Fulase provides pastoral care for this congregation. Please pray for them as they minister in their neighbourhoods around the Danforth area in Toronto.



A Moment for MCC Thrift: Your purchases make an impact around the world 😊 “our well is a blessing,” says Molita Nacuduzi, a participant in an MCC supported clean drinking water project in Chitongo, Mozambique. With this new well, the women and children of the community no longer have to make treks to the Zambezi River to collect water. The task was often dangerous as many people, mostly children, lost their lives to crocodiles in the river while collecting water. The water was also dirty and many people got sick. “It is good for us all, [especially] for us girls who used to make that long and dangerous walk each day,” shares Molita. This well now provides clean water to over 300 families in the community. Thank you for making a difference.♥

MCC – Relief, development, and peace in the name of Christ
<https://mccthrift.com/>

Our MCC Thrift Shop on Grantham is reopening in early April!

God, Be the Love

*God, be the love to search and keep me;
God be the prayer to move my voice; God, be the strength to now
uphold me:*

Refrain: *O Christ, surround me, O Christ, surround me.*

*Bind to myself the name of Holy; great cloud of witnesses enfold;
prophets, apostles, angels witness: Refrain*

*Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight; flashing of lightning,
strength of wind; depth of the sea to soil of planet; Refrain*

*Walking behind to hem my journey, going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above and always, Refrain*

*Christ in the eye of all who see me; Christ in the ear that hears my
voice; Christ in the hearts of all who know me: Refrain*

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.*

Tel: 905-935-6112 Email: gracemennonite@bellnet.ca

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	Ester Funk	gracemennonite@bellnet.ca
Community Chaplain	Jan Steven 289-990-4839	janscats@gmail.com