



March 23rd, 2025 9:30 a.m.

Lent 3
Challenges on the Way

Prelude

Annie Schulz

Gathering Thoughts

Mac Plunkett

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

Leader: We profess today that we want to follow Christ
as people who have found a rich life
through God's many blessings along the way.

**People: But we confess that sometimes we struggle
with priorities when we lose higher perspective,
or lose energy of true devotion,
or lose purity of spiritual will.**

Leader: Christ challenges our hearts and minds
to pause, refocus, come to our senses,
and learn again to trust in God's provision for all things.

**People: When we humble ourselves in that way,
Christ reveals to us what we need.**

**All: Thanks be to God, that our eyes and hearts
can always be opened wider,
to see that we ourselves are found
within the limitless love of God shown in Christ.**

Prayer

Hymn

Come, thou fount

HWB #521

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Musical Reflection

Lenten Hymn

*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.*

*Living Water of salvation, be the fountain of each soul;
springing up in new creation, flow in us and make us whole,
flow in us and make us whole.*

Prayers of the People

Mac Plunkett

Hymn *My hope is built on nothing less* HWB #343, vv.1,2,3

Scripture Reading Isaiah 55:1-9 (OT p.685)

Grace Singers *Christ Has No Body Here but Ours*

Scripture Reading Luke 13:1-17 (NT p.76)

Meditation “Digging Deep in Life’s Soil” Darrell Winger

Hymn of Response *Healer of our every ill* HWB #377, vv.3,4

Benediction Darrell Winger

Sending *Christ Has No Body Here but Ours* VT #568

*Christ has no body here but ours; no hands,
no feet here on earth but ours. Ours are the eyes
through which he looks on this world with kindness.*

*Ours are the hands through which he works, ours are the feet
on which he moves, ours are the voices through which he speaks
to this world with kindness.*

*Through our touch, our smile, our list’ning ear, embodies in us,
Jesus is living here. So let us go now, filled with the Spirit,
into this world with kindness.*

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]

Annual Meeting after the service today

GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, March 16th ~ Attendance – 46

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

Sunday March 30th ~ Speaker: Laur Steven
Scriptures Readings: Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Coffee Times ~ April 6th, Good Friday April 18th,
Easter Sunday April 20th

Celebrating Cathy and Nick!

On Sunday May 25th during the coffee time after the church service, you are invited to offer your good wishes to Cathy and Nick regarding their upcoming marriage. Please join the McCabe and Bradley families in the Church Hall. Refreshments will be provided.

Sunday Adult Study / Discipleship Opportunity

We want to express appreciation to Kevin McCabe and Mac Plunkett for leading the study on the Gospel of Luke over the last several months!

A new spring session of 5 classes begins on March 30th, with Laur Steven and John Rempel as leaders. The theme is "Faith and Action in Trying Times". Location is the Fellowship Room in the lower level. The tentative schedule is as follows:

- March 30th Early Anabaptist Understandings of Scripture: Distinct, Mult voiced, and Communal
- April 13th Violence and Nonviolence in the Bible: Anabaptist Perspectives and Interpretations
- April 27th Anabaptists, the Bible, and Antisemitism: How Christians have misinterpreted Scripture
- May 4th, 18th (tentative) sessions / topics to be confirmed

Come to the first session to share your ideas and learn more. For preparation for the first session, please request a copy of "Early Anabaptist Understandings of Scripture" by Stuart Murray from Ester Funk (gracemennonite@bellnet.ca) or Laur Steven (laursteven53@gmail.com).

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



Please pray for the **MCEC community of congregations**. This week we pray for **Shantz Mennonite Church**. Kendall Jongejan Harder provides pastoral leadership to this community. Pray for this congregation as they work to make an impact in their local community of Baden, ON.



MCC aiding in DR Congo: As violence continues in the eastern region of DR Congo, there are 11 million people in need of life-saving support. MCC is responding to needs in eastern DR Congo, as well as the Kasai region. Partners provide emergency food and supplies, water, educational support for children, agricultural skills and supplies, and trauma resilience training. Please consider donating to this worthy cause. If donating via the offering plate, indicate DR Congo on the offering envelope (cheques should be payable to Grace MC). If using e-transfer, indicate DR Congo in the message box. Thank you

Hello friends of Grow Hope Niagara! Many of you have been long time supporters of the MCC/CFGB grain growing project on Tintern road near Vineland. On **Sunday, March 30th**, you are all invited to come for a Soup and Information/Fundraising night. We will have Christina Philips, Foodgrains Bank resources and public engagement director, share insights from her March 2025 South Sudan visit, highlighting the urgent food crisis affecting more than 20 million people. The gathering is at Vineland United Mennonite Church on 3327 Menno Street in Vineland and begins at 5:00 pm. Come and be inspired to make a difference!



Seasons Chorale Easter Performance - Sunday April 13 @ 3pm
Linwell Church, 335 Linwell Rd. St. Catharines
80 voice choir under the direction of Bert Warkentin
No attendance fee, all welcome...always...all ways
If elevator is needed, please enter through front entrance

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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