



March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 9:30 a.m.

*Epiphany  
Together in the Light*

**Prelude**

Annie Schulz

**Gathering Thoughts  
Lighting the Christ Candle**

Darrell Winger

**Call to Worship**

Leader: We rejoice and praise Your holy name today, O Lord,

**People: because you have kept us from a destructive path.**

Leader: We give thanks because Your word gives us hope,

**People: and we reflect on Your word at all times.**

Leader: You are the Source of deep seated faith,

**People: and our spirits are refreshed in your presence!**

**Amen!**

**Epiphany Prayer** Holy God, creator of light,  
in your Son's incarnation you showed us yourself, face to face.  
Surprise us with signs and wonders of your presence,  
as you did long ago.

Send your Spirit to show us the path that leads to you,  
so that we might see you more clearly,  
love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly  
through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Hymn**

*Blessed Jesus, at your word*

HWB #13

**Passing of the Peace**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Musical Reflection**

*Peace to You*

Women's Chorus

**Prayers of the People**

Darrell Winger

**Hymn**

*If all you want, Lord*

HWB #512

**Scripture Reading**

Jeremiah 17:5-10 (OT p.719)

**Hymn***Blessed Are You*

VT #290

*Blessed are you, the hungry, for God prepares your feast.  
Blessed are you who weep now, for mourning turns to praise.  
Blessed are you who suffer, for God will guard your ways.*

**Refrain:** *The doors of heav'n are open,  
and glory is shining through –  
rejoice, rejoice, God is with us, and blessed, blessed are you.*

*Blessed are you, the poor ones, for God is poor with you.  
Blessed are you, the hungry, for God knows hunger too.  
Blessed are you who weep now, for God has shared your grief.  
Blessed are you who suffer, for God will bring relief. **Refrain***

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 6:17-26 (NT p.64)

**Meditation**

"Searched and Known"

Laur Steven

**Hymn of Response***In your sickness*

HWB #585

**Benediction**

Laur Steven

**Sending***My Life Is in You, Lord*

**Chorus:** *My life is in You, Lord, my strength is in You, Lord,  
my hope is in You, Lord, in You, it's in You.*

*My life is in You, Lord, my strength is in You, Lord,  
my hope is in You, Lord, in You, it's in You.*

*I will praise You with all of my life,  
I will praise You with all of my strength;  
with all of my life, with all of my strength.  
All of my hope is in You.*

**Chorus****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**

**We extend our sympathies to Annie & Doug Schulz** on the passing of Annie's mother, Anna Goossen, on February 14<sup>th</sup>. The funeral service was held on February 24<sup>th</sup> at Southridge Community Church Vineland.

**We extend our sympathies to Irma Mallory and Hertha Janzen** on the passing of their sister, Rita (Ruppel) Hambrock, on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The funeral service was held on March 1<sup>st</sup> at the Linwell Church.

**Grace Arts** ~ Do you have a craft or artwork that can be shared in our "Grace Arts" space in the lobby? We have many gifted people who work with wood, quilt, paint, draw, photograph, write poetry, etc! Would you be willing to display some of your work as a way of celebrating our church family and encouraging others? We are glad to help you display it appropriately in our Grace Arts space. Let Darrell or Ester know.

**Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>** ~ Attendance – 58

### **Upcoming events:**

~ Ash Wednesday Service, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. at Grace Mennonite Church and at 6:30 p.m. at Linwell Church. We are partnering with Linwell Church for this meaningful way to begin the season of Lent.

~ Rev. Stephen Roy, MCC Ontario, Church and Community Relations Associate, is our guest speaker, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup>** ~ Speaker: Darrell Winger

Scripture Texts: **Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Luke 9:18-27**

**We will be participating in communion on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.**

Each time we break bread and share the cup together, we have the opportunity for reflection and celebration of important truths: Christ's sacrificial love, his grace and forgiveness, and his invitation to pursue a right relationship with him and each other, enabled by his Spirit.

♪ **Women's Chorus** ~ Thursdays March 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

**Coffee Times** ~ March 16<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>

**Annual Meeting** ~ After the Worship Service on **Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>** in the Church Hall

## ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



Please pray for the **MCEC** community of congregations. This week we pray for **Rockway Mennonite Church**. Thomas Reimer provides pastoral leadership to this community. Pray for Rockway as they follow their vision of being an open and welcoming faith community.

**Our friends at Good Shepherd Church** are hosting a free Evangelism Workshop on April 8 and 9. The speaker is The Right Reverend Charlie Masters, Chancellor of Packer College and Bishop of Evangelism for the Anglican Diocese of Canada. Registration for this Workshop is now open both online and in person at Good Shepherd Church. For online registration, simply go to the Good Shepherd website.

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### **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.*

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

**677 Niagara Street, St. Catharines**

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

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

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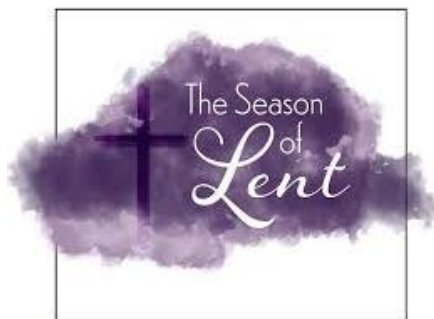
|                           |                                |  |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Pastor                    | Darrell Winger<br>905-483-2335 | <a href="mailto:Darrell.winger@gmail.com">Darrell.winger@gmail.com</a>   |
| Worship & Music Associate | Annie Schulz<br>905-941-5511   | <a href="mailto:annieschulz@yahoo.ca">annieschulz@yahoo.ca</a>           |
| Office Administrator      | Ester Funk                     | <a href="mailto:gracemennonite@bellnet.ca">gracemennonite@bellnet.ca</a> |
| Community Chaplain        | Jan Steven<br>289-990-4839     | <a href="mailto:janscats@gmail.com">janscats@gmail.com</a>               |

## GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Our Sunday Morning Theme for Lent

*“Challenges on the Way”* will be our focus for the Sundays during the season of Lent, March 9<sup>th</sup> through April 6<sup>th</sup>. Lent is a season which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends just before Easter Sunday. For followers of Christ Jesus, it is a time for inner reflection, self-examination, and spiritual preparation for the coming of Easter when we celebrate Christ’s resurrection. Some find it helpful to fast in some way to provide added focus and attention to following Christ’s way of sacrificial love; others find it useful to add a new engagement in serving or furthering God’s desire for peace and justice in some way.

In considering our theme for Lent, we encounter Jesus, in Luke 9, revealing to his disciples that the way ahead for him included sacrifice, suffering, and death. We read that Jesus “set his face to go to Jerusalem”; he was willing to go this way so that the world would experience peace, healing, and reconciliation. This path ahead, this way to Jerusalem, was no easy way! The way, the way of the cross, is a challenging one, as reflected in the teachings of Jesus. In this same context in Luke 9, Jesus extends this call to us: “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” Jesus still invites all people to follow him, and this way of sacrificial love. In this season of Lent, let’s be ready to listen, to respond, and to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit even when the challenges on the way confront and convict us.



### **Lenten Guided Prayer 2025: Christ Calls at the Crossroads**

An opportunity to integrate prayer and scripture into daily life. This year’s theme encourages us to listen to Christ’s call at the crossroads of our lives. A call to draw near, to choose compassion and peace, to disrupt binaries, to pursue wholeness and to risky

restoration. This guide, produced by the Mennonite Spiritual Directors for Eastern Canada, is available to you for use during Lent. Please look for them on a small table in the Grace foyer.

## ***ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD***

**Silver Spire Shower Program** Welcomes Donations of Bath Towels! The Silver Spire Shower program, open Monday to Friday, is in need of new or gently used bath towels. If you're able to donate, please drop them off at the church during office hours. Thank you.

Address: 366 St. Paul Street, St. Catharines  
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Phone: 905-682-8328  
Email: [office@silverspire.ca](mailto:office@silverspire.ca)



**Mennonite  
Disaster  
Service**

**MDS celebrated its 75th anniversary** at a great Annual Celebration in Wichita, Kansas. MDS began when a Sunday School class of younger adults in the Wichita area wondered about how they could respond to a tornado in the area. There were also similar stories in Canada, when the newly formed BC Unit was asked to feed a boat load of 4000 Hungarian refugees. By the late 50's the Canada and US initiatives merged to form the MDS we know today. In rebuilding after disasters, MDS always aims to build back better. This past summer, MDS was finally able to build one house in the town of Lytton that burned three years ago. Project leaders were aware of the guidelines for net zero energy ratings and fire-resistant ratings, but felt with the skill level of volunteers, that would not be possible. Doing the best they could, inspectors told them after the fact that the project had achieved the first net zero ready and fire-resistant rating ever, for a house in Canada. That's building back better MDS style. David Brubacher

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