



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

*Lent 4  
Challenges on the Way*

**Prelude** Annie Schulz

**Gathering Thoughts** Judy Willems

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Lenten Hymn**

*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.*

*Give us eyes to see you clearly, make us children of your light;  
give us hearts to live more nearly as your gospel shining bright,  
as your gospel shining bright.*

**Call to Worship**

Leader: We profess today that we want to follow Christ  
to shape our true self.

**People: But we confess that the sticky grip of selfishness  
holds us prisoner sometimes.**

Leader: Christ challenges our hearts and minds  
to surrender false ideas about who we really are,  
or about what we think we need to have  
in order to be satisfied.

**People: When we desire to be ourselves**

**in the way God made us to be, we are free!**

**All: Thanks be to God, that we can more and more  
come to be true servants of God's love  
in our life in the world, in the name of Christ.**

**Prayer**

**Hymn** *For the healing of the nations* HWB #367

**Passing of the Peace**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Musical Reflection** *God, whose giving* HWB #383, v.1

**Prayers of the People** Judy Willems



**Upcoming** ~ Good Friday Service, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m. with Communion. Coffee and Hot Cross Buns following.

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



• Please pray for the **MCEC community of congregations**. This week we pray for **SoulHouse Church**. A small house church in Scarborough, who practice a unique expression of church.

• **Pray for peace in our troubled world**. Bring comfort and healing to the people of Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Haiti, Yemen, Myanmar, and all the places torn by war and violence. Soften hardened hearts, guide leaders toward justice, and shield the innocent from harm. Let love overcome hatred, and unity replace division. May Your peace, which surpasses all understanding, reign in every nation and every heart.



**Grow Hope Niagara Event! Today, March 30 at 5 pm**, you are invited to come for a Soup and Information evening. Christina Philips, Foodgrains Bank resources and public engagement director, will 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. Come and be inspired to make a difference! If you are unable to attend, you may support Grow Hope through our offerings at Grace (designate offering envelope “Grow Hope”) or e-transfer with “Grow Hope” in message box.

**Amnesty International** is a human rights organization and global community of more than 10 million people in over 170 countries and territories who defend and promote human rights – including those of Christians facing violence.

Did you know that there is a local chapter? To join email [ebitzer1@gmail.com](mailto:ebitzer1@gmail.com). If you can't attend meetings, but would like sample letters to send, let Jan Steven know and she'll send you templates. [janscats@gmail.com](mailto:janscats@gmail.com) 😊

## 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

## Training Active Bystanders

### – Become a More Informed Bystander

April 27, 2 -4:30 p.m., The First Mennonite Church, Vineland



As any bystander witnessing a potentially harmful situation knows, discerning how to move from passive observation to effective action is not easy. Training Active Bystanders (TAB) equips participants with the tools they need to prevent harm-doing and contribute to a healthier community. Join us at this community event – to [mcc.org/events/training-active-bystanders-niagara](http://mcc.org/events/training-active-bystanders-niagara) to learn more and to register today.

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

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