



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

*Lent 1
Challenges on the Way*

Prelude

Annie Schulz

**Gathering Thoughts
Lighting the Christ Candle**

Jan Steven

Lenten Hymn

*From the dawn 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.*

Call to Worship

Leader: We profess that we want to follow Christ
in his perfect way.

**People: But we confess that we are closed up sometimes
in our own biases and views.**

Leader: Christ challenges our hearts and minds
to open up to God's pure vision.

**People: When we open ourselves in that way,
Christ works transformation within us.**

**All: Thanks be to God, that we can grow in spirit
as we hear Christ's call, so that we can see and feel
and show compassion to any and all.**

Prayer

Hymn *Christ, we do all adore thee* HWB #105

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Musical Reflection *Sign Us with Ashes, Merciful God*
Grace Singers

Prayers of the People Jan Steven

Hymn *I stand amazed in the presence* HWB #528

Scripture Reading Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 (OT p.548)

Hymn *And I will raise you up* HWB #596
Verses ~ Judy Willems

Scripture Reading Luke 9:18-27 (NT p.69)

Meditation "The Way to Life" Darrell Winger

Hymn of Response *Sign us with Ashes* vv.2,3

*Gather your people, merciful God,
gather the longing, the lost and unsure.*

Gather your people, merciful God; name us and claim us as yours.

*Feed us and guide us, merciful God;
light when the shadows of life cloud our view.*

Feed us and guide us, merciful God, people who hunger for you.

Service of Communion (Litany in insert) Darrell Winger

Benediction Darrell Winger

Sending *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* VT #429

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.*

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, Amen.

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]

Adult Sunday School after the service today

GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, March 2nd ~ Attendance – 48

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

Coffee Times ~ March 16th, April 6th - Please note the changes

Sunday March 16th ~ Speaker: Stephen Roy, MCC Ontario,
Church and Community Relations Associate

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

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.

January budget offerings = \$13,460.00

February budget offerings = \$10,675.00

Bears and Blankets! We received this lovely card and note. It is posted on our bulletin board. HEART! / jan

Hello! My little card says, "Hello! I just want to be your teddy bear! You are beary sweet and you are beary loved!"

What a lovely introduction to this delightful gift I received a few days before I moved to my new room...on February 1st 2025...It was handed to me by our Activity Coordinator at my door.

I have named my bear "GRACE." She has a pink nose and paws with blue, green, and mauve coloured large dots and a white scarf trimmed with a carnation or rose. Cute as a button!

The blanket (blue and white stripe) sits very well on my knees during evening hours.

Thank you so much - with love from a fellow Senior, Margaret.

God Bless to All.

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



Please pray for the **MCEC community of congregations**. This week we pray for **Rouge Valley Mennonite Church**. Glyn Jones provides pastoral leadership to this community. Pray for Rouge Valley, a long-standing church community in Markham, ON.

Please keep the **Mennonite churches, and the entire population, in the city of Goma, D.R. of Congo** in your prayers. The security situation remains precarious, many people are not able to access supplies, and prices have risen dramatically for goods such as food and other daily necessities. Our global companions in the regions are working together to respond to this humanitarian crisis.

Bethany Mennonite Church is sponsoring a fun-filled **Community Games afternoon** on Sat. March 22 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in the Simpson Room at the NOTL Community Center. Come and play card games and/or board games of your choice! Games will be provided, or bring your favourite. Snacks and drinks will also be provided. **No Entry Fee Is Required!** We hope to see you there.

Delicious Bulk Soup Orders from Raw Carrot Soup!

Are you planning a meeting, "lunch and learn," gathering, or any event that involves eating together? Raw Carrot Soup is delighted to offer bulk soup orders for your convenience! We provide seven delectable varieties of soup, ensuring there's a flavour for everyone. The cost is only \$3 per cup. Local orders require one week's notice, while orders outside the Kitchener-Waterloo area need two weeks' notice. By choosing Raw Carrot Soup, you support a meaningful cause while enjoying a nutritious and delicious meal. Perfect for any gathering where good food and good company come together! To place an order or for more information, please contact us at rawcarrot@mcco.ca or 548-255-2307.

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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COMMUNION SERVICE LITANY

In this season of Lent, though we find ourselves in troubling times, we know that God's light and love are present in Jesus Christ – to bring hope, reconciliation, and healing to our world.

We come to this table today, not because we must but because we may. It is made ready for those who love him and those who want to love him more. It is Jesus who invites us to come, to find in him the grace, guidance, and strength we need to follow him even in the challenges on the way.

The Spirit is with us as we come.

We Confess Our Faith and Need of God's Forgiveness

Leader: Let us confess our faith together.

All: We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Leader: Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our need of God's forgiveness.

All: Have mercy on me, O God,
According to your steadfast love.

For I know my transgressions,

and my sin is ever before me.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and put a new and right spirit within me.

Leader: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation,

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

In the name of Jesus, we are forgiven, loved, and free.

Prayer

Loving God, you walk with us in the ways and the wilds of life.

You journey with us in our joy and in our distress.

We are thankful for the light you bring into our lives regardless of the circumstance.

Holy One, each time we think we have you figured out, you surprise us again, revealing yourself in new ways; ways that challenge us, disrupt our traditions, and unsettle our comfort zones.

In Jesus, we see your radical welcome of strangers, extending the table.

We see Jesus breaking religious rules in order to include all people, lifting up both people and places deemed unclean; and caring more about the well-being of the oppressed than his own reputation. By his Spirit, Jesus teaches us to rethink his presence among us, bringing to us and our world, hope and guidance in confusing times.

Send now your Spirit upon us and these elements, so that the bread we break and the cup we share might be a communion of the body and blood of Christ. May this table be an extension of your welcome that knows no bounds. By your Spirit may our lives reflect Christ Jesus.

Fill us with the courage and faith to join you in the work to bring peace and reconciliation in this cultural moment.

Amen.

Words of Institution

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

The Bread

Distribution of the Bread (Please hold the piece of bread until all are served and we are able to partake together.)

Prayer for the Bread.

Leader: The body of Christ, broken for you.

(We eat the bread together.)

The Cup

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Distribution of the Cup (Please take a cup as the trays are passed. We will wait until all are served and we can partake together.)

Prayer for the Cup.

Leader: The blood of Christ shed for you.

(We drink the cup together. Please place the empty cup in the holder in front of you.)

Prayer After Communion

Leader: In hope and peace let us pray:

All: God, our provider,
you nourish us with your Word, Jesus,
who is the bread of life.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit,
that through us your love and light
may shine in our world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Benediction and Blessing

(Please stand, as you are able.)

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
send us from this time with our hope renewed,
so that we are strengthened to follow you and your ways.
May this time of communion,
encourage us to open our minds and hearts
as we follow you in the path of peace.

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 9th through April 6th. 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.