



**May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 9:30 a.m.**

*Eastertide / Ascension Sunday*

**Prelude**

Annie Schulz

**Gathering Thoughts  
Lighting the Christ Candle**

Darrell Winger

**Call to Worship\***

Leader: Today is Ascension Sunday when we celebrate  
Christ's return to God.

**People: We look up in wonder as he is lifted from us  
into heaven!**

Leader: But this is not a time to gaze upward.  
There is work to be done.

**People: Jesus has entrusted the ministry of God's love to us.**

Leader: Let's get to work!

**People: Let's make our hearts ready for the task ahead  
with prayer and praise!**

Leader: Amen

**People: Amen!**

**Opening Congregational Prayer**

*Spirit of the Risen Christ,*

*In our weakness we crave your strength.*

*Prepare us once again for your coming at Pentecost.*

*Kindle in our hearts the flame of your love.*

*Inspire us with dreams of a new era in our mission. Amen.*

**Hymn**

*All hail the power of Jesus' name*

HWB #285

**Passing of the Peace**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Musical Reflection**

**Prayers of the People**

Darrell Winger

**Hymn**

*Blessed Are You*

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

**Scripture Reading**

Acts 1:6-11 (NT p.118)

**Hymn** *Spirit, Open My Heart*

Refrain: *Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love, may I love, in receiving and in giving;  
Spirit, open my heart.*

**Scripture Reading** Luke 14:1,7-14 (NT p.77)

**Meditation** "Changing the World One Meal at a Time"  
Norm Dyck  
Mission Minister for Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC)

**Hymn of Response** *The church of Christ, in every age*  
HWB #403, vv.1,3,5

**Benediction** Darrell Winger

**Sending Hymn**

*We have been sent by God, with our hands prepared to serve,  
and we build along with God a fam'ly here on earth. (Repeat)*

*The angels are not sent to change this world of pain  
into a world of love where peace and justice reign;  
it falls to each of us to do this work today.*

*We seek to do your will. Oh, help us, God we pray. (Repeat)*

**Postlude**

\*Nancy C. Townley

***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**

**Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> ~ Attendance – 48**

**Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> Speaker: Darrell Winger**

**Scripture Texts: Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:1-12, 37-39**

**Preaching Team ~ May 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

♪ **Women's Chorus** ~ May 16<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

**Communion:** We will be having Communion on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, Pentecost Sunday.

**Coffee Time at Grace** ~ May 26<sup>th</sup>

**Monthly Financial Update:** The budget offering for April was \$14,015.90 which brings our year to date \$2,000 more than last year at the same time. The Finance Committee wishes to thank everyone for giving more when they are able to do so. It is encouraging to see increased offerings happening, especially when it was made known that Grace would need to work at meeting the demands of an increased budget for 2024. Keep up the great work! An update will be included with your personal 6 month offering report after June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Lorraine Sawatzky, on behalf of the Finance Committee

**REJOICE Devotional Booklet:** Are you interested in having a devotional book, **Rejoice**, published by MennoMedia, using it to start or end each day? A number of Grace people already use this devotional booklet daily in their lives. September is the yearly start date for renewal for this devotional. MennoMedia has a discounted rate if 5 or more individuals subscribe. This means that each subscriber at Grace would be responsible for the discounted cost of \$55.21 for a year. At our February AGM, it was announced that the church would no longer pay for these subscriptions. MennoMedia states that many churches have their members pay for their own copies of this booklet which is mailed out to the churches quarterly.

If you are interested in being added to the list to receive and read the **Rejoice**, please let Ester know by Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Lorraine will send in the renewal request and total cost of the subscriptions in early June in order for us to receive our copies in time for September. In early June, Ester and Lorraine will be sending an email or calling you with the details of submitting to the church \$55.21 either by cheque or e-transfer. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Ester or Lorraine.

## Church Membership

If you are interested in becoming a member of Grace Mennonite Church, Pastor Darrell invites you to a learning experience on **Sunday, June 2nd** after the morning service in the Fellowship Room (in the lower level, below the Sanctuary). If you are interested, please talk with or email Pastor Darrell.



## Men's Breakfast

Saturday, June 22nd at 8:30 am here at the church, all men are invited to a time of connecting and conversation while enjoying a delicious breakfast. If you'd like to help make the breakfast, let Ted or Darrell know.

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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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Tel: 905-935-6112      Email: [gracemennonite@bellnet.ca](mailto:gracemennonite@bellnet.ca)

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

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

[www.facebook.com/gracemennonitechurchstcatharines](https://www.facebook.com/gracemennonitechurchstcatharines)

Pastor	Darrell Winger 905-483-2335	<a href="mailto:Darrell.winger@gmail.com">Darrell.winger@gmail.com</a>
Worship & Music Associate	Annie Schulz 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 289-990-4839	<a href="mailto:janscats@gmail.com">janscats@gmail.com</a>

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



\*Please pray for the **MCEC community of congregations**. This week we pray for **Hawesville Mennonite Church**. David Martin provides pastoral care for this congregation. Please pray for this congregation as they move toward their closure date on June 2, 2024. Celebrate the 74 years of ministry and impact of this congregation.



**A Moment for MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) Above the floodwaters! With guidance from an MCC partner, gardeners with small plots along a Bangladesh river are looking up.**

Hena Khatun has a courtyard full of reasons to believe that she will be able to feed and care for her daughter and sickly husband, despite the floodwater from the nearby Jamuna River that threatens to cover the land where she lives.

Staff from MCC partner Maitree Palli Unnayan Sangathon (MPUS) taught her to look up. The local NGO showed her techniques they'd learned from MCC's agricultural team in Bangladesh.

Now Khatun has eggplant, chiles and cabbage growing in sacks that sit on the ascending shelves of an 8-foot-tall, triangular bamboo structure, called a 3D garden. More eggplant grows in hanging bags, which are out of reach of rising water and can be moved if necessary. Bottle gourds, a favourite ingredient in Bengali cooking, grown on vines that spread across a bamboo canopy. Read more about this project at <https://mcc.org/our-stories/above-floodwaters>



New Hamburg  
**Mennonite  
Relief Sale**

**MCC – Relief, development, and peace – in the name of Christ. MCC New Hamburg Relief Sale May 24 and 25.**

An event filled with food, quilt auction, friends, community and compassion. Your presence enriches the atmosphere and supports MCC's global relief, development and peace efforts.

## **An Historic Opportunity!**

Have you ever wanted to go inside of the Historic Methodist Church at Beaverdams? You're in luck! There is a **Heritage Methodist Church Service on June 2 at 2 pm – Marlatts Rd, Thorold, ON.** Why would Mennonites care? Old Order Mennonites crafted the 26 windows needed to restore Beaverdams Church to its 19<sup>th</sup> century roots!

Rumor has it that this year's service will feature a 19<sup>th</sup>-century 'circuit rider', portrayed by guest speaker Rev. David Pritchard – former pastor at Grace United Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Annie's sister, Esther Giesbrecht, is Music Director there. It's a small world.

## **United Mennonite Home is excited to welcome back its Annual Spring Bazaar!**

Join us on **Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup>** from 10am-12:30pm at 4024 Twenty-Third St. Vineland. Festivities consist of a Bake Sale, Penny Sale, Silent Auction, Entertainment, and BBQ Lunch (Farmer's Sausage back by popular demand!)

For more information, please contact Jodi Thompson – Programs Manager at (905) 562-7385 ext. 5004 or [jthompson@umh.ca](mailto:jthompson@umh.ca).

**Breslau Mennonite Church** is searching for a **Faith Formation Leader**. Please consider this opportunity for service with children, youth and young adults. A job description and more information is available [www.breslaumc.ca](http://www.breslaumc.ca) or on the Community Bulletin Board in the Grace foyer.

