



November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 9:30 a.m.

*Shaped by the Spirit*

**Prelude** Annie Schulz

**Gathering Thoughts** Mac Plunkett

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.

**People: His right hand and his holy arm  
have gotten him victory.**

Leader: The Lord has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

**People: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth  
have seen the victory of our God.**

**All: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

**Prayer**

**Hymn** *Come, We That Love* VT #31

**Passing of the Peace**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Membership Reception** (see insert)

**Hymn** *My Love Colors Outside the Lines* VT #582

**Prayers of the People** Mac Plunkett

**Scripture Reading** Isaiah 65:17-25 (OT p.696)

**Hymn** *Let Justice Flow Down* VT #791

**Scripture Reading** Luke 21:5-19 (NT p.85)

**Meditation** "Is the End Near???" Waldo Pauls

**Hymn of Response** *Here on Christ the Rock I Will Stand*  
VT #159

**Benediction** Waldo Pauls

**Sending Hymn** *The Peace of the Earth Be with You* VT #838

**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]

**This Adult Study Group** has two meetings left before we break for Christmas: **November 16<sup>th</sup> (today)**, and November 30<sup>th</sup>. We will consider A. James Reimer's second and third "Meditations" from his book *The Dogmatic Imagination*. For this Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, we'll look at "The Corporate Church: A Ship of Fools", and on November 30<sup>th</sup> we'll look at "Soldiers or Martyrs?: Laying Down One's Life for Another". The reading for Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> will be handed out in the session today. All are encouraged to join us!

**Grow Hope Niagara: Today at 7:30 pm** here at Grace, there will be a **Wrap Up meeting**. Representatives from MCC and Canadian Foodgrains Bank, as well as farmer Larry Dyck will provide updates on the corn crop, its ups and downs. We will also hear about the aid and development abroad. All are welcome to come!

### **GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Attendance** ~ Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> – 38

**October budget offerings** totalled \$12,560.00

**Worship Committee** ~ Wednesday November 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.

**Women's Chorus** ~ November 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

**Saturday November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2-4 p.m. at Grace Mennonite Church**  
**How to Make Boycotting A Lifestyle Choice**

This is a free workshop on the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement (BDS) being held by the Grace Peace Group and Niagara Palestine Coalition. Learn more about BDS campaigns in Canada and tips for how you can add boycotting to the ways you are actively seeking an end to apartheid and genocide. For questions contact Laur Steven at [laursteven53@gmail.com](mailto:laursteven53@gmail.com)

**Sunday November 23<sup>rd</sup>** ~ Speaker: Darrell Winger  
Scripture Readings: Psalm 78:1-8; Colossians 1:1-14

**Memorial Sunday** ~ On **Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>** we will take time in our morning worship service to remember and honour loved ones who have passed away. We will provide an opportunity for you to name your loved one and also light a candle of remembrance. **In the Coffee Time following**, if you'd like to display a special photo of your loved one, we will have a table set up in the Church Hall for this purpose. We want to honour loved ones who passed away in the past year or previously.

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



**Please pray** for the MCEC community of congregations. This week we are praying for **Wilmot Mennonite Church**. Susan Allison-Jones provides pastoral leadership for this community. Pray for this community as they work to provide community and encouragement to each other.

**Seasons Chorale Program ~ Sunday November 30, 7 pm** at Linwell Church, entitled "Let Light Shine." The choir consists of seniors (55+) from various churches across the Niagara region, including several from Linwell Church. All are welcome. (If you're needing to use the elevator, please enter the front doors)

### **THRIFT WITH PURPOSE THIS CHRISTMAS**

SHOP LOCAL • GIVE GLOBAL • UPLIFT COMMUNITY

#### **MCC THRIFT** (254 Grantham Ave)

- Supports global relief and peace through MCC
- Volunteer-powered and sustainability-focused
- Ethical gifts and secondhand treasures

Mon–Sat | 905-682-8944 | [grantham@mcco.ca](mailto:grantham@mcco.ca)

#### **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL THRIFT** (67 Queenston St)

- Serves the poorest in St. Catharines
- Supports Ozanam Centre Soup Kitchen
- Affordable essentials and warm clothing

Mon–Sat | 905-684-2042 | [svdpstcatharines@gmail.com](mailto:svdpstcatharines@gmail.com)

### **WHY THRIFT THIS SEASON?**

- Reduce waste
- Give generously
- Support faith missions
- Build community

**LET YOUR GIFTS TELL A STORY OF HOPE.  
THRIFT WITH PURPOSE. SHOP WITH HEART.**

**MCC (Mennonite Central Committee)**  
**2025 Christmas Giving Guide *Gifts of Comfort & Joy***



is available on the round table in the Grace foyer.

**Why choose gifts through MCC?  
Each gift in the guide changes lives worldwide!**

Christmas is a time to share joy. These gifts help celebrate what you hold dear about your loved one, from the art lover to the great gardener. At the same time, you'll make a lasting impact for families across the globe. By helping people build skills, grow food or meet basic needs, your generosity brings cause for celebration long after your tree comes down and the lights are put away.

Please help yourself to a copy.

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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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## **The Welcome of a New Member**

### **Congregational Chair:**

Erika Klassen has found a home at Grace Mennonite Church, has heard God call her beloved, and feels loved by this congregation. Now she seeks to deepen her relationship and commitment to this church community.

### **Pastor:**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for the life journey that brought Erika to join our church today. We celebrate the unique impact she will make here and already has made here, through her presence, gifts and talents. May this congregation offer support in times of trouble and rejoice with her always. May our church home strengthen her faith and deepen her discipleship. All this we pray in Christ's Holy Name. Amen.

## **Questions For New Members**

### **Pastor:**

Today we make a covenant, one with another. We make promises to one another, before God, so that we can depend on each other through good times and hard times. You have a church and a people. And so now we ask you, Erika:

Do you affirm your faith in God as your Creator, in Christ as your Redeemer, and in the Holy Spirit as your Sustainer? If so, please say, I do.

**New Member:** I do.

### **Pastor:**

Do you promise to be Christ's disciple and witness, to follow in the way of Jesus as best as you are able? If so, please say, I promise with the help of God.

**New Member:** I promise with the help of God.

**Pastor:**

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in faith and to be an active and joyful member of this church? If so, please say, I promise with the help of God.

**New Member:** I promise with the help of God.

**Promise From the Church**

**Congregational Chair:**

Erika has witnessed to her faith in Jesus Christ and offers herself as a companion in our obedience to Christ. It is our privilege and joy to welcome Erika into our family of faith.

**People:**

We freely receive you, even as Christ has received us. We open ourselves to fellowship with you in worship, study, service, and discipline. We pledge our willingness to give and receive counsel, to offer and accept forgiveness in the redeemed community. We joyfully accept your partnership, both in the care of our spiritual family, and in our mission to the world.

**Final Blessing On All Members**

**Pastor:**

Loving God, give to Erika, and to all of us who together are Grace Mennonite Church, strength for life's journey, courage in times of suffering, the comfort of faith, love that cannot die, laughter in the company of friends, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.