



November 23rd, 2025 9:30 a.m.

Memorial Sunday

Prelude Annie Schulz

Gathering Thoughts Judy Willems
Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

Leader: A word of encouragement came from prophet to people.

**People: Live a life that is full - build, plant, eat, love,
create family.**

Leader: Pray for our communities.

People: Keep God in the centre of all that is.

Leader: We enter into worship today with hope in our hearts.

**People: For something happens here,
that reminds us that we can live as God desires.**

Leader: God has made a promise of faithfulness to us

All: *And we can trust the promise.*

Prayer

Hymn *Christ is our cornerstone* HWB #43

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Quilting Recognition Molly Enns, Hilda Regier

Hymn *O God Beyond our Praising* VT #814, vv.1,3

Prayers of the People Judy Willems

Scripture Reading Psalm 78:1-8 (OT p.537)

Hymn *Bless the Lord* VT #111

Scripture Reading Colossians 1:1-14 (NT p.199)

Meditation "Legacies" Darrell Winger

Memorial Litany (see insert)

Sending Hymn *May the Peace of Christ* VT #843

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]*

The 'Practical Christianity' Bible Study will resume today (November 23rd) in the Fellowship Room. We will be looking at Chapter One of 1 Timothy. Paul urges his young protegee to remain in Ephesus, and deal with some worrisome issues there.

Coffee Time after the service in the Church Hall

GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance ~ Sunday, November 16th – 60

Advent 1 Sunday November 30th ~ Speaker: Darrell Winger
Scripture Readings: Daniel 3:1, 8-30; Habakkuk 1:1-5, 3:17-19;
Psalm 26:1-7

This year, our theme is “Be Amazed!” Each week, we’ll be invited to notice the surprising and powerful ways in which God shows up – even when we least expect it.

We will be participating in communion on Sunday, November 30th. 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 ~ December 4th and 18th at 9:30 a.m.

Church Council ~ Wednesday December 10th at 1:30 p.m.

Semi Annual Meeting ~ Sunday December 14th after the service

Bridge of Hope Community's Scott Street Church refugee settlement team welcomed a family of seven South Sudanese persons at Pearson Airport on Friday, November 14. The family has settled into a rental home in old downtown St. Catharines - near schools, stores, and refugee settlement services. Down the street live the S. Sudanese family of five that was welcomed in late August. The families are beginning to socialize for mutual support and enjoyment. BOHC is thrilled that the families have arrived, completing an application process that began over four years ago. The settlement work will proceed for at least 12 months.

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



Please pray for the MCEC community of congregations.

This week we are praying for **Windsor Mennonite Fellowship**. Rielly McLaren provides pastoral leadership for this community. Pray for this community as the work to learn, love, serve and grow together.



Let us pray for **peace in our world**. In so many places, nations are at war and people suffer under the weight of violence and power. We ask God to move in the hearts of leaders and decision-makers, bring comfort to those who grieve, protection to the vulnerable and courage to all who work for reconciliation and peace.

Pleasant Manor Christmas Bake sale and Tea Room

DATE: Saturday November 29th 10-12pm

At Pleasant Manor, Virgil Parking along the street

Bake sale - Link gathering room Tea Room - main Chapel area

Bring your own bag and CASH only.

Woman's Auxiliary would appreciate any donations of food baking, jams, soups and preserves for this fundraising event.

Please bring your baked goods and items Friday November 28th between 6-8 pm. Thank you so much!

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)

Eternal Strength,
hold us.
Eternal Hope,
show us new life.
Eternal Compassion,
comfort us in our grief.
Eternal Goodness,
grant us your grace
As we live, work, and pray
in this place, in this time,
And with these people
who reveal your love. Amen.

Hymnal: A Worship Book, 1992; based on Alcuin (England), ca.8th c.;
adapt. Mennonite Worship and Song Committee, 2020 VT #983

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

677 Niagara Street, St. Catharines

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

www.gracemennonitechurch.com

www.facebook.com/gracemennonitechurchstcatharines

Pastor	Darrell Winger 905-483-2335	Darrell.winger@gmail.com
Worship & Music Associate	Annie Schulz 905-941-5511	annieschulz@yahoo.ca
Office Administrator	Ester Funk	gracemennonite@bellnet.ca
Community Chaplain	Jan Steven 289-990-4839	janscats@gmail.com

Memorial Sunday Litany

At the time of the Reformation All Saints Day was theologically unacceptable to radical Protestants because they did not want to venerate a special class of holy people ("saints") and because the next day, All Souls Day, was perceived as focusing on intercession for the dead.

Not embracing these days left Anabaptist churches with lessened awareness of the bond between the living and the dead. Various practices arose in German speaking regions and in Scandinavia called "Totensonntag", "Sunday of the Dead" (now called Memorial or Eternity Sunday). Many churches within Mennonite Church Canada, especially those having a German or Russian Mennonite background, adopted this practice of using the last Sunday of the church year as a fitting day for remembering those who have died in the past year, affirming our eternal life through faith in Christ.

In placing Memorial Sunday at the close of the liturgical year, this provides the context of the return of Christ and the coming of the kingdom. Placing this day immediately before Advent makes a powerful contrast between darkness and light, grief and joy.

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This morning's time of remembering and reflection provides another opportunity to hear the hopeful words of Jesus: *"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."*

Leader: O Ancient of Days,  
    you have been our dwelling place  
    from generation to generation.  
    Here, in your Ground of Love,  
    even death becomes a time of seed planting,  
    from which new life eternally springs forth.

All: We give thanks, O God,  
    for your life and love that have no end.

Leader: Today we remember those  
    who have gone before us in faith, hope, and love.  
    We remember those who have joined us  
    in the communion of the church  
    and others who have joined in the communion of life.

We will now take time to name, remember, and honour loved ones who have passed away this past year. We will light a candle for each person remembered. Following this, we will provide a time for silent reflection.

Leader: O God, in their death we feel the pain of absence.  
In their death, through the unity of Christ,  
we also know the joy of continued presence.  
May the great cloud of witnesses  
bless and sustain our daily living.

All: We give thanks, O God,  
for your life and love that have no end.  
Amen.

Prayer

Everlasting God,  
you are our refuge and strength,  
a shelter in this time of need.

Console us with your presence today –  
ease our loneliness,  
dispel our fears,  
and revive our hope.

Send your Holy Spirit  
to carry us through sorrow  
and into the comfort of your love,  
now and forevermore  
through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

(This litany is taken from “Voices Together”)

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Denley (Dan) Cumby January 4th, 1943 - June 1st, 2025

Elsie Pankratz November 4th, 1938 – July 28th, 2025

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