



November 24th, 2024 9:30 a.m.
Memorial/Eternity Sunday

Prelude Annie Schulz

Gathering Thoughts Laur Steven
Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship*

All: *This is my comfort in my distress,
that your promise gives me life.*

Leader: We come to worship you, God, and we long for comfort.

People: **In your arms, this morning,
can our distress subside?**

Leader: In the name of Jesus, you hold us as your children

People: **and you promise us life, life eternal, life with you.**

Leader: May these promises guide our thoughts and our prayers
this morning.

All: *This is my comfort in my distress,
that your promise gives me life.*

Prayer

Hymn *Christ is our cornerstone* HWB #43, vv.1,2,4

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Musical Reflection *A Time for All Things* Women's Chorus

Prayers of the People Laur Steven

Hymn *10,000 Reasons/Bless the Lord* Back of Bulletin

Scripture Reading Psalm 90:1-6, 17 (OT p.547)

Hymn *My life flows on* HWB #580, vv.1,2,4

Scripture Reading Hebrews 12:1-3 (NT p.226)

Meditation "We are Surrounded" Darrell Winger

Memorial Sunday Litany Insert

Hymn of Response *God Be the Love*

*God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:*

Refrain: *O Christ, surround me, O Christ, surround me.*

*Bind to myself the name of Holy; great cloud of witnesses enfold;
prophets, apostles, angels witness: Refrain*

*Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight; flashing of lightning,
strength of wind; depth of the sea to soil of planet: Refrain*

*Walking behind to hem my journey, going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above and always, Refrain*

*Christ in the eye of all who see me; Christ in the ear that
hears my voice; Christ in the hearts of all who know me: Refrain*

Benediction

Darrell Winger

Sending Hymn *Lord, let us now depart in peace* HWB #428

Postlude

*Carol Penner

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

Intercessory Prayer ~ United Nations God of boundless love, we count on your love to rescue humanity from destruction. The United Nations was created to offer countries alternatives to war. Bless its programs and agencies in overcoming poverty, disease, and starvation. Inspire the nations to choose peace and reject war.

GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday November 17th ~ Attendance - 53

First Advent Sunday with Communion, December 1st

Speaker: Laur Steven

Scripture Texts: **Jeremiah 33:14-16**; Psalm 25:1-10; 1

Thessalonians 3:9-13; **Luke 21:25-36**

We will be participating in communion Sunday, December 1st. 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** ~ Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.
December 5th, 12th, 19th

Coffee Times ~ December 8th, December 22nd

Christmas Eve Service, December 24th at 4:00 p.m.

Jan and Laur are away for the month of December but you are welcome to contact them at 289-990-4839 or janscats@gmail.com / laursteven53@gmail.com

Advent/Epiphany Adult Bible Study: There will be no more adult Bible studies for November, but we are beginning a new series on the first Sunday of Advent (Dec. 1st). The normal pattern will be that coffee time Sundays and adult Bible study Sundays will alternate. Bible studies will begin at 10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings, or as soon as members can conveniently make their way to the Fellowship Room. We will be using a 32-page pamphlet which the Canadian Bible Society has prepared, entitled "Thoughts on the Gospel According to Luke". Printed copies are already available from Judy Doerksen at the cost of \$3.50 a piece. This study will run, in six lessons, throughout Advent and Epiphany. Contact Kevin for more information (905-646-8062). Our text for the Adult Bible Study for Advent and Epiphany, entitled 'Thoughts on the Gospel According to Luke' begins: 'The main themes of the Gospel of Luke strike a familiar chord in us today. We live in a time that is filled with worry which feeds our pessimism. Almost every day we are warned about the terrible state of our environment, our society, and our world... To our world in search of salvation, Luke proclaims the beauty of the Good News, of the gospel that can save anyone who embraces it by faith.' Here we have Good News for a change to be proclaimed 'not only to Palestine but to the ends of the earth.' Join us beginning on December 1st in the Fellowship Room at 10:30 a.m. Kevin

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



*Please pray for the **MCEC community of congregations.** This week we pray for **Nith Valley Mennonite Church.** Greg Yantzi provides pastoral leadership to this congregation. Please pray for this church community found just outside New Hamburg.

10,000 Reasons/Bless the Lord

Refrain: *Bless the Lord, O my soul. Oh, my soul worships your holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name.*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning; it's time to sing your song again. Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me, let me be singing when the evening comes. Refrain

You're rich in love, and you're slow to anger. Your name is great and your heart is kind. For all your goodness, I will keep on singing ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. Refrain

And on that day when my strength is failing, the end draws near, and my time has come, still, my soul will sing your praise unending ten thousand years and then forevermore! Refrain

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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www.facebook.com/gracemennonitechurchstcatharines

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Linwell Church (St. Catharines UM Church) invites applications for our part-time custodian position. Starting date will be December or January. Please apply to scumc.church@gmail.com.

From Canadian Mennonite: With the Canada Post strike, your December print issue will be delayed. Sign up for digital delivery to get it by email on November 29. CM sends an email each Friday and attaches a PDF copy of the magazine once per month. Contact Lorna at office@canadianmennonite.org.

Pleasant Manor Christmas Bazaar and Tea

Date: Saturday November 30th, 2024 10-11:30 .m.

At Pleasant Manor, Virgil Parking is limited so come early.

Food and Bake sale will be held in the LINK gathering room.

The Tea Room will be in the Chapel as well as the crafty items.

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

PLEASE bring your baked goods and items Friday November 29th between 6-8 p.m. Money goes to purchasing things needed around the home as well as programs needed to enhance the lives of the residents.

Please bring your own bag to carry purchases. ONLY cash is accepted. See you there! Bring family, neighbours and friends.

Seasons Chorale Christmas Concert - Sunday December 1 at 3pm.

Plan on attending this free concert... and bring friends! This will be a time of music and fellowship. Light refreshments with coffee / cookies after the concert in the gym. If the elevator is needed, please use the front doors. Location: Linwell Church (aka St. Cath UM Church) 335 Linwell Road, St. Catharines.

Sat Dec 7 at 2:30pm Heidelberg-Rheingold Singers Christmas Concert at Linwell Church (aka St. Catharines UM Church) in the sanctuary. Coffee and cookies in the gym after the concert. All are welcome... bring your friends! If elevator is needed, please use the front doors. Location: 335 Linwell Road, St. Catharines.

Senior's Event (Silver Foxes) - On Dec. 18 we will head to Betty's Restaurant for a choice of four delicious dinners (turkey, fish and chips, roast beef and chicken parmesan). Please meet at Bethany between 4:00 and 4:15 p.m. The bus will leave at 4:30 p.m. After dinner, we will enjoy a Lights Tour and plan to be back at Bethany by 9:00 p.m. Price of \$65 includes dinner, taxes, gratuity, the Coach, the Lights Tour, some carol singing and some laughter! Please pay Bud and Ella Andres, Paul and Jo Thiessen or Ted and Sylvia Wiens by **Dec. 8th** to hold your reservation.



This Advent Season: *Together Toward the Light*

Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year. It begins on December 1 and continues until December 24. Advent means “arrival”, and during this season we look forward for the arrival of Emmanuel, God-with-us, in the birth of Jesus, as well as looking forward with hopeful anticipation toward Christ’s second coming. Advent reminds us of why Christ came and is a season for spiritual reflection and preparation as we anticipate the Christmas season.

Our Advent theme is ***Together Toward the Light***. Advent is a season of hope. We are reminded of the promise of God through Isaiah, “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.” This promise was fulfilled in Jesus! “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12) Even now, as we walk through darkness, we glimpse the promised light of Jesus Christ. Thankfully, we have companions as we journey through darkness toward the light. In this Advent season, let’s consider how we lean into the light of Christ, allowing him to shine in us and through us to others who are also hoping to glimpse light in the world. May this Advent be a time when we move together toward the light.



MCC – Give Gifts of Comfort & Joy!

Check out our Christmas Tree in the Foyer for Gift Ideas.

You can give online at <https://mcc.org/christmas> or you can give at our church through cash, cheque, or e-transfer. Be sure to note that the donation is for MCC – Give Gifts of Comfort & Joy! You may have received the magazine MCC “Gifts of Comfort and Joy” in the mail. If not, there are copies available under the tree. Blessings!



Memorial Sunday Litany

Celebrating All Saints' Day is a centuries-old Christian tradition, now typically observed in early November. As followers of Jesus in the Anabaptist Church tradition, while we do not have a practice of venerating saints, many congregations have adopted this celebration as a way to honour loved ones who have passed away — “saints” in a more colloquial understanding – who have influenced our faith and life in Christ. Mennonite Church Canada describes it as our time together this way: “A memorial adaptation of All Saints' Day, observed primarily in Canada and Germany, commemorating members of congregations and communities who have died within the past year or in prior years. Usually observed on the last Sunday of the Christian Year the week before the start of Advent.”

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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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Deborah Nickerson December 31st, 1947 – January 1st, 2024

Theo Ilunga Passed away on April 3rd, 2024

Timothy Janzen June 10th, 1960 – May 24th, 2024

Katherine Hildebrand October 9th, 1931 – May 25th, 2024

Carla Isaak December 12th, 1939 – August 15th, 2024

Abe Huebner Passed away on October 11th, 2024