



November 26th, 2023 9:30 a.m.

Memorial Sunday

Prelude Annie Schulz

Gathering Thoughts Mac Plunkett

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship (from Psalm 100) & Prayer

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

**People: Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.**

Leader: Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us,
and we are his; we are his people,
and the sheep of his pasture.

**People: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts
with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.**

***All: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures
forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.***

Hymn *O worship the King* HWB #66

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the People Mac Plunkett

Women's Chorus *Nothing is lost on the breath of God*

Scripture Reading Ecclesiastes 3:1-14 (OT p.616) Ester Funk

Memorial Sunday Litany Insert

Hymn *O Lord of life, wherever they be* HWB #635

Scripture Reading Ephesians 1:15-23 (NT p.192)

Meditation "A Legacy That Lasts" Darrell Winger

Hymn of Response *Eternal Light, shine in my heart* HWB #518
(Tune *The Gift of Love*)

Benediction (Congregation please stand)

Darrell Winger

Sending Hymn *May the Peace of Christ*

May the peace of Christ be with you.

May the love of Christ dwell deep in your heart.

May the Spirit enlighten your way.

May you live in the comfort of God's care. (Repeat)

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]

Coffee Time after the service

Adult Sunday School ~ We will reflect on the theme of this Sunday, and the texts used. Then we will discuss three chapters of our study book (copies are available) focusing on God's plan for creation and how we have thwarted it.

We will join the coffee hour. At 10:50 we will meet in the Fellowship Room (down the stairs in the front foyer and to the left).

Please join us.

GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday November 19th, 2023 ~ Attendance – 42

Sunday, December 3rd ~ First Advent

Speaker: Laur Steven

Scripture Texts (Focus texts highlighted): **Isaiah 64:1-9;**

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

We will be participating in communion next Sunday. 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.

December 10th Semi Annual Meeting with Coffee Time ~ Everyone is welcome to bring a plate of Christmas cookies to share.

♪ **Women's Chorus** ~ November 30 at 9:30 a.m.
December 7 and 21 at 9:30 a.m.

Grace Congregation ~ If you would like to read scripture during Sunday morning worship services in the new year, please contact the office.

Chaplain's Corner ~ The Westview Centre for Women (WCFW) always needs blankets and sleeping bags. If you have some you don't want or need, you are welcome to bring them to Grace Mennonite Church. Either Erika or Jan will bring them to the WCFW. There are pamphlets about the Westview Centre in the rack in the entranceway. If it's more convenient for you to drop off during the week, you can leave them at Laur's and Jan's home at 63 Beamer Avenue – wrapped in a plastic bag – please and thank you! I can also do a pick-up.

Mary K, Ester, and I also welcome donations of homemade shawls and small blankets for our Bears and Blankets program for Elders in Long Term Care. We have provided 117 care-kits thus far. We have requests for 171. Our care-kits go to Seniors who don't get many visitors and who are lonely. I can pick up if needed. Contact Jan at church or at 289-990-4839 or janscats@gmail.com.

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



A Moment for MCC: The Gift of Clean Water

Imagine walking hours for the water you need for drinking, cooking, or cleaning. Thanks to MCC projects, this is changing for many communities around the world.

This Christmas, give the gift that changes lives, like the gift of clean water. Learn more by reading through your MCC Gift Guide or visit mcc.org/Christmas

MCC – Relief, development, and peace in the name of Christ
NUMC's German Advent Celebration – If you love singing traditional German Christmas carols, hearing German Christmas stories, and socializing over a plate of Christmas cookies, Niagara. United Mennonite invites you to the annual German Advent Celebration, Dec. 10th at 3:00 p.m. 1775 Niagara Stone Rd. NOTL



From Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC)

*Please pray for the **MCEC community of congregations.**

This week we pray for **Danforth Mennonite Church.** Stephen Reist provides interim pastoral leadership for the congregation. Pray for this congregation as they search for a pastor and minister in their neighbourhood.

*Pray for our world as people live in fear and danger because of armed conflict in areas like **Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Myanmar and more.** Make us channels of God's peace: where there's despair in life let us bring hope; where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy. Lord, hear our prayers.

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.

Tel: 905-935-6112 Email: gracemennonite@bellnet.ca

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	janscats@gmail.com

Memorial Sunday Litany

Celebrating All Saints' Day is a centuries-old Christian tradition, now typically observed on November 1st. As followers of Jesus in the Anabaptist Church tradition, we do not have a practice of venerating saints, however 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 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 want to take time to name, remember, and honour loved ones who have passed away this past year. We also want to 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.

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<i>Erna Froese</i>	May 24 th , 1934 – January 15 th , 2023
<i>Mary Willms</i>	September 19 th , 1927 – January 17 th , 2023
<i>Mary Sawatzky</i>	July 2 nd , 1931 – January 24 th , 2023
<i>Lena Williams</i>	November 24 th , 1924 – February 14 th , 2023
<i>John Sawatzky</i>	July 20 th , 1930 – March 15 th , 2023
<i>Peter Dyck</i>	December 18 th , 1922 – April 17 th , 2023
<i>Alice Kopp</i>	September 26 th , 1933 – May 31 st , 2023
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