



November 30th, 2025 9:30 a.m.

Be Amazed!
First Advent

Prelude

Annie Schulz

Gathering Thoughts

David Brubacher

Call to Worship

Leader: God of all times, our ancestors' hope was in you
throughout the ages.

**People: We come eager for stories of you standing among us.
We long to feel your presence among your people
once again.**

Leader: As the days darken around us,
hope may be a distant memory.

**People: Even in times of trial, we keep our eyes on you.
You alone are God.**

Leader: Trust in God's steadfast love. Stand in amazement.
Recognize that God is already among us here in this place.

**All: Our hope is in you, O God. Fill our hearts
with the courage our ancestors found in you.
Ready us to be amazed again by your presence
among us.**

Prayer

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Leader: We have been wandering in the dark, fear engulfing us
like a burning furnace.

We long for your hope to find us and silence the flames
of our fears.

People: Come, Hope of the world. Come amaze us.

All: May your hope flood the flames of our fears.

Theme Song

Come Hope of the World

Grace Singers

Hymn

O come, O come, Immanuel

VT #210, vv.1,4,7

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Women's Chorus

We Come

VT #225

Prayers of the People

David Brubacher

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

Coffee, Cider and Cookies in the Church Hall after the service

Community Chaplain's Corner:

Support Ending Homelessness in Ontario

Bill 28 – the *Homelessness Ends with Housing Act* – aimed to end homelessness in 10 years but did not pass. You can still let our MPPs know we care:

- Doug Ford – Premier@ontario.ca
- Hon. Rob Flack – rob.flack@pc.ola.org
- Hon. Graydon Smith – graydon.smith@pc.ola.org

More affordable and supportive housing helps both people and the community.

A petition will be available to sign in the foyer after church. See Jan.

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



Please pray for the MCEC community of congregations.

This week we are praying for **Zion Mennonite Fellowship**.

Donna Kerfoot provides pastoral leadership for this community. Pray for this community in their mission of being a Christ-like presence to people who live in the downtown core of Elmira and elsewhere.



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.

A Moment for MDS - “Empathy came at a high price” says MDS Canada volunteer and disaster survivor

Jim Reimer, an MDS volunteer from Steinbach, Man., knows firsthand what it's like to lose everything—he lost his house and belongings in a 2022 fire. Now supervising a rebuild for a family hit by disaster, he says, “It's good to help people like others helped me.” While the new home can't replace memories, his empathy and experience make him a comforting presence for those MDS serves.

MDS – Being the hands and feet of Jesus to those affected by disaster. <https://mds.org/>

Seasons Chorale Program, Sunday November 30, 2025, 7 pm
 at Linwell Church (aka St. Catharines UMC Church), entitled
 "Let Light Shine." The choir consists of seniors (55+) from various
 churches across the Niagara region. All are welcome.



MCC – Give Gifts of Comfort & Joy!

Check out the magazine MCC “Gifts of
 Comfort and Joy” on the round table in the
 foyer. Help yourself to a copy.

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!



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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Advent Communion Service Litany

Leader: The season of Advent reminds us,

People: of that hope which tenaciously clings to the hearts of the faithful,

Leader: and announces in the face of all the rulers in this world,

People: and in the fires of suffering,

Leader: and all the dark nights of our souls,

People: that in the fullness of time, Christ will come,

All: and the government will be on his shoulders.

**And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

We Confess Our Faith and Need of God's Forgiveness

Leader: Let us confess our faith together.

All: *We are not alone, we live in God's world.*

We believe in God: who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Leader: Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our need of God's forgiveness.

All: *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.*

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Create in me a clean heart,

O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Leader: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation,
the old life has gone; a new life has begun.

In the name of Jesus,

we are forgiven, loved, and free.

Pastoral Prayer

Words of Institution

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

The Bread

Distribution of the Bread (Please hold the piece of bread until all are served and we are able to partake together.)

Prayer for the Bread.

Leader: The body of Christ, broken for you.

(We eat the bread together.)

The Cup

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Distribution of the Cup (Please take a cup as the trays are passed. We will wait until all are served and we can partake together.)

Prayer for the Cup.

Leader: The blood of Christ shed for you.

(We drink the cup together. Please place the empty cup in the holder in front of you.)

Prayer After Communion

Leader: In hope and peace let us pray:

All: God of Advent promise,

as we go from this table,

may our participation renew our sense of hope

even as we wait for the day when the world will be fully changed.

May this fresh experience of your grace,

awaken us to see your coming light,

and strengthen us, as together we pursue your peace, reconciliation, and justice in the darkness of our world.

Amen.