



October 12th, 2025 9:30 a.m.

Thanksgiving Sunday

Prelude Annie Schulz
Gathering Thoughts Laur Steven
Lighting the Christ Candle

Grace Singers *Come All You People* VT #2
*Come all you people, come praise your Maker; (3x)
come now and worship the Lord.*

Call to Worship

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

People: God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name.

People: Make known God's deeds among the peoples!

Leader: God blesses us with gifts of love:

People: with food and clothing, home and family.

Leader: God blesses us with daily work:

People: and all we need from day to day.

Leader: God protects us in time of danger:

People: and guards us from every evil.

Leader: God calls us into relationship with him:

**People: and forms us into one holy people,
the Church of Jesus Christ in this place.**

**All: Therefore shall we offer thanks and praise
to the Lord our God.**

O Lord our God, we will give thanks to you forever.

Prayer

Hymn *Sing to the Lord of harvest* HWB #98, vv.1,4

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Hymn *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful* VT #118
*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near,
lift up your voices, the Lord is near. (2x)*

Prayers of the People

Laur Steven

Hymn

Praise God (Doxology)

VT #71, 72

Praise God, the Source of life and birth.

Praise God, the Word who came to earth.

Praise God the Spirit, holy Flame. All glory, honor to God's name.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

praise him all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heav'nly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Scripture Reading

Psalm 100 (OT p.552)

Women's Chorus

Touch the Earth Lightly

VT #145

Scripture Reading

Philippians 4:1-9 (NT p.198)

Thanksgiving and Congregational Sharing

"Practicing Gratitude"

Darrell Winger

Hymn of Response

For the fruit of all creation

HWB #90

Benediction

Darrell Winger

Sending Hymn *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

VT #429

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,

and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,

and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, Amen. (2x)

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 in the Church Hall

The 'Practical Christianity' adult study group will meet after the service today in the Fellowship Room. We will be looking at Titus chapters 1 and 2. Kevin McCabe facilitator.

GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your **ninth month offering report** ending September 30th is now in your church mailbox. If you have any questions, please speak to Lorraine Sawatzky (Treasurer).

Attendance ~ Sunday, October 5th 45

Sunday, October 19th ~ Speaker: Mac Plunkett

Scripture Readings: Genesis 32:22-31; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Mark Your Calendar! Grace Justice Group is having a Compassion Café "For Any One of Us at Any Time" – Wednesday, **October 22nd, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.** Doors open at 1:15, Grace Mennonite Church. Guest speaker is **Emily Fieguth** – Donor Engagement Coordinator from **Start Me Up Niagara (SMUN.)** Featured sweet is Chocolate Chip Toffee Cookie Bars by Chef Ty from Technicolor Treats!

We need to learn more about these services and support them for a variety of reasons: 1) Our grandkids may need SMUN 2) Our elders may need SMUN 3) We may need SMUN.

There is no charge for the Café, but there will be opportunity to donate to the work of SMUN. **For more information** about Compassion Café, contact Jan Steven. For more information from Emily about Start Me Up Niagara, contact 289-501-0263 or efieguth@startmeupniagara.ca.



Women's Chorus ~ October 23rd at 9:30 a.m.

Coffee Time ~ October 26th

The 'Practical Christianity' study will continue to meet on coffee time Sundays, except on November 9th. Titus is one of the shortest books in the New Testament, and the chapters are also short.

Financial Update: We have been doing well giving additional amounts in our offerings in order to meet the budget expenses of \$199,049.00 for this year 2025. During these last 3 months of the year, approximately \$45,000 is still needed to cover those expenses. Thank you to all who have given, whether small or large amounts to help meet our commitment so far for this year. If you can continue to do so, or start now to add more to your offerings, I believe we will be able to give many thanks for all that has been given. Blessings to all! Lorraine Sawatzky, Treasurer

Guest Speakers

We will be welcoming a few guest speakers in the coming weeks.

- **Sunday, October 26th**, Pastor Tim Amor, from Linwell Church (previously St. Catharines UM Church) will be speaking. Tim has been pastor at the Linwell Church for the past two years. The following week, Pastor Darrell will be preaching at Linwell Church following our service at Grace.

- **Sunday, November 9th** (Peace Sunday), Dr. Anthony Siegrist, the new Executive Minister of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, will be speaking in the worship service and will also be with us during Coffee Time. Anthony has served as Lead Pastor of Ottawa Mennonite Church, taught at Conrad Grebel University College and Prairie College, and was the Ontario Director of *A Rocha*, a nationwide creation-care focused organization.

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

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|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
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ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



Please pray for the MCEC community of congregations. This week we are praying for **Waterloo-Kitchener Mennonite Church**. Wanda Roth Amstutz provides pastoral leadership for this community. Pray for this community in Waterloo, ON as they follow their mission of worshiping God, nurturing each other and extending God's love and peace to all.

Pray for God's healing in our world: for peace where there is violence and war, for renewal in creation where it groans under climate crisis, for justice in places of oppression and for comfort among the sick, lonely, and grieving.



A Minute for MEDA: From Scarce Seeds to University fees: Women Farmers growing Futures in Northern Ghana With support from MEDA's GROW2 project (funded b Global Affairs Canada) and SMG Ghanan Ltd, 338 women farmers are now trained as certified seed producers – turning small plots into thriving enterprises.

Farmers like **Sanatu Mahama** are using seed sales to fund university fees and invest in their families, while **Laabi Mohammed** expanded her livestock business-proof that these gains strengthen whole communities.

The GROW2-SMG partnership is: *Boosting women's collective profits, *Growing SMB's workforce by 80%, *Reaching 50+ remote communities. Inclusive, sustainable agriculture is helping seeds grow more than crops-they grow futures.

To support the work of MEDA through your giving, mark your offering envelope "MEDA" or e-transfer and write "MEDA" in the message box. Thank you for your gifts.



Thanksgiving Prayer in Times Like These

God, being thankful for peace and plenty is complicated, especially this Thanksgiving.

Whose peace and whose plenty?

So many people here and around the world face violence every day.

In some countries homes are torn to smithereens and grieving families are scattered to the four winds.

And while some tables are full in our communities, some have empty cupboards or no cupboards at all.

So teach us, Jesus, to be thankful in times like these.

Thankful for the good earth, the sun and the rain.

Thankful for farmers who labour to feed us.

Thankful for food itself, so life-giving and delicious.

Thankful for all who make meals and invite others to share them.

Thankful for organizations like our local food banks and relief organizations that help us support people with food insecurity.

Thankful for Jesus who showed us how to love our neighbour.

Thankful that you breathe kindness and generosity into us,

uniting us through your Holy Spirit.

Thankful that love is stronger than hate, and that there are always paths to peace.

Thankful for our communities and opportunities like today to practice the gift of thankfulness.

Thankful for you, our Creator, whose power makes and remakes all things good.

Amen.