



October 22nd, 2023 9:30 a.m.

Being Faithful in Grace

Prelude

Annie Schulz

Gathering Thoughts

Judy Willems

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: Sisters and brothers, rejoice.

We live sustained by God's presence and love.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: As we mourn the wounds of God's children,

People: God weeps with us.

Leader: As we struggle for justice

People: God struggles with us.

Leader: As we strive for peace

People: God strives with us.

Leader: As we work to build the beloved community

People: God works with us.

Leader: As we offer our gifts to all

People: God blesses us.

Leader: Sisters and brothers, rejoice.

**All: Sustained by God's presence and love,
we worship God.**

Hymn

God of our strength

HWB #36

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the People

Judy Willems

For Those with Whom Our Lives Are Bound

See Insert

Hymn

God of our life

HWB #486

Scripture Reading

Exodus 33:12-23 (OT p.80)

Hymn

Here on Christ the Rock I Will Stand

Insert

Scripture Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (NT p.203)

Meditation

"What Are We Known For?"

Darrell Winger

Hymn of Response

Renew your church

HWB #363, vv.1,2

Benediction (Congregation please stand)

Darrell Winger

Sending Hymn

Renew your church

HWB #363, vv.3,4

It is good to be together in worship this morning!
The ushers are pleased to help any who need assistance.

[Offering plate available on table at back of sanctuary]

Coffee Time after the service.

GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday October 8th, 2023 ~ Attendance – 40

Sunday, October 29th – Speaker: Kevin McCabe

Scripture Texts (Focus texts highlighted): Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46;

Proverbs 6:6-11, 24:30-34

Coffee Times at Grace ~ Please sign up on the bulletin board in the foyer if you'd like to contribute baked goods.

♪ **Grace Singers ~** October 29th after the worship service

Chaplain's Corner ~ On Bears and Blankets

By the time you read this, our Bears and Blankets care kits will have been received by 70 seniors or disabled adults who welcome a little extra TLC. My hope is to reach 100 by year end. Your help is most welcomed.

1. Pray that Long Term Care (LTC) homes will contact your Community Chaplain with requests. I may not be able to visit everyone, but we can certainly provide a care kit. If you have contacts in LTC, reach out to them. 2. Pray for Friendly Visitors for seniors and disabled people who are lonely. If you know folks, they are welcome to contact me. But honestly, they can just contact a local LTC facility or Retirement Residence. 3. Pray that our supply of bears and blankets will continue to flourish. Teddies – new or “bearly-used” – are welcomed and blankets/shawls don't have to be made by you – second hand is awesome. Everything gets scrubbed.

Grace Weekly News

Due to a series of computer and internet-related technical difficulties, Church Council has decided it's best to conclude the weekly emailing of "Grace Weekly News". The weekly Sunday bulletin is posted on our church website each week so anyone can find both the order of service, as well as announcements and congregational information there. We will be exploring possible alternative approaches to a monthly or quarterly newsletter over the coming months.

Adult Sunday School ~ We had an energetic beginning last week. From here on in we will meet right after church except on Sundays when there is a coffee hour. Then we will begin our meeting at 11:00. Bring your questions and interests to the class. Today we will begin at 11:00. You can have your cake and eat it too! See you in the pastoral office up the stairs at the back of the church hall.

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD

From Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC)



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

This week we pray for **Chin Christian Church**, Kitchener, ON. Pastors Joseph and Jehu provide pastoral leadership for the congregation. Pray for this faith community as they reach out to their neighbours and also provide a worship space for Shalom Worship and Healing Centre.



A Moment for MCC ~ MCC plans relief, advocates for just peace in Palestine and Israel

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is responding to the recent events in Palestine and Israel with a call to prayer, emergency food and other relief and advocacy for a just peace.

“We mourn the tragic deaths of those killed in Palestine and Israel,” says Rick Cober Bauman, MCC Canada Executive Director. “We lament this new wave of conflict and invite churches to pray for the many families whose loved ones have been killed in both Israel and Palestine.” MCC is planning an emergency relief response with existing partners, focused on the immediate humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip, given the vulnerability of the population and lack of resources available to families. The initial response will include distributing food and bedding. In the longer-term, MCC also plans to respond with trauma healing support and housing reconstruction.

You can give by your offer. If by cash, designate the envelope “MCC Palestine Israel.” If by cheque, make the cheque payable to the church and designate “MCC Palestine Israel” on the memo line/envelope. By e-transfer, put “MCC Palestine Israel” in the message box. Any questions? Our treasurer Lorraine would love to help. You can also give directly at <https://mcc.org/donate>

Saturday, October 28, 2:00-3:30pm, Central Library in St Catharines, author event with Clarence Cachagee (Chapleau Cree) and Seth Ratzlaff (raised in Niagara), will talk about their book *North Wind Man*, published locally by Gelassenheit Publications (Jonathan Seiling). The event is free, but you are encouraged to register. Books will be available for purchase (\$25.00) and the authors will be signing copies after a presentation and discussion.



Peace by Chocolate

October 26th, 6:15-7:45, First Ontario Performing Arts Centre, 250 St. Paul St., St. Catharines

Be inspired by the remarkable true story that has captured hearts across Canada of a family of Syrian

refugees who arrived in Nova Scotia and began a chocolate business called Peace by Chocolate. A story of welcoming strangers, starting over and pursuing dreams amidst obstacles, this film is charming and heartfelt. Arrive early and enjoy the Newcomer Small Business Market beginning at 5 pm. **MCC is a partner** organization in making this film available. More info at mcc.org/events.

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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Here on Christ the Rock I will Stand

*Refrain: Here on Christ the rock I will stand,
other ground is sinking sand.
Yes, on Christ the rock I will stand,
other ground is sinking sand.*

*Jesus knows the troubles I face;
in his blood flow mercy and grace.
What he gives, I cannot repay,
all my sin he washes away.*

Refrain

*Jesus gives me strength when I'm weak;
he's the satisfaction I seek.
He's my shield when troubles draw near.
He's my comfort through ev'ry fear.*

Refrain

*When the judgment comes I will be
in Christ's presence, fearless and free,
where the courts are ringing with praise,
crowned with righteousness all my days.*

Refrain

For Those with Whom Our Lives Are Bound

*For those with whom our lives are bound, hear our prayer, O God.
And those we name in silence, sound, hear our prayer, O God.*

*For all who grieve and all who fear, hear our prayer, O God.
For all who wait as death draws near, hear our prayer, O God.*

*Refrain: Holy Healer, your people call your name.
Send your Spirit. Hear our prayer.
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Send your Spirit. Hear our prayer.*

*For all who search for righteousness, hear our prayer, O God.
And live the faith that they confess, hear our prayer, O God.*

*For all who labor without end, hear our prayer, O God.
For all who, lonely, seek a friend, hear our prayer, O God.*

Refrain

*That peace may come in our own day, hear our prayer, O God.
That your blest word may light our way, hear our prayer, O God.*

*Your name be hallowed far and wide, hear our prayer, O God.
Your reign of justice long abide! Hear our Prayer O God.*

Refrain

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