



October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 9:30 a.m.

**Thanksgiving Sunday  
Being Faithful in Grace**

**Prelude** Annie Schulz

**Gathering Thoughts** David Brubacher

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Call to Worship & Prayer** (Based on Isaiah 12:3-6 by Christine Longhurst)

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord! Praise His Name!

**People: Tell the whole world what He has done—  
His mighty acts on our behalf.**

Leader: Sing to the Lord,  
for He has done wonderful things for us!

**People: Raise your hearts and voices!  
Shout and sing your praise!**

**All: For great is the Holy One who lives among us!**

**Hymn** *Sing to the Lord of harvest* HWB #98

**Passing of the Peace**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Hymn** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow* HWB #118

**Prayers of the People** David Brubacher

**Women's Chorus** *Praise the Lord, Alleluia!*

**Scripture Reading** Psalm 65 [OT p.527]

**Grace Singers** *In Thanksgiving Let Us Praise Him*

Refrain: *In thanksgiving, let us praise Him;  
in thanksgiving, let us sing  
songs of praise and adoration  
to our gracious Lord, and King.*

**Scripture Reading** Luke 17:11-19 [NT p.]

**Meditation** "My Turn to Give Thanks" Darrell Winger  
(As part of today's message, you will have opportunity to stand  
and share a brief word of thanks to God if you'd like)

**Hymn of Response**     *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

*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.*

**Benediction** (Congregation please stand)                      Darrell Winger

**Sending Hymn**     *Now thank we all our God*     HWB #86, vv.1,3

**Postlude**

***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 today*

## **GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023** ~ Attendance – 44

**Offering Statements:** Your 9-month offering statement is in your mailboxes today. It will tell you what you have given from January – September this year. If you have any questions, please let Lorraine know.

**Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** – Speaker: Jan Steven

**Scripture Texts:** Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

Also a medley of Bible verses that speak to providing goodness to our elders.

♪ **Women's Chorus** ~ October 19<sup>h</sup>, 9:30 a.m.

♪ **Grace Singers** ~ October 29<sup>th</sup> after the worship service

### **Chaplain's Corner ~ *Happy Thanksgiving!***

From Paul's letter to the church at Philippi: I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

## **Being Faithful in Grace**

In our Sunday morning worship services to November 19<sup>th</sup> we will be focusing on the theme, "Being Faithful in Grace". While the Scriptural readings every Sunday vary in their particular teaching, a stream that runs through them is God's loving grace to us – that transforms us – inviting our faithfulness in reflecting his Kingdom in our daily lives. May all of us be open to the leading of the Spirit in being faithful in grace in these coming months.

As we journey through these weeks, let's ask ourselves:

1. What does it mean for me to be faithful in the grace I have and continue to receive from God?
2. What does it mean for Grace Church to be faithful in our witness to God's grace in our communities?

Let's be praying for each other in this time.

## **Prayer and Anointing with Oil**

One of the privileges of participating in the life of the church is knowing we have brothers and sisters who will support us in our spiritual journey and the struggles of life. It's comforting, as we face hardship and illness of any kind, to know we can ask for prayer from our church family and pastoral team. One approach to prayer that Christians have practiced over the centuries is to anoint with oil as we pray for someone with illness. In James 5:14 we read, "*Are any among you sick? They should call the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.*" We read in the *Mennonite Church Minister's Manual*: "Anointing with oil is not something magical, but is a tangible way of speaking to the sick person of the love of Christ, the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the solidarity of the congregation." This practice is often done in someone's home, but it can also happen in brief prayer service in the church. If you would find this prayer ministry helpful, or if anyone has any questions, please let one of the pastoral team know and we will be glad to follow up with you.

## **ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD**

**Bethany is excited to host a special concert with Eduard & Christine Klassen** at Bethany Mennonite Church on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Eduard shares his testimony, utilizing his gifts of storytelling and playing the Paraguayan harp. We heartily invite everyone for a delightful evening. An offering will be taken and light refreshments will be served after the concert.

**Please join us for an open house** for our newly renovated facilities. Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 2 - 4pm at 3277 King St., Vineland. The Tallman Family



**From Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC)**

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

This week we pray for **Cassel Mennonite Church.** Wanda Roth Amstutz provides pastoral leadership for the congregation. Cassel is a rural church community that seeks to follow Christ in ways of peace, love and justice. Pray for them as they serve the needs of their community.



**A Moment for MCC Thrift ~ Renovation and Improvement of MCC Christian Benefit Thrift Shop**

The MCC Thrift Store (Christian Benefit Shop) has grown into a strong business, forwarding over \$450,000 annually to MCC, a testament to the vision, commitment, and perseverance of the hundreds of volunteers who have invested their time to support the work of the Christian Benefit Thrift Shop.

After 14 years, the building we are in has served us well but has become a little tired. A refresh on the exterior and remodelling inside will put us in a good position to continue to service our community for years to come.

This project will be partially funded by our Thrift Capital Reserve Fund, but MCC's Donor Relations Team will be working with us to raise \$154,000 from donors who may be interested in investing in the future of our Shop. Donations towards the project can be made at our cash registers in the Shop.

For more information or to contribute, call Tim Albrecht, General Manager, at 905-682-8944 or email [timalbrecht@mcco.ca](mailto:timalbrecht@mcco.ca) [www.mccthrift.com](http://www.mccthrift.com) – Helping People. Helping the planet.

**Tel: 905-935-6112      Email: [gracemennonite@bellnet.ca](mailto:gracemennonite@bellnet.ca)**

***Office Hours: 8:30-2:30 ~ Wednesday, Thursday***

**[www.gracemennonitechurch.com](http://www.gracemennonitechurch.com)**

**[www.facebook.com/gracemennonitechurchstcatharines](https://www.facebook.com/gracemennonitechurchstcatharines)**

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