



September 24th, 2023 9:30 a.m.
Being Faithful in Grace

Prelude Ester Funk

Gathering Thoughts Pam Pauls

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord!

People: Call upon the name of the Lord!

Leader: God's love and mercy are given daily for each of us.

**People: God's forgiveness and tenderness
are poured out for us.**

Leader: Praise be to God who deals so kindly with us.

All: Lord, help us offer the same compassion to others.

Hymn *Sing praise to God who reigns* HWB #59

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the People Pam Pauls

Hymn *We would extol thee* HWB #74

Scripture Reading Psalm 145:1-9 [OT p.581]

Women's Chorus *God, in Your Grace*

Scripture Reading Matthew 20:1-16 [NT p.21]

Meditation "The Upside-Down Kingdom" Darrell Winger

Hymn of Response *There's a wideness in God's mercy*
HWB #145, vv.1,2,3

Benediction (Congregation please stand) Darrell Winger

Sending Hymn *There's a wideness in God's mercy*
HWB #145, vv.4,5

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]

GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday September 17th, 2023 ~ Attendance – 50

Sunday, October 1st – Speaker: Waldo Pauls

Scripture Texts (Focus texts highlighted): **Exodus 17:1-7;**

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; **Philippians 2:1-13;** Matthew 21:12-32

World Communion Sunday

♪ **Women's Chorus** ~ October 5th, 9:30 a.m.

October 19th, 9:30 a.m.

Thanksgiving Service ~ October 8th Coffee Time to follow

Being Faithful in Grace

In our Sunday morning worship services from September 24 to November 19th 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. In Matthew 10:8, we read the words of Jesus: "Freely you have received, freely give." Another way of considering what it means for us to be faithful in the grace we've received is described by the British, Anglican theologian, N.T. Wright this way: "the task of Christians in a postmodern world is to be the re-embodiment of Jesus". 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.

Chaplain's Corner ~ I am often asked how Grace folks who can no longer attend church are doing. And I'm happy to update. AND I encourage you to look through your church directory and phone or send a card to friends you haven't seen for a while. "Whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

– Jan Steven, Community Chaplain

On Thursday, Oct 5th at 2:00 pm: Members of the Niagara Regional Police "Community Oriented Response and Engagement Unit" (CORE) will be holding an information session at Grace Mennonite Church to bring awareness to this newly formed unit. The purpose of this session will be to explain what CORE does and what services they provide to the community.

Officers would also be speaking about current crime trends, and preventative measures that they can take to reduce the chances of victimization. At the conclusion of this information sharing session, officers will open the floor to any other questions individuals might have. The session is open to all.

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 **Brussels Mennonite Fellowship.** Ken Gazley provides pastoral leadership for the congregation. Pray for them as they minister in their community.

*Please pray for MCEC as they seek someone to fill the key leadership position of **MCEC Operations and Finance Director.** Pray for those who view and apply to the opportunity, those involved in the interview process and for the individual who will accept the call to this position. We ask for God's wisdom and leading.



Grow Hope ~ October 15th there is a 40th anniversary celebration and fundraiser at Vineland United Mennonite Church at 3327 Menno street in Vineland. It starts at 5:30 pm and will feature a soup and sandwich/bun meal that will be followed by an update from Andy Harrington - executive director of CFGB Canada. There will also be a pie auction to raise funds for CFGB.

Please note that there is not a field tour this year of the Grow Hope Niagara growing project this year. We are hoping rather that folks will attend this event, to mark a moment of celebration for an organization that MCC created, and works in partnership with.

Please let Tom Neufeld know by October 5th, if you plan to attend to plan for food expectations.

Telephone: 905-941-0179 or Email: t.m.neufeld@live.ca

AED/CPR Certification Training

Thursday October 5, from 9:30am to 12:30pm, Heart Niagara will be holding an AED/CPR Certification training session at NUMC. If you would like to become certified or re-certified, please contact Julie in our church office by email or phone: office@redbrickchurch.ca or 905-468- 3313.



A Moment for MCC ~

Helping children who are deaf and blind in Jordan

With the guidance of caretaker and trainer Nour Najdawi, Sufian Abdullah is learning to write using Braille typing at the Holy Land Institute for Deaf (HLID) in Salt, Jordan.

MCC supports HLID's unique and one-of-a-kind deafblind unit which is the first and only facility of its kind in Jordan and the region. HLID aims to educate, train, and provide care for deafblind children to enable them to fully participate in society.

MCC – Relief, development, and peace in the name of Christ

Bridge of Hope Update!

Just a reminder that Grace Mennonite is a vital part of the Bridge of Hope Community refugee sponsorship organization, founded by us in Fall 2015 along with the Masjid al Noor of St. Catharines for the purpose of sponsoring Syrian refugee families. BOHC now has members from three Mennonite churches, two mosques, two United churches, and the Pelham Quakers.

At a potluck picnic at Happy Rolf's Park on Sunday afternoon, September 17th, we celebrated 7 years since the arrival of the first Syrian family. Six of our eight sponsored families were able to attend. Over 40 persons have been rescued from refugee situations by BOHC so far.

NOTE: The work of BOHC presently is focused on sponsorship of three South Sudanese families now living in Ugandan refugee camps. The first of those families will arrive, hopefully, in 2024. Fundraising for this project began a couple of years ago, and Grace Mennonite has already taken generous leadership with that. More details on that project will be shared in a bulletin insert to come in October.

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 Coordinator	Annie Schulz	annieschulz@yahoo.ca
Office Administrator	Ester Funk	gracemennonite@bellnet.ca
Pastoral Care Chaplain	Jan Steven 289-990-4839	Pastoral Care, Friendly Visits janscats@gmail.com