



September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 9:30 a.m.

*Shaped by the Spirit*

**Prelude**

Annie Schulz

**Gathering Thoughts**

Mac Plunkett

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: God of hope, you gather us from every direction  
to sit together, to learn from each other,  
to walk the journey of reconciliation.

**People: How good and pleasant it is when God's people  
live together in unity!**

Leader: God of wisdom, soften our hearts and lower our defenses.  
Give us courage to learn about difficulty and new things.

**People: How good and pleasant it is when God's people  
live together in unity!**

Leader: God of love and compassion, let us come together,  
work together, worship together, pray together.  
May your love unite us.

**People: How good and pleasant it is when God's people  
live together in unity!**

**All: *Let us walk together in truth and reconciliation. Amen.***

**Prayer**

**Hymn**

*Mountain of God*

VT #11

**Verse 1:** *Come, let us go to a place that is pure,  
to learn about love and wipe away tears;  
to melt swords of steel and hearts made of stone,  
set pris'ners free and give strangers a home.*

**Refrain:** *So come, come as you are, oh, come,  
from near and far, oh, come, salvation we'll taste  
as we climb the mountain of God.*

**Verse 2:** *From each corner and end of the earth,  
we'll gather together to sing of your worth,  
of blind who can see and weary who rest,  
good news for the poor, freedom for oppressed. Refrain*

**Verse 3:** *New life awaits for all who believe;  
all who love mercy, do justice, walk humbly.  
With Christ as our guide united we'll be;  
living the kingdom, secure in God's peace. Refrain*

## Passing of the Peace

### Offertory Prayer

Grace Singers

*Creation Is a Song*

**Refrain** *Creation is a song, a song that we can see,  
A sacred gift from God, let's join the harmony.*

### Prayers of the People

Mac Plunkett

Hymn

*Father God, you are holy*

HWB #78

Scripture Reading

Micah 6:6-8 (OT p.866)

Hymn

*What a Wonderful Savior*

VT #562

**Refrain** *What a wonderful Savior, he is mighty and able to save!  
In his mercy and grace he has given all we need,  
and his heart overflows with love for me.*

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 5:11-19 (NT p.181)

Meditation

"Shaped by Reconciliation"

Darrell Winger

Hymn of Response

*I come with joy to meet my Lord*

HWB #459, vv.1,2,3

Service of Communion (Litany in insert)

Darrell Winger

Benediction

Darrell Winger

Sending Hymn

*We are One in the Spirit*

VT #387

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;  
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
and they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

## Postlude

*Coffee Time after the service in the Church Hall*

**Adult Bible Study Group** We are starting our second study group this morning after the worship service. Feel free to grab a drink and some refreshments in coffee time and then come to the Fellowship Room. We will be looking at the first chapter of Paul's epistle to Titus. Our focus is "practical Christianity", and in this context we mean applying the text that we are reading to daily Christian life. This should provide many opportunities for discussion. Kevin McCabe is facilitating this group.

## **GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Attendance** ~ Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> – 37

**Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>** ~ Speaker: Jan Steven  
Scripture Readings: Isaiah 58:6-10, Luke 16:19-31

**Women's Chorus** ~ October 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

**Coffee Times** ~ October 12<sup>th</sup> (Thanksgiving), October 26<sup>th</sup>

### **Bears and Blankets Update**

On Friday I delivered a number of Bears and Blankets care kits to Chapel Heights in Niagara Falls. Here is a shortened version of what they posted on their media sites: "Our hearts are full once again! THANK YOU! Jan Steven and THE MANY VOLUNTEERS working behind the scenes with Bears and Blankets".

This brings our count to 1170 care kits placed in 45 residences! If you know of a long-term care home or retirement residence that isn't aware of this FREE and FUN program, let them know and let me know. Jan Steven

### **Free Books for Kids Update**

So excited! Our TEAM has had requests from three schools for our Free Books for Kids program.

Here is a lovely note from a Librarian / Teacher:

"I would love some books for kids learning to read and kids that are already readers. I didn't have any left over from either school last year, so they were very popular! If you have any read-to-me bears, we could use some...I kept the ones that you sent...and the kids absolutely love having a stuffed bear to read to and snuggles with when they're in the library."

This brings our total to 1275 books, and 175 read-to-me bears/plushies, and 11 big "Reading is Beary Fun" bears placed in 8 schools. We can serve many more! We have lots of books, especially for kids who are already reading! If your area school isn't aware of the program, let them know and let me know. Jan Steven

## Grace Church Library is No Longer Accepting Donations

For the foreseeable future, the library at Grace will no longer be accepting donations. We have received many donations over the past year and need to catch up with our cataloging. If you have used books to donate, please give them to a local thrift store.

## Grace Church Library-How to Check Out materials

In the past few months numerous borrowing cards have gone missing from the library. You will find these cards in the back of each book. When checking out a book remove the card, sign your name and the date, and then place it inside the pink box on the library desk. There are also signs posted on the wall and the desk with instructions on how to check out a book.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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](mailto:gracemennonite@bellnet.ca)

**677 Niagara Street, St. Catharines**

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

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

[www.facebook.com/gracemennonitechurchstcatharines](http://www.facebook.com/gracemennonitechurchstcatharines)

Pastor	Darrell Winger 905-483-2335	<a href="mailto:Darrell.winger@gmail.com">Darrell.winger@gmail.com</a>
Worship & Music Associate	Annie Schulz 905-941-5511	<a href="mailto:annieschulz@yahoo.ca">annieschulz@yahoo.ca</a>
Office Administrator	Ester Funk	<a href="mailto:gracemennonite@bellnet.ca">gracemennonite@bellnet.ca</a>
Community Chaplain	Jan Steven 289-990-4839	<a href="mailto:janscats@gmail.com">janscats@gmail.com</a>

## Communion Litany

### **We Pray Together**

Leader: Creator God, our country has journeyed in the Truth and Reconciliation process, seeking understanding, healing, and reconciliation.

**People: As followers of Jesus, we want to hear and respond to Your call to reconciliation wherever there are broken relationships or injustice has occurred.**

Leader: We want to listen to each other's stories.

**People: We want to understand others without judgement.**

Leader: We know there are differences in values and traditions among people groups, but also that there are places where we share values and traditions.

**People: We celebrate that we are all Your children, made in Your image.**

Leader: You embrace others in Your love.

**People: You call us now to reflect that love to each other.**

**All: You call us to be shaped by reconciliation as we walk the path of peace. Amen.**

### **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**

Blessed are you, O God, Creator of all things,  
ruler of the world and all that is to come.  
By your Word you have created all people in your image.  
Though we have all gone astray, each on our separate way,  
you have freed us from bondage;  
you judge the forces of division and evil,  
and destroy the powers of oppression.  
By your Spirit you have created your church, one people,  
the Body of Christ, united throughout the world in your grace,  
and you call us to be reconciled in Christ.  
As you draw us to your feast this day, you call all your children;  
we are one with them, and we honor them here around this table.  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup,  
that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Christ.  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us,  
that we may be for the world the Body of Christ,  
one Body around the world,  
one in you, shaped by a ministry of reconciliation,  
in the name and the life of Christ.  
Amen.

### **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**

**All:** God, we thank you for this mystery in which you have given yourself to us. As many grains are made one in a loaf of bread, you make us one Body in Christ. May we be one in the Spirit as we pursue the ministry of reconciliation. Send us into the world to love courageously and to serve humbly, for the sake of the healing and harmony of all Creation. Amen.

## **Benediction**

May the God of Creation

Prepare us for the work of reconciliation.

May the teachings of Jesus remind us to love without limits and serve without question.

May the Spirit of the living God walk with us on the journey, making us one, as he shapes our lives.

\*Elements of our litany today were adapted from resources provided by *Unfolding Light: Daily Reflections and Worship Resources* and *Kairos Canada*.

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



**A Moment for MCC: Supporting People Living in War-torn Countries – Ukraine** Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) works with Ukrainian partners on humanitarian aid, providing food packages, hygiene kits, temporary housing, trauma healing, and emergency supplies to vulnerable populations, including the elderly and internally displaced people.

The organization's work focuses on both immediate relief and longer-term programs, supporting local faith-based and community organizations that are operating in difficult conditions near the front lines. MCC has a long history in Ukraine, beginning in 1920 with food aid during a famine.

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



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

This week we are praying for **Waters Mennonite Church**. Pray for this community in Lively, ON, just outside Sudbury as they aim to provide a base for a friendly, Christ-centered and biblically-based community of faith that respects the Anabaptist tradition.

### **AED/CPR Training at Niagara UM**

On Thursday October 2 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, Heart Niagara will be holding an AED/CPR training session in the gym. If you would like to become trained or re-trained please contact Julie in the church office no later than **Tuesday September 30** by email or phone: [office@redbrickchurch.ca](mailto:office@redbrickchurch.ca) or 905-468- 3313.

### **Resources regarding Truth and Reconciliation and Indigenous Peoples**

**Mennonite Church Canada:** [www.mennonitechurch.ca/indigenous](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/indigenous)

**Mennonite Central Committee:**  
[www.mcc.org/resources/national-day-truth-and-reconciliation](http://www.mcc.org/resources/national-day-truth-and-reconciliation)

**National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation:** [www.nctr.ca](http://www.nctr.ca)

**Niagara Regional Native Centre:** [www.nrnc.ca](http://www.nrnc.ca)

*52 Ways to Reconcile: How to Walk with Indigenous Peoples on the Path to Healing* by David A. Robertson