



September 29th, 2024 9:30 a.m.

*Pursuing Peace:
Loving Our Neighbours*

Prelude Annie Schulz

Gathering Thoughts
Lighting the Christ Candle Laur Steven

Call to Worship*

Leader: "Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people..."

**People: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other."**

Leader: We meet you here, Lord
at the intersection of love and faithfulness.

**People: Here prayer and praise join hands,
scripture is embraced,
and our voices unite in hymns to you.**

**All: *Speak tenderly to our hearts in this hour of worship,
God of all Creation,
and show us the path to peace. Amen.***

Hymn *All praise to our redeeming Lord* HWB #21

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Musical Reflection *All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*
Women's Chorus

Prayers of the People Laur Steven

Welcome of New Members

John & Judy Doerksen and Jerry & Judy Willems

Hymn*Let's Walk Together*

*Let's walk together for a while, and ask where we begin
to build a world where love can grow, and hope can enter in,
to be the hands of healing, and to plant the seed of peace,*

Refrain: *Singing welcome, welcome to this place.*

You're invited to come and know God's grace.

All are welcome, the love of God to share,

'cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.

*Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast,
where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,
and joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray,*

Refrain

*Let's dream together of the day when earth and heav'n are one,
a city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,
where mourning turns to dancing, ev'ry creature lifts its voice,*

Refrain

Scripture Reading James 3:13-4:3 (NT p.230)

Hymn *The Church of Christ, In Every Age* HWB #403, vv.1,3,5

Scripture Reading Mark 9:30-37 (NT p.45)

Meditation "Community of the Vulnerable" Darrell Winger

Hymn of Response *What does the Lord require* HWB #409

Benediction Darrell Winger

Sending Hymn *Go, My Friends, in Grace*

*Go, my friends, in grace, beneath the blessed sky.
Where you go, God is there, beneath the blessed sky.*

*Walk, my friends in peace, within this fallen world.
Where you walk, God is there, within this fallen world.*

*Serve, my friends, in love, your neighbours and your foes.
Where you serve, God is there, in neighbours and in foes.*

*Come again, my friends, to worship and to pray.
When we meet, God is here, Benedictus Deus.*

***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 today

GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer for Peace ~ Compassionate God we lift up to you the people of Myanmar, trapped in a civil war among ethnic groups. Stay the hand of evil and its destruction of family and civic life. We pray especially for the small Mennonite church there. Strengthen them especially as they do everything they can to keep their young men from being conscripted so they can become agents of peace.

Sunday September 22nd ~ Attendance - 38

Sunday, October 6th ~ Speaker: Mac Plunkett

Scripture Texts: Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26;

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

We will be participating in communion on Sunday, October 6th. Each time we break bread and share the cup together, we have the opportunity for reflection and celebration of important truths: Christ's sacrificial love, his grace and forgiveness, and his invitation to pursue a right relationship with him and each other, enabled by his Spirit.

♪ **Women's Chorus** ~ Thursdays, October 10th and 24th 9:30 a.m.



Coffee Times ~ October 13th and 27th

Thanksgiving Sunday, October 13th

There will be an opportunity in the morning service for you to share what you are thankful for as you reflect on this past year. There may even be an object that especially represents or reminds you of some particular blessing. If so, bring it along and we will have a table at the front where you can place it after sharing as a further act of thanksgiving. Whether simply using words or accompanying words with an item that represents your gratitude, come prepared to share from a grateful heart.

Encouragement Team

If you like to encourage people, we have a role for you! We want to develop a small team of persons who help us care for our congregation through encouragement. You might be glad to phone someone, email them or mail them a note. You might be glad to visit someone or invite them out for a coffee. Whether you have little time or lots of time, or you prefer using the phone/email or seeing someone in person, we welcome you to let us know of your interest. Let Darrell or Jan Steven know.

Free Cards ~ Julie P has donated some greeting cards and they are on the little table in the foyer beside the Soap for Hope box. Do you have someone who could benefit from a card? Help yourself! 😊

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.*

Tel: 905-935-6112 Email: gracemennonite@bellnet.ca

677 Niagara Street, St. Catharines

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 & Music Associate	Annie Schulz 905-941-5511	annieschulz@yahoo.ca
Office Administrator	Ester Funk	gracemennonite@bellnet.ca
Community Chaplain	Jan Steven 289-990-4839	janscats@gmail.com

The Welcome of New Members

John & Judy Doerksen and Jerry & Judy Willems:

Introductions and comments

Laur Steven, Congregational Chair:

Jerry and Judy Willems and John and Judy Doerksen have found a home at Grace Mennonite Church, have heard God call them beloved, and feel loved by this congregation. Now they seek to deepen their relationship and commitment to this church community.

Pastor Darrell:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for the life journey that brought the Willems and the Doerksens to join our church today. We celebrate the unique impact they will make here and already have made here, through their presence, gifts and talents. May this congregation offer support in times of trouble and rejoice with them always. May our church home strengthen their faith and deepen their discipleship. All this we pray in Christ's Holy Name. Amen.

Questions For New Members

Pastor Darrell:

Today we make a covenant, one with another. We make promises to one another, before God, so that we can depend on each other through good times and hard times. You have a church and a people. And so now we ask you Jerry, Judy, John, and Judy:

Do you affirm your faith in God as your Creator, in Christ as your Redeemer, and in the Holy Spirit as your Sustainer? If so, please say, I do.

New Members: I do.

Pastor Darrell:

Do you promise to be Christ's disciple and witness, to follow in the way of Jesus as best as you are able? If so, please say, I promise with the help of God.

New Members: I promise with the help of God.

Pastor Darrell:

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in faith and to be an active and joyful member of this church? If so, please say, I promise with the help of God.

New Members: I promise with the help of God.

Promise From the Church

Laur Steven, Congregational Chair:

Judy, John, Jerry, and Judy have witnessed to their faith in Jesus Christ and offer themselves as companions in our obedience to Christ. It is our privilege and joy to welcome them into our family of faith.

People:

We freely receive you, even as Christ has received us. We open ourselves to fellowship with you in worship, study, service, and discipline. We pledge our willingness to give and receive counsel, to offer and accept forgiveness in the redeemed community. We joyfully accept you as partners, both in the care of our spiritual family, and in our mission to the world.

Final Blessing on all Members

Pastor Darrell:

Loving God, give to the Doerksens and the Willems, and to all of us who together as Grace Mennonite Church, strength for life's journey, courage in times of suffering, the comfort of faith, love that cannot die, laughter in the company of friends, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



A Moment for MCC: Lebanon

Please pray and donate for the people of Lebanon. The cycle of violence continues, with hundreds killed in Israeli military strikes on Monday. MCC continues to respond to displacement from southern Lebanon and is developing a further response. Contributions designated for MCC's Gaza crisis response help to meet needs in southern Lebanon, as well as in Gaza and the West Bank.

Lebanon has been devastated by ongoing crises. 80% of the Lebanese population is below the poverty line. 90% of the country's 1.5 million Syrian refugees face extreme poverty.

<https://mcc.org/what-we-do/where-we-work/lebanon>



Celebrating 50 Years of Thrift – Thanks to YOU!

2 PM on October 6th at Bethany Community Church,
1388 Third Street, St. Catharines.

We're marking 50 years of our Thrift Shop, and we couldn't have done it without the incredible support of our volunteers, supporting churches and friends like you! Join us for a special *Thrifted Threads Fashion Show*, showcasing unique outfits that highlight the heart of thrift. It's our way of saying thank you for your dedication and generosity over the years. Enjoy light refreshments, fellowship, and a look back at all we've accomplished together! Space is limited, so please let us know you are coming before Sept 30 by signing up in the shop, email grantham@mcco.ca or call 905-682-8944, press 4.



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

This week we pray for **Markham Christian Worship Centre.** Kapilan Savarimuthu provides pastoral leadership to this congregation, which is primarily made up of individuals from Sri Lankan background. Pray for God's guidance and strength as they minister to the community in Markham.

Continue to pray for areas in the world who cry out for peace.

We grieve for all who have experienced the horrors of war and violence. May God bring comfort, healing, and justice to those suffering. Lord, have mercy on us and hear our prayers for peace and reconciliation in these troubled regions.

Further Resources from Laurie Warkentin

Laurie Warkentin has shared some possible next steps in pursuing peace with Indigenous Neighbours:

1. Read:

- The Land is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery – Sarah Augustine
- Becoming Kin: An Indigenous Call to Unforgetting the Past and Reimagining the Future – Patty Krawec
- Healing Haunted Histories: A Settler Discipleship of Decolonization – Elaine Enns and Ched Myers
- Unsettling the Word: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization – Steve Heinrichs

2. Watch the Doctrine of Discovery (43min) <https://youtu.be/JvM4SJN76Yg?si=kv056ok2iyRpjfmT>

3. Attend the Niagara Pow Wow: Saturday October 5th at the Meridian Centre