



September 8th, 2024 9:30 a.m.

*Pursuing Peace:
Loving Our Neighbours*

Prelude

Annie Schulz

Gathering Thoughts

Judy Willems

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship*

Leader: We come seeking Jesus, the Light of the World!

People: Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus!

Leader: We believe in the strength of God
to illuminate dark places.

**People: The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness shall not overcome it.**

Leader: Lord, in this hour of worship,
kindle in us the light of your love and peace.

People: Let your light shine in us, now and forever.

**All: God of Peace, we welcome You into our presence
and our hearts.**

Prayer

Hymn

Bless the Lord

Refrain: *Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

Oh, my soul worships your holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name.

*The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;
it's time to sing your song again.*

*Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.*

Refrain

You're rich in love, and you're slow to anger.

Your name is great and your heart is kind.

*For all your goodness, I will keep on singing
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.*

Refrain

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the People

Judy Willems

Women's Chorus *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Scripture Reading Psalm 34:1-14 (OT p.508)

Hymn *I Sought the Lord* HWB #506

Scripture Reading Luke 5:17-26 (NT p.63)

Meditation "Pursuing Peace " Darrell Winger

Hymn of Response *Put Peace into Each Other's Hands*

*Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it,
protect it like a candle flame, with tenderness enfold it.*

*Put peace into each other's hands with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways, in touch with God's creation.*

*Put peace into each other's hands like bread we break for sharing;
look people warmly in the eye: our life is meant for caring.*

*As at communion, shape your hands into a waiting cradle;
the gift of Christ receive, revere, united round the table.*

Service of Communion

Darrell Winger

Benediction

Sending Hymn

*Put Christ into each other's hands
to share love's deepest measure;
in love make peace, give peace a chance,
and share it like a treasure.*

Postlude

*Carol Penner - Adaptation

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
Please join Pam & Waldo Pauls for coffee and cake to
celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary!

GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer for Peace ~ Almighty and merciful God, we lift up the people of Gaza before you. Their misery is heartbreaking. Bless those who rescue the wounded and homeless. Bless those who work endlessly to achieve a ceasefire. O God, save innocent people from destruction. Change the minds of politicians and warriors; turn them to peacemaking. (Prepared by Grace Peace Group)

Sunday September 1st ~ Attendance - 43

Sunday, September 15th ~ Speaker: David Brubacher

Scripture Texts: Proverbs 1:20-33; **Psalm 19**; James 3:1-12;
Mark 8:27-38

The August budget offering was \$11,585.00

Women's Chorus ~ Thursday, September 12th, 26th 9:30 a.m.

Coffee Times ~ September 22nd and 29th

Guest Speaker

On September 22nd, as part of our teaching series this fall, Laurie Warkentin, Education & Engagement Program Associate with Mennonite Central Committee Ontario, will be our guest speaker. Laurie will focus on what it means to do good better, in particular in our relationships with our Indigenous neighbours. Following the worship service and coffee time, there will be an optional follow-up resource time with Laurie, in the Fellowship Room, for those interested in further dialogue.

Welcoming New Members

Sunday, September 29th we will be welcoming and receiving four persons into membership of Grace Mennonite Church: John and Judy Doerksen and Jerry and Judy Willems.



Soap for Hope ~ MCC urgently needs soap donations for countries where soap is scarce. Both bath soap (85 g or larger, in wrapper) and laundry soap (Fels Naptha, Sunlight, or Zote) are needed. **Donations can be placed in the box in the church foyer marked Soap Donations.**

Our Fall Theme is "Pursuing Peace: Loving Our Neighbours"

As followers of Jesus, as we experience the gift of God's peace we also receive his calling to live that out in our world. When we hear the words of Jesus, "*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you*" (John 14:27), we also embrace the words of the psalmist, "*seek peace and pursue it*" (Psalm 34:14). Extending peace in our world flows from the peace we ourselves have known in Christ. We share the gift we have received. We are a Jesus movement embracing the "both/and" of his teaching from Matthew 22:37-39: "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind...and...you shall love your neighbour as yourself.*" The gracious movement of the Spirit draws us into the fullness of God's love, bringing us peace, and then calls us to express this by loving our neighbours. What does it mean for us to pursue peace and to love our neighbours in our local community and in the broader world? As we journey together as a congregation this fall may we be open to what God has for us.

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

Communion Service Litany

Leader: This morning, we are invited to come and gather at the table of love and liberation, to feast on the loving grace of God, to be nourished by the peace of Christ.

People: God calls us as we are, from wherever we are, to come and be in solidarity with Jesus, who lives and loves on the margins.

Leader: God whispers “come” and live abundantly, turning from all that claim blessings flow from money, power, or control.

People: Come, and love relentlessly; following Jesus on paths of uncertainty, taking risks for one another, calling down unjust power from its throne and lifting up the lowly, the impoverished, the burdened.

Leader: To answer the call of Christ to love our neighbours no matter our social location, choosing to align ourselves with the needs of the marginalized, the oppressed, the outcast, and the isolated, with the faith that together, we might en flesh new possibilities of healing, of connection, of freedom from all that destroys.

People: When these are the desires of our hearts, we open ourselves to God, to seeking and pursuing peace.

Leader: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled, and to peacemakers for they are God’s children.

People: And we come to the table, expectant, eager, open to tasting the rich blessings of the reign of Christ, born from unexpected places, and people, and experiences.

We Confess Our Faith and Need of God's Forgiveness

Leader: Let us confess our faith together.

All: We believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again
to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

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.

Prayer:

And so we pray,
Come Holy Spirit, Breath of God, Renewer of life,
Come upon these elements,
so that the bread we break and the cup we share
might be a communion of the body and blood of Christ.
Settle on these gifts and all who gather here,
that we might be transformed in our remembrance
of your radical love, your eternal embrace,
and your grace that makes all things new.
For the sake of our shared lives,
the life of this land on which we live,
and the lives of those yet to come,
nourish us and renew our hope
that soon Christ may rise again among us.

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 can 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 (Take a cup as the trays are passed. Please 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: Blessed are you, Loving God.

Through this holy meal, You have joined us to yourself and to one another.

Blessed are you, Incarnate God.

You have put your life into our hands.

Now we put our lives into yours.

Blessed are you, Breath of God.

As we go forth, set us free to love you with our whole lives,

And to love our neighbours, as we extend your peace in our world.

Benediction

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



*Please pray for the **MCEC community of congregations**.
This week we pray for Ma Destinée congregation in Montreal.

MEDA Fundraiser Event for Guatemala Project

September 12th 6:00 p.m. Hosted by Dorothea & Rudy Enns.
18 Firelane 2A, Niagara-on-the-Lake. An evening of refreshments, music and connection with the MEDA community.

Dean Shoemaker, Senior Development Office at MEDA will be sharing stories from a recent trip to Guatemala and the WE4CA project (Women's Empowerment for Central America). We hope to see you there!

Register at www.MEDA.org/events or call 519-741-7638



MCC Needs Volunteers ~ Do you have newly retired friends with "time on their hands"? Do you know of teenagers that need to get their volunteer hours in? Send them to MCC Thrift. We value the talents and passion that each of our volunteers bring to their role. Generally, our volunteers fill the following positions: cashier, receiving, sorting, pricing, displays, workroom helper, or kitchen helper. If you would like to start making a difference immediately, contact the shop at 254 Grantham Ave., St. Catharines, at 905-682-8944, or grantham@mcco.ca

MCC Thrift – Where Every Purchase Is A Gift To The World!

AED/CPR Certification Training at Niagara UM

On Monday, September 16, from 9:30am to 12:30pm, Heart Niagara will be holding an AED/CPR Certification training session at Niagara United Mennonite Church. If you would like to become certified or re-certified, please contact Julie by email or phone: office@redbrickchurch.ca or 905-468- 3313.

Project Ploughshares Peace Event ~ 25th Anniversary of the Hiroshima and Hagasaki Atomic Bombings 5:30-7:30 p.m

Saturday, September 21st. Peace Garden, Rennie Park, St. Catharines. Messages of Peace, Lantern Decoration & Floating Questions? Contact Nozumu at nosumu.ozaki.rmft@gmail.com or contact Timothy at 905-341-3415 or thealey@aol.com

"Without justice and love, peace will always be a great illusion." - Dom Hélder Câmara