



December 24th, 2023 9:30 a.m.

Fourth Advent ~ How Will We Know?

Prelude Annie Schulz

Gathering Thoughts David Brubacher

Advent Candle Lighting

Song *Ready My Heart* Women's Chorus

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: God sent the angel Gabriel to a young woman in
Nazareth named Mary. He said to her, "Greetings,
favored one! God is with you."

But Mary was perplexed by Gabriel's words,
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.
The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid,
for you have found favor with God."

**People: Like Mary, we're also ordinary.
Will God really work through us?**

All: Together we ponder.

Hymn *O little town of Bethlehem* HWB #191

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Musical Reflection *A Joyful Noel* Duet
Ester Funk, Annie Schulz

Prayers of the People David Brubacher

Hymn *Here I Am to Worship* Grace Singers

Refrain: *So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down*

Here I am to say that you're my God.

*You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.*

Scripture Reading Luke 1:26-38 (NT p.56)

Grace Singers *The Angel Gabriel Called Mary Blessed*

Scripture Reading Luke 2:8-20 (NT p.58)

Meditation "Why me? Why not me?" Darrell Winger

Hymn of Response *Infant holy, Infant lowly* HWB #206

Benediction

Darrell Winger

Sending Hymn

He Came Down

*He came down that we may have love; (3x)
hallelujah for evermore.*

*He came down that we may have peace; (3x)
hallelujah for evermore.*

*He came down that we may have joy; (3x)
hallelujah for evermore.*

Postlude

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]



Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 p.m.
Cider and cookies following the service
in the Church Hall.

GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday December 17th, 2023 ~ Attendance – 50

2023 Offerings: A huge thank you to all who have given of their gifts and offerings throughout this year of 2023! Grace Mennonite Church is blest in so many ways!

As we end the year on Sunday, December 31, that means that next Sunday is the last day for offerings to be receiptable for 2023. Any cheques dated for January, or e-transfers or cash received in early January will be treated as offerings for January 2024. If you have any questions, please contact Lorraine Sawatzky at 289-929-4772.

Sunday, December 31st

Speaker: Mac Plunkett

Scripture Texts (Focus texts highlighted): Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; **Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40**



Brunch Coffee Time after the service on
Sunday, December 31st.

♪ **Women's Chorus** ~ January 11th at 9:30 a.m.

Chaplain's Corner ~ Laurence and I wish you a blessed Christmas and an inspired New Year. It is a privilege to be part of the Grace Mennonite Church community. As your Community Chaplain, I am always honoured to find ways to better serve Jesus, Grace MC, and our Community (local and internationally.)
Let me know. – Jan Steven

Last minute Christmas shopping!

Well, there is what you plan there is what happens. I had said I might have extra virgin olive oil, olive soap, and za'tar thyme & sumac herb mix for sale after church. But these Fair Trade items from Zatoun have sold out. They help farmers in Palestine's West Bank. When they come available again, I'll be sure to let you know., Love always!
Jan Steven

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 **Église Jésus-Christ Appelle Tous.**

Pastor Cyprien Kibukila provides pastoral leadership for the congregation in Trois-Rivières, QC. Pray for this congregation who declares their vision in their name as they seek to be a church for all people (Jesus Christ calls all).



A Moment for MCC: School Lunches in South Sudan

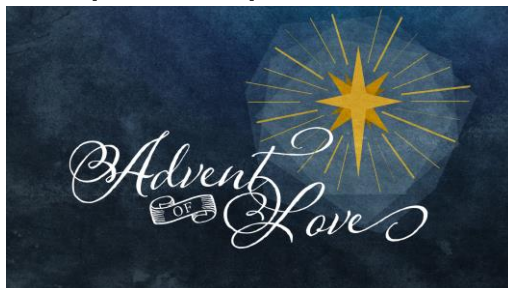
Give the gift of meals at school this Christmas season.

School lunches and breakfasts offer a valuable boost to student health and nutrition at schools like this one in South Sudan, and raise student attendance rates. Students whose bellies are full have a better chance of concentrating on lessons and staying in school. To give a gift of hope today, visit mcc.org/Christmas

Or you can give by your offering. If by cash, designate the envelope "MCC Christmas." If by cheque, make the cheque payable to the church and designate "MCC Christmas" on the memo line/envelope. By e-transfer, put "MCC Christmas" in the message box. Any questions? Our treasurer Lorraine would love to help.

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



Heaven in Ordinary

*Because high heaven made itself so low
That I might glimpse it through a stable door,
Or hear it bless me through a hammer blow,
And call me through the voices of the poor,
Unbidden now, its hidden light breaks through
Amidst the clutter of the every day,
Illuminating things I thought I knew,
Whose dark glass brightens, even as I pray.*

*Then this world's walls no longer stay my eyes,
A veil is lifted likewise from my heart,
The moment holds me in its strange surprise,
The gates of paradise are drawn apart,
I see his tree, with blossom on its bough,
And nothing can be ordinary now.*

Malcolm Guite

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.*

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

www.gracemennonitechurch.com

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