



October 1st, 2023 9:30 a.m.

**World Communion Sunday
*Being Faithful in Grace***

Prelude		Annie Schulz
Gathering Thoughts		Laur Steven
Lighting the Christ Candle		
Call to Worship & Prayer		
Leader:	We gather from the west to the east, from the south to the north,	
People:	to celebrate the God of peace who accompanies us in our acts of peace.	
Leader:	This God of peace accompanies us	
People:	in each and every circumstance around us.	
	<i>All: We praise God's name! Amen!</i>	
Hymn	<i>Become to us the living Bread</i>	HWB #475
Passing of the Peace		
Offertory Prayer		
Musical Reflection		
Prayers of the People		Laur Steven
Grace Singers	<i>Hallelujah! We sing Your Praises</i>	
Scripture Reading	Exodus 17:1-7 [OT p.64]	
Hymn	<i>Come, thou fount of ev'ry blessing</i>	HWB #521
Scripture Reading	Philippians 2:1-13 [NT p.197]	
Meditation	"Work Out Your Salvation"	Waldo Pauls
Hymn of Response	<i>Eat this bread</i>	HWB #471
Celebration of Communion	Please follow the Litany Insert	
Sending Hymn	<i>Sent forth by God's blessing</i>	HWB #478
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 24th, 2023 ~ Attendance – 41

The budget offerings for the month of September were \$12,868.50

Sunday, October 8th – Speaker: Darrell Winger

Scripture Texts (Focus texts highlighted): Deuteronomy 8:7-18; Psalm 65; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; **Luke 17:11-19**

Thanksgiving Sunday ~ Coffee Time after the service

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

October 19th, 9:30 a.m.

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.

Prayer and Anointing with Oil

One of the privileges of participating in the life of the church is knowing we have brothers and sisters who will support us in our spiritual journey and the struggles of life. It's comforting, as we face hardship and illness of any kind, to know we can ask for prayer from

our church family and pastoral team. One approach to prayer that Christians have practiced over the centuries is to anoint with oil as we pray for someone with illness. In James 5:14 we read, “*Are any among you sick? They should call the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.*” We read in the *Mennonite Church Minister’s Manual*: “Anointing with oil is not something magical, but is a tangible way of speaking to the sick person of the love of Christ, the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the solidarity of the congregation.” This practice is often done in someone’s home, but it can also happen in brief prayer service in the church. If you would find this prayer ministry helpful, or if anyone has any questions, please let one of the pastoral team know and we will be glad to follow up with you.

Chaplain’s Corner ~ In the foyer today, there will be a card for Helene Mathies – welcoming her to her new home. You are welcome to sign it. 😊

I am hoping to find a person – doesn’t have to be from Grace MC – who would like to visit seniors in two retirement communities. (Not long-term care facilities.) It would be one afternoon a week. Contact Jan at 289-990-4839 or janscats@gmail.com

By the end of this week, your Bears and Blankets team – Ester, Mary, and Jan – will have placed over 60 gift packs to selected Seniors in Long-Term Care. The gift includes an individualized teddy bear, a shawl or blanket, a bearpaw cookie, and a card. We welcome donations of clean next-to-new teddy bears and homey or home-made shawls or small blankets.

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.

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 **Burning Bush Forest Church.**

Wendy Janzen provides pastoral leadership for the congregation. Pray for this experimental expression of church, made up of folks who find themselves drawn to the outdoors to nurture their souls and pay attention to God. Pray for them as they meet monthly, outdoors under the open sky.



Grow Hope ~ October 15th 5:30 p.m. 40th anniversary celebration and fundraiser at Vineland United Mennonite Church. 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 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



A Moment for MCC ~

Last year, MCC shipped 9,208 dignity kits to Guatemala, Haiti, Malawi, South Sudan and Zambia.

Students like Mer Puok sew dignity kit base units in the sewing class in Loreto secondary school, an MCC partner in South Sudan. These base units are part of the reusable product system provided in the MCC-supplied dignity kits.

For the female students at Loreto Rumbek, MCC dignity kits are incredibly valuable. Store-bought products are prohibitively expensive and often hard to access, but the reusable products in the kits mean girls and women don't have to waste money on unsustainable solutions. The other items included in the dignity kit, like the soap and comb, are valuable personal hygiene items that are also expensive and hard to find. Even the bucket the kit comes in becomes a valuable storage container.

To learn more about dignity kits, visit mcc.org/get-involved/kits/dignity.

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

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
Community Chaplain	Jan Steven 289-990-4839	janscats@gmail.com

World Communion Sunday Litany

World Communion Sunday helps us look beyond our local and denominational church boundaries and focus on the unity we have in Christ with all other Christians around the world. In participating in the Lord's Table this morning, we are called to claim and proclaim our God-given unity in Christ, who is the host at ALL our communion tables. We celebrate the greatness of our God, the largeness of the body of Christ, and the enormous gift that God gave us when he sent Jesus to earth. As we stand in awe of the great mystery that the God of all creation wants to be in relationship with humankind, we respond with delight and obedience. All of us may come this morning as we open ourselves to this mystery of God's gracious presence.

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

Loving God, we give thanks for the joy of joining with believers
across the world in coming to your table.

Thank you, Lord, for the people you invite to this table, brothers
and sisters in Christ.

Together, we come to this table, knowing that you created us and
love us.

Together, we come to this table, knowing that Jesus died for us all.

We come to this table, knowing that God's Spirit sustains us all.

Together, we come to this table, to experience the mystery of our
faith,

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

As we come to the table, grace us with your Holy Spirit so that we
can understand the wideness of your love. Across time and
around the world, we are one people, one body, your Church
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Servers come forward to serve the bread.

Prayer for the Bread

Distribution of the Bread

(Please hold the piece of bread until all are served and we
are able to partake together.)

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.

Please take a cup from the pew holder near to you.

(Please wait to partake until we are able to do so together.)

Prayer for the Cup.

Leader: The blood of Christ shed for you.

(We drink the cup together.)

Prayer After Communion

Leader: In peace let us pray:

All: O God, we give thanks

for uniting us as the body of Christ

and for filling us with joy at this table.

Lead us toward the unity of your church,

and help us treasure signs of reconciliation.

Now that we have tasted the banquet you have prepared for us,

may we one day feast together in your heavenly city.

Through Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns with you in the

unity of the Holy Spirit,

ever one God, world without end.

Amen.

Blessing

Send us now into the world in peace,

and grant us strength and courage to love

and serve you with gladness,

and singleness of heart;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

