

Order of Worship: Sunday, April 14, 2024

10:00 am – In-person worship

Pastor: Jim Brown

Worship theme: *What does it mean to be dependent on grace? How much does God have to grant grace for our sake? Who do we need to grant grace?*

Dave Rogalsky has pastored many congregations in Southern Ontario and one in Manitoba. He is currently Associate Pastor at Community Mennonite Fellowship in Drayton. For many years he wrote as the Eastern Correspondent for Canadian Mennonite Magazine. He and his partner Annemarie live in Waterloo near their children and grand-children.

Prelude

Welcome & Call to worship

Scripture: Psalms 30 (NIV) *I will exalt You, LORD, for You lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me. LORD my God, I called to You for help, and You healed me. You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of the dead; You spared me from going down to the pit.*

Sing the praises of the LORD, you His faithful people; praise His holy name. For His anger lasts only a moment, but His favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning. When I felt secure, I said, "I will never be shaken."

LORD, when You favored me, You made my royal mountain stand firm; but when You hid Your face, I was dismayed. To You, LORD, I called; to the Lord I cried for mercy: "What is gained if I am silenced, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise You? Will it proclaim Your faithfulness? Hear, LORD, and be merciful to me; LORD, be my help."

You turned my wailing into dancing; You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing Your praises and not be silent. LORD my God, I will praise you forever.

Opening prayer

Opening Hymn: #151 HWB – Marvellous Grace

Prayer of Confession/Affirmation - *Merciful Lord, we confess that with us there is an abundance of sin, but in you there is the fullness of righteousness and abundance of mercy. We are spiritually poor, but you are rich, and, in Jesus Christ, came to be merciful to the poor. Strengthen our faith and trust in you. We are empty vessels that need to be filled; fill us. We are weak in faith; strengthen us. We are cold n love; warm us, and make our hearts fervent for you that our love may go out to one another and to our neighbors. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

Scripture: Nehemiah 9:16-21 (NIV) *But they, our ancestors, became arrogant and stiff-necked, and they did not obey Your commands. They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles You performed among them. They became stiff-necked and in their rebellion appointed a leader in order to return to their slavery. But You are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore You did not desert them, even when they cast for themselves an image of a calf and said, 'This is your god, who brought you up out of Egypt,' or when they committed awful blasphemies.*

"Because of Your great compassion You did not abandon them in the wilderness. By day the pillar of cloud did not fail to guide them on their path, nor the pillar of fire by night to shine on the way they were to take. You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold Your manna from their mouths, and You gave them water for their thirst. For forty years You sustained them in the wilderness; they lacked nothing, their clothes did not wear out nor did their feet become swollen.

Hymn: #150 HWB – Wonderful Grace

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:1-12 (NIV) Gary B - *I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell. I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses.*

Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness. ” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. ?

IF Gathering: Some History - How it all got started

I have made a fool of myself, but you drove me to it. I ought to have been commended by you, for I am not in the least inferior to the “super-apostles,” even though I am nothing. I persevered in demonstrating among you the marks of a true apostle, including signs, wonders and miracles.

Message: *Depending on Grace ~ Pastor Dave Rogalsky*

Hymn of Response: #143 HWB – Amazing Grace

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Announcements

Offering

Closing Hymn: #145 HWB – There’s a wideness in God’s mercy

Benediction

Postlude

~~~~~  
**Announcements**

**MCC Run for Relief 2024**

Is anyone interested in being part of a team from St. Agatha MC taking part in this year’s MCC Run for Relief? I’ve been part of several teams doing a variety of walks to raise funds for MCC. I was thinking of doing a walk from our church to the fairgrounds in New Hamburg: about 13-14 km. People could walk for part of it or all of it. We would wear bright safety vests as well as have a secondary way to let vehicles know of our presence from a distance. To do this it would be helpful to also have a support vehicle to supply drinks or snacks as well as transport anyone as needed. If you are interested in considering this please speak to me: Pastor Jim

**IF Gathering Local at Wilmot Church, April, 19-20** (Friday evening and all day Saturday). IF is an interdenominational event that focuses on bringing women together to worship and study the word of God together. Each session begins with worship and then we watch different speakers on video from the actual large IF GATHERING that was held live last month in Texas. Here is a [link](#) to the event in Texas, which gives you a flavour of what the event was like. Meals and snacks are included in the registration cost. Details at: [IF Gathering 2024 at Wilmot Centre MC](#) - What is the weekend all about

**Rockway teachers are passionate about creating** engaging lessons, challenging their students to think critically & caring for their wellbeing. Join us on April 16 at 7 pm to discover the Rockway Experience for your child. Visit [rockway.ca](https://rockway.ca) to RSVP today! **RSVP at [rockway.ca](https://rockway.ca): <https://rockway.ca/about/discover-rockway/discover-rockway-night/>**

**Waterloo Network Hub's Annual Spring Banquet @ Shantz Mennonite Church**, April 20th, 2024. Doors open 5:30 pm, 6:00 pm dinner. Live Music. \$55 per person. Join us for an evening of inspiration, knowledge & connection. RSVP by April 12. [network@meda.org](mailto:network@meda.org)

**Help support Rockway's Student Tuition Assistance** program by becoming a golf sponsor in our [29th Annual Golf Classic](#). Contact Chris Ainsworth, Director of Advancement, at [advancement@rockway.ca](mailto:advancement@rockway.ca) to learn more. The **Early Bird registration closes on Monday, April 15**. URL for Rockway's Golf Classic: <https://rockway.ca/golf>

**April 24, 9:30 am - 12 pm, MCC Community Room, 50 Kent Ave, Kitchener**

If you witness a violent situation, will you know how to respond? Training Active Bystanders shows you how. Participants learn to analyze harm-doing and respond in everyday ways. For more info and to register, go to [mcc.org/events](http://mcc.org/events).

**Remembering Henry Pauls** – A CILT Cabin Dedication Service will be held on April 28 at 10am at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp to honour Henry Pauls' legacy with the camp.

**SLMC Summer Camp** – Registration is open! Visit [slmc.ca/summer-camp](http://slmc.ca/summer-camp) to view all programs available at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp this summer.

**Spring Work Weekend** – Enjoy a family-friendly, free weekend at Silver Lake to help open the camp for the summer. All meals provided. April 26-28. Register at [slmc.ca/retreats](http://slmc.ca/retreats).

**Spring Seniors Retreat at Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp**

On Monday, April 29th join us for a day of fellowship, community and conversations. Dr. Martha Taylor will share with us in the morning and Jane Kuepfer will host a panel discussion in the afternoon as we intentionally explore end-of-life conversations. [www.hiddenacres.ca](http://www.hiddenacres.ca) See Bulletin Board for more info.

**Pray for peace in Haiti** and for political and social stability that people can go about their normal lives. Pray also for MCC staff and its 11 partners in the country that they would have wisdom and resilience in the course of ongoing stress and trauma.

**Upcoming Worship Services:**

April 14: Dave Rogalsky

April 21: Pastor Jim

April 28: Pastor Jim