



Jan. 22, 2025

Reflections on Amos 8:4-12

Jeanne Barnes

Too often you wake up early to the sound of the local newscaster telling you of global, national and local events of the previous day. You catch up on the earthquakes, the floods, and the loss of life around you. You even watch the bottom ticker tape for a report on stocks you've invested in. The radio is blaring; your mind is racing. You buzz the drive-thru for coffee and hurry on with your day. Your life is loud.

This was pretty much the same for the people of Amos's time. They couldn't wait to get rich off the labor of the poor, to go on with their luxuriant lifestyle, to complete their ancient to-do list. The prophet shouted in the marketplace, but no one answered. Their lives were loud and pleasurable. His voice was vague and annoying.

We read about the Israelites and convince ourselves that we don't exploit the poor. We give generously to all the causes that flood our mailboxes. But Amos's words still echo in our ears. What are we doing about income equality, universal health care, affordable housing, accessible childcare, racial fairness? Our answers are mere whispers in the noise of the world around us. We teeter between advocating for social justice and feeling overwhelmed and helpless. We know we should act, should do the hard work, but not just yet. Our comfortable life beckons us. We'll get to God's work when we have more time. We'll be the queen of filling the food banks, the king of organizing low-income housing. We'll answer Amos's call. Soon.

And that's not all we'll do. We won't tune God out anymore. We'll spend time with the Lord, turn to him and hear his voice. His words will resonate in all our thoughts and actions. We'll read. We'll meditate. We'll listen. We'll be a God-centered woman, a Spirit-filled man. Someday.

But time may be running out. Just as the people of Amos's time, we may have to act now to avoid the famine in our lives. Just as God proclaimed a famine on hearing his word to the people of Amos's time, the famine may be upon us. The season of our life is filled with loudness. We forget how to hear the still, small voice within us. We are spiritually hungry, but unable to find nourishment.

Like the people of Amos's time, we need to take a breather from our loud lives and listen for God's voice. We must do more than mail a check now and then. We are obligated to work for social justice. We are required to feed the hungry, and to feed our souls. We must commit to answering God's call. Now.

Respond

Turn off the TV, close the iPad, and open yourself to God's word. Ask for directions on the path to equality for all and the strength to walk it. Pray for a spirit-inspired lesson plan of social justice. Then listen.

Rest

O God of abundance and all good gifts, help us to listen to your words. Give us the courage to act for equality. And bless us with the overflowing goodness of your voice. Amen

Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

Amos 8

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Message from Jerina Gacheri Kirema from Nyeri, Kenya

"Happy new year to Graceview presbyterian church, I hope this message find you in great health and high spirit. Am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the payment of my school fees received. Your kindness as played an essential role in my education by ensuring effective and smooth learning with a lot of concentration. I truly appreciate your dedication and support.

This is my last term (trimester) and I will be sitting for my final qualifying exam on march 2025. Once again, thank you so much for your generosity. Your support means a lot, and I look forward to our continued relationship. May Almighty God bless you all."



World Day of Prayer 2025

Graceview is the host church for this year's WDP which will take place on Saturday March 8th at 10:00. The subject this year is the Cook Islands in the south Pacific and the program was written by Christian women who live there. The program title is "I made you wonderful", based on Psalm 139. We hope we can count on your support. Please mark the date and invite your friends.
Maureen Screen

GoFundMe for Shannon Jarvis

Shannon Jarvis has been dealing with serious health issues for all of her life and has endured major hardships and setbacks in her health in the last three years, especially. She recently came home from more than a two year stay in the hospital in 2022-2024, that has left her with the inability to walk, indefinitely, at the age of 34. Now that she is home in her parents' house, she is confined to her bedroom as the house and bathroom are not wheelchair accessible. Another friend and I have started a GoFundMe for Shannon to raise money for a bathroom renovation, to make her bathroom wheelchair accessible so she can live more comfortably in her home.

The link for the GoFundMe for Shannon is here:

<https://gofund.me/9ef554f3>

Donations are greatly appreciated! Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Lunardo

Annual Report

Work on the 2024 Annual Report has begun. The report will be similar to the previous three reports - that is it will be a narrative and pictorial, professionally printed booklet. It should be available in March 2025 in time for our Annual Meeting.

In order to make sure it tells a complete story about Graceview in 2024, we ask that all committee chairpersons or group leaders (or someone designated by them) prepare a brief summary, in point form, of highlights of what your committee/group did in 2024 - these are the things you would like to see included in the Annual Report. If you have some pictures, you could include that would be great. Also, if you have some quotes that people have said about what you have been doing, please include them. If you are not involved in committees or groups but have an idea about what should be included in the Annual Report, please let us know.

All reports and submissions should be sent to Bob Twynam at btwynam@gmail.com no later than Friday January 24, 2025

NEW



Winter Devotional Update:

A **new** edition of **These Days** (January/February/March), as well as the current edition of **Our Daily Bread** (December/January/February) are available on the table in the church vestibule and in the devotional box on the church porch.

Coffee/Tea Sign - Up



The sign-up sheet for coffee/tea service after worship is on the bulletin board opposite the kitchen downstairs. Please sign yourselves up or sign up your committee so that our Fellowship time after church can continue.

Jan. 26 -

Feb. 2-23 – Outreach

Mar. 2 – 30 – Mission Team

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PASTORAL CARE

- * Pray for the people of war-torn countries who are living in fear and uncertainty. Pray for those close to home who need your special love and guidance during trying times.
- * **Evelyn R's** nephew **Dexter Ramsumair** of New Jersey has had his heart surgery and is at home recovering.
- * **Irene Langstaff's** son **Michael** got through surgery and is home now recuperating. Thanks to all who prayed for him.
- * The family of **Bob Nancarrow** who are mourning his passing.

- * Please keep in your prayers the following:
Shirley P., Josephine Wong, Shelia Thomas' grandson, Carter, Ed L., Charlotte Prentice, Joan and Peter K., the Jarvis family, Olive S., Roman P., Jean Fox's nephew, Ryan, and Gordon F.
Please keep these folks, and indeed, everyone in our church family and people around the world, in your prayers.

Note from your editor: Could you please advise us from time to time on the status of your loved ones so that updates can be recorded and shared to prove that the power of prayer does work miracles.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * Tuesdays @ 11:00 AM – Walking Group – All are welcome
- * Thursdays @ 2:00 PM – Worship service at Centennial Park Place
- * Monday, Jan. 27 @ 9:30 AM – Sing Etobicoke at Graceview
- * Sunday, Jan. 26 @ 10:30 – Rev. Tim Bruneau will be in the pulpit as part of a pulpit exchange
- * Saturday, Mar. 8 @ 10:00 AM – World Day of Prayer at Graceview PC
- * Monday, Mar. 17 @ ??? – Celebrating St. Patrick's Day with Irish Stew by Dave
- * Sunday, Mar. 23 after service – Annual Meeting 2025
- * Sunday, Apr. 27 @ 10:30 AM – Mission Awareness Sunday
- * Sunday, May 4 @ 10:30 AM - Celebrating Graceview's 25th Anniversary

Prayer Roster

Lay Readers

Welcome and Announcements

Jan. 26

Ethel Waite

Al Bishop

Bob Twynam

Feb. 2

Eric Lee

Nancy Green

Kathy Twynam

Feb. 9	Maureen Screen	Anna Cherniak	Nancy McPherson
Feb. 16	Errol Baldeo	Lynne Bishop	Susan Chopp
Feb. 23	Eric Lee	Harry Learoyd	Lynne Bishop
Mar. 2	Susan Chopp	Chris Parr	Bob Twynam
Mar. 9	Nancy McPherson	Susan Chopp	Kathy Twynam
Mar. 16	Eric Lee	Bob Twynam	Nancy McPherson
Mar. 23	Kathy Twynam	Jean Fox	Susan Chopp
Mar. 30	Chris Parr	Maureen Screen	Lynne Bishop
Apr. 6	Eric Lee	Margaret Munene	Bob Twynam
Apr. 13	Margaret Munene	Georgena Engineer	Kathy Twynam

SING! ETOBICOKE WINTER SCHEDULE

Jan. 27	9:30 AM	GV	Time After Time	W25SE4
Feb. 3	9:30 AM	Fellowship	Guest Day III	W25SE5
Feb. 10	9:30 AM	GV	Love Songs	W25SE6
Feb. 24	9:30 AM	NPCC	Troubled Water	W25SE7
Mar. 3	9:30 AM	GV	Over the Rainbow	W25SE8
Mar. 10	9:30 AM	NPCC	Unforgettable	W25SE9
Mar. 17	9:30 AM	NPCC	Spring Sing (Guest Day IV)	W25SE10

Note: we will not be meeting on Family Day, Feb. 17, 2024

Worship Calendar

Jan. 26	Our Need to Hear God's Word	Amos 8:4-12 (Rev. Tim Bruneau)
Feb. 2	Jesus' Mission Statement	Luke 4:14-21

WEEKLY GIGGLE

The church council met to discuss the pastor's compensation package for the coming year. After the meeting the chair of council told the pastor: "We are very sorry, Pastor, but we decided that we cannot give you a raise next year."

"But you must give me a raise," said the pastor. "I am but a poor preacher!"

"I know," the council chair said. "We hear you every Sunday."

Do you have any news or prayer requests that you would like to share? Drop me a line and I will be happy to include it in the Weekly Email. Have a blessed week, everyone.

Susan choppertini@hotmail.com

*Our services are now live streamed. Go to the church's website (www.graceview.ca) to click the link for the most recent worship services on YouTube.

* Message from **Pastor Eric**: "FYI the Graceview website page has been revamped, so as to keep people updated of our activities and events. Visit us and enjoy all that is good about Graceview".

<https://graceview.ca/calendar-events>

* We also have our own Facebook page. (Graceview Presbyterian Church). This site shows the world all that we are and what we have to offer as a church. Check it out and be sure to "follow."

Contact information for Pastor Eric Lee: 778-791-1741; leefyeric@gmail.com

NB: If the phone number for Pastor Eric does not connect you immediately (technical issues?) call the church (416-621-0888) and press #1 for Pastor Eric.

Email for Iris: ericirishk@gmail.com

JANUARY 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	3	4
5	6 Sing Etobicoke @NPCC *Outreach Team 7:00 PM	7 Walking Group 11:00	8	9 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	10	11
12 "Surrendering to the True Messiah" Rev. Eric Lee	13 Sing Etobicoke @Graceview	14 Walking Group 11:00 Craft Club 11:00	15	16 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	17	18
19 "Unwrapping the Gifts" Rev. Eric Lee	20 Sing Etobicoke @Fellowship	21 Walking Group 11:00 Session 6:30	22	23 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	24	25
26 Rev. Tim Bruneau "Our Need to Hear God's Word"	27 Sing Etobicoke @Graceview	28 Walking Group 11:00	29	30 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	31	1

