

Waterloo North Mennonite Church

Sunday, August 20, 2017 9:30 a.m.

For reflection:

"The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us."

Psalm 67:6

Gathering Hymns:

HWB (blue) #12 *Come, let us all unite to sing*

HWB (blue) #59 *Sing praise to God who reigns*

Welcome, Introduction, Announcements

Hymn HWB (blue) #46 *I sing the mighty power of God*

Call to Worship:

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Invocation:

Leader: We enter your presence Eternal God, Creator of all life.

People: We enter your presence Jesus Christ, the Way of Abundant Life.

Leader: Be present with us Holy Spirit, inspire our daily living.

**All: To the one true God, eternally three in one,
be praise in all times and places,
through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Confession:

Hymn HWB (blue) #353 *Lord, listen to your children praying*

Leader: God of boundless Eternity, God of graceful New Beginnings
God who lived with us in Jesus,

**People: Our faith is uncertain, our conviction is weak. (HWB #703)
But our fears are constant,
our anxieties have strong hold on us.**

We are anxious about the future of the earth.

We are anxious about the future of our children.

We fear for our security; we fear "the Other".

**We fear the loss of the good things
in this life we have built.**

(see Lk 12:18-19)

We go through life fearing its end in death.

Save us O God! Help our unbelief!

(Mk 9:24)

Silence

Words of Assurance:

Leader: God says "I will heal your disloyalty and love you freely." (*Hos 14:4*)
Jesus said "Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid." (*Mt 14:27*)

Response to Assurance:

People: Therefore, if God is for us who can assail against us? (*Rm 8:31*)
In Christ we have been given new hope and new life, and to this newness of life we commit ourselves. Amen. (*WNMC Covenant*)

Children's time

Offering

Congregational Prayer

Hymn HWB (blue) #362 *Help us to help each other*

Scripture Genesis 45:1-15 (*see last page*)

Sermon "God's timing is not our timing"

Hymn HWB (blue) #638 *God is working his purpose out* (v. 1,2 and 4)

Benediction

Hymn HWB (blue) #118 *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

With gratitude and respect, we recognize that we are worshipping on the traditional land that once belonged to the Haudenosaunee and Anishnaabe peoples. We regret the lack of respect given to the Indigenous people in the past, and pledge to work for justice and reconciliation.

Head sets are available, from the ushers, for hearing assistance.

Childcare (infants to age 4): The nursery is located outside the sanctuary. Ushers can direct you. Staffed childcare resumes in the Fall.

Offering. For those who contribute electronically, offering cards are available or use loose change/cash so that you can participate in the giving-of-offering worship experience.

Information Sheets with church news and activities are available on the table in foyer for those who do not receive them electronically.

Welcome Visitors: We are glad you are worshipping with us this morning. If you would like to learn more about our church and our ministries, including our care groups, education opportunities, seniors group or youth groups, and if you'd like to be added to our email list, please contact the church office or one of the ministers.

At Waterloo North Mennonite Church we welcome all people to participate fully in our Christian community of faith with all its expectations, responsibilities, and opportunities regardless of personal characteristics such as race, ethnic background, age, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, income, or education.

Genesis 45:1-15 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’

¹² And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³ You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” ¹⁴ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.