

Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Matins Advent/Christmas Order of Service

December 10, 2017

For reflection: “*John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*” (Mark 1:4)

Gathering

Silence

Prelude

Opening the Bible

Welcome:

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 of Promise:

Leader: We enter your presence O God, divine King of all that is.

People: We enter your presence Jesus Christ, born on earth.

Leader: Be present with us Holy Spirit, our constant companion.

**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.**

Silence

Praise

Hymn of Praise STS (purple) #1 Praise the One who breaks... (rise)

Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving (remain risen)

Leader: We magnify the Lord!

People: We rejoice in God our Savior. Holy is his name! (Lk 1:46-47)

**Prepare the way for God our Savior,
who comes in love to our world.** (Is 40:3)

With the angels we praise God saying

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace.”

Peace to those God favours and peace to all the earth.

Glory to God in the Highest. Amen. (Lk 2:14)

Hymn of Praise HBW (blue) #115 Jesus, thou mighty Lord
(be seated after singing)

Leader: Let us join together in reading the Psalm.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Leader: You, LORD, showed favor to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
You forgave the iniquity of your people
and covered all their sins.

**People: I will listen to what God the LORD says;
he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—
but let them not turn to folly.**

Leader: Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

**People: Love and faithfulness meet together;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

Leader: Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,
and righteousness looks down from heaven.

**People: The LORD will indeed give what is good,
and our land will yield its harvest.**

Leader: Righteousness goes before him
and prepares the way for his steps.

**All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,
is now and will be forever. Amen.**

Silence

Confession

Leader: Holy God, the Great I AM, who is beyond the universe,
yet is also intimate with our soul, we confess that we wander,
lost, far from the Way you created for us, (cf. Is 40:3)

**People: We are lost in sin because we turn our eyes from your face.
We have trusted signposts and guides that led us
away from you into the darkness that mesmerizes.
We long to know your True light. Restore us O God! cf. Jn 1:10)
Let your face shine that we may be saved! (Ps 80:3)**

Leader: Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

People: Jesus, Bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Leader: Jesus, Redeemer of the world, give us peace. (HWB #702)

All: Amen.

Silence

Hymn: HBW (blue) #144 Kyrie (remain seated)

Words of Assurance

Leader: The Light that comes from God has been born into the world.
That Light shines in the darkness and the darkness
did not overcome it. (adapted Jn 1:3-5)

Response to Assurance

**All: God is faithful. God has called us into fellowship
with his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.** (1 Cor 1:9)
**According to God's promise, we wait for new heavens
and new earth where righteousness is at home. Amen.** (2Pet 3:13)

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:
I leave you peace, my peace I give you.
Look not to our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom
where you live forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Before we offer the peace of Christ to each other,
we especially welcome guests at Waterloo North today.

Introduction of Visitors

Leader: Let us offer each other the sign of Christ's peace.

Passing the Peace of Christ (rise)

Listening to God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: As we prepare to listen to God's Word let us pray:
Gracious God

**All: Prepare our hearts to accept your Word.
Silence in us any voice but your own;
that hearing, we may be transformed
by the Good News of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Reader: Hear the word of the Lord from the book of Isaiah.

READ Isaiah 40:1-11

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Silence

Reader: Hear the word of the Lord from the Epistle of Peter

READ 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Silence

Reader: Hear the word of the Lord from the Gospel of Mark.

Hymn to greet the Gospel STJ (green) #41 Alleluia

(rise)

READ Mark 1:1-8

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you O Christ!

(be seated with the reader)

Silence

Homily

Silence

Hymn of Response HWB (blue) #183 On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry

(rise)

Prayers of the People

Leader: As we enter our time of prayer this morning, let us share experiences of God's presence and gather our prayers of gratitude as we lift them to God. These are some events for gratitude in the life of our congregation and our world...

Leader: Lord, for your goodness and mercy

People: We give you thanks.

Leader: What witness to God's presence or prayers of thanksgiving do you bring this morning?

People: audible sharing or sentence prayers (eg. "I give thanks, I saw God...")

Leader: Lord, for your goodness and mercy

People: We give you thanks.

Leader: Jesus said: "Ask and it will be given you,
Search and you will find;
Knock and the door will be opened for you."

Leader: Let us gather our prayers of petition and intercession as we lift them to God. These are some events and concerns for prayer in the life of our congregation and our world ...

Leader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayers.

Leader: What are the prayers of petition that you bring this morning?

People: audible sentence prayers (eg. "I hold in prayer ...")

Leader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayers.

Leader: By your death and resurrection you show us that love is stronger than hate. We pray for our torn and troubled world. May peace and unity grow where hatred and suffering now prevail.

Silent Prayer

Leader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayers.

Leader: By your words and life you invite us to seek your kingdom. We pray that the church in all places may be faithful to you and that we in this congregation may embody your mission to the world.

Silent Prayer

Leader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayers.

Leader: By your healing power you bring restoration, hope and comfort. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us who seek healing of body, mind, spirit or relationships.

Silent Prayer

Leader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayers.

Leader: We offer our prayers in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:
All: Lord's Prayer *(see last page)*

Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Let us speak the affirmation of our faith together:

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.**

**I 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. Amen.**

(Apostle's Creed)

Sending

Hymn of Benediction STS (purple) #57 Go, my friends, in grace (rise)

Benediction

Leader: May the blessing of Christmas make you a blessing to others;
may the peace of the Advent pervade all that you do.
Depart in peace, and take with you the certain knowledge that
Jesus is always coming into the world. Amen.

(adapted voxveniae.com)

Silence

Closing the Bible

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Abide in God's love, seek justice and go in peace. Amen.

Offering: as an act of sharing with the world what you have received from God's bountiful hand you are invited to place your offering in the basket as you leave the sanctuary.

Scripture for next week: *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Luke 1:46b-55*;
1Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.*

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 for hearing assistance are available.

Child care: The nursery is located next to the sanctuary. Infant change table is located in the washroom next to nursery. The nursery is unstaffed during Matins.

Children's Worship Binder, an instrument to help children through the worship service, is available by the sanctuary entrance.

Information Sheets with church news and activities are available in the 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.

The Lord's Prayer

in flowing style

Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy
name, Thy King - dom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in
heav'n. Give us this day our dai - ly bread, and for - give us our tres - pass -
ses, as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And
lead us not in - to temp ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil, for Thine is the
Kingdom, the Power, and the Glo - ry for e - ver, A - men.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of six systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The music is in a 3/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The score begins with the instruction 'in flowing style'. The lyrics are: 'Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name, Thy King - dom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heav'n. Give us this day our dai - ly bread, and for - give us our tres - pass - ses, as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead us not in - to temp ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil, for Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glo - ry for e - ver, A - men.' The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.