

Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
Sunday, December 24, 2017 6:30 p.m.

Prelude

Isaiah 40:3-5

Hymn: HWB (blue) #211 "Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming"

Welcome and prayer

Hymn: HWB (blue) #172 "O Come, O Come, Immanuel"

First Candle: Hope for Peace

Isaiah 2:2-4; 9:2, 6-7

One: We light this candle for peace.

All: As wars continue on this earth we acknowledge that Jesus came to show us the way of peace.

One: The Messiah will establish and uphold justice and righteous.

All: We will bring light into the night by transforming our weapons into tools for nurture and peace.

Hymn: HWB (blue) #215 and STS (purple) #26

"What Child is this" with "Helpless and hungry"

Second Candle: Hope for Healing

Luke 1:46-55

One: We light the second candle for Healing. We regret the brokenness in human relationships, including with indigenous peoples, those who believe differently than us and with creation.

All: Healer of our every ill, may we live for healing and reconciliation

One: Creator, who brings new life to the weak and lowly, we confess our need for healing and wholeness.

All: Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow, we welcome you as Mary did. We set aside our fears and welcome your transformative healing. Let it be so.

Hymn: HWB (blue) #201 "Hark the herald angels sing"

Choir "Leise reiselt der Schnee" arr. Elaine Penner
"Little Lamb" Gene Grier & Lowell Everson

Third Candle: Hope for Harmony

Isaiah 11:1-10

One: The third candle is lit so that we may see God's passion for harmony.

All: God desires that all live as equals, that no one has power over another, and that no one is abused.

One: We are given the vision of the predator and prey dwelling together, where all are safe in God's domain.

All: Let us hold fast to these visions that they may help us live lives of harmony--harmony in the world and harmony within ourselves.

Choir & congregation: STS (purple) #22 vs 1,2,4,5 "There were angels"

Hymn: HWB (blue) #210

"Good Christian friends"

Fourth Candle: Hope for Love

John 1:1-5, 9-14; 3:16, 17

One: God's love for us is truly the light of the world.

All: We celebrate the good news, which breaks the power of oppression and lifts up the lowly.

One: Lighting this candle is a declaration that light breaks into darkness, that love is stronger than evil.

All: God loves us. God is reaching out to us with love. God gives us love to love each other. Let it be so.

Hymn: HWB (blue) #197

"Angels we have heard on high"

Choir & congregation: STS (purple) #19 "Jesus, Jesus, oh,..."

The Christ Candle

Introduction

Luke 2:1-20

One: God brings peace, healing, harmony and love.

All: Emmanuel, God is with us.

One: Jesus is God's gift of Self-revelation. Let us be illuminated by His light.

All: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all people.

Lighting individual candles

Chiming of Silent Night

Hymn: HWB (blue) #193

“Silent Night”

Hymn: HWB (blue) #318

“Joy to the world”

Benediction

Postlude

This year's **Christmas Eve offering** will be split between two projects, one "local" and one "international." *Our local offering is for the House of Friendship.* Our international project funds are going towards to MCC for Peace Clubs for students near Rumbek, South Sudan.

Thank you for your generosity for our special Christmas projects. Please make your cheques out to Waterloo North Mennonite Church. You are invited to place your offerings into the baskets by the bins for the candles, as you leave.

Thank-you to all the choir members for your love of music and your hard work to prepare for worship this evening

MERRY CHRISTMAS