

**Waterloo North Mennonite Church**  
**Matins Season of Lent Order of Service**  
**March 4 2018**

For silent reflection in preparation for worship:

“But we proclaim Christ – yes, Christ nailed to the cross; and though this is a stumbling-block to Jews and folly to Greeks, yet to those who have heard his call, Jews and Greeks alike, he is the power of God and the wisdom of God.”  
(1 Corinthians 1:23-24)

**GATHERING**

**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:**

Leader: We enter your presence, Eternal God.

**People: We follow in your footsteps, Jesus Christ.**

Leader: We seek your guidance, Holy Spirit.

**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** HWB (blue) #7 Here, O Lord, your servants gather (rise)

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

(remain risen)

Leader: The heavens and the earth shout praise to our God!

**People: Day and night, the sun, moon and stars declare your glory!**

**Your laws are perfect and right!**

**Your greatest commandment that we love you**

**and one another brings true joy to our hearts.**

**Joyful, joyful we adore you!**

(adapted Ps 19:1-2,7-8 & Matt 22:37ff & HWB #71)

**Hymn of Praise** HWB (blue) #642 This is the day the Lord has made  
*(be seated after singing)*

Leader: Let us join together in reading the Psalm.

Psalm 19: 1-4, 7-10

Leader: God's glory is on tour in the skies,  
God-craft on exhibit across the horizons.  
Madame Day holds classes every morning,  
Professor Night lectures each evening.

**People: Their words aren't heard,  
their voices aren't recorded,  
But their silence fills the earth:  
unspoken truth is spoken everywhere.**

Leader: The revelation of God is whole  
and pulls our lives together.  
The signposts of God are clear  
and point out the right road.

**People: The life-maps of God are right,  
showing the way to joy.  
The directions of God are plain  
and easy on the eyes.**

Leader: God's reputation is twenty-four-carat-gold,  
with a lifetime guarantee.  
The decisions of God are accurate  
down to the nth degree.

**People: God's Word is better than a diamond,  
better than a diamond set between emeralds.  
You'll like it better than strawberries in spring,  
better than red, ripe strawberries.**

**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: Have mercy on us, O God.

**People: Blot out our transgressions.**

*(Ps 51:1)*

**For you desire truth in our inward being,  
but we know our sin;  
our sins of omission and commission  
that grieve the heart of God  
and harm our inward being,  
and our brothers and sisters,  
indeed, harm all of Creation.**

*(Ps 51:6)*

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:** HWB (blue) #144 Kyrie

*(remain seated)*

## **Words of Assurance**

Leader: Our God of mercy will raise you up  
by divine grace which you accept in faith  
even while still mired in sin.

*(Eph 2:4,5,8)*

## **Response to Assurance**

**All: Heal us of our sinful ways,  
create in us a clean heart O God,  
so that with a new and right spirit,  
we are able to fulfill the purpose in Christ  
for which you have created us. Amen.**

*(Ps 107:20)*

*(Ps 51:10)*

*(Eph 2:10)*

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.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Before we offer the peace of Christ to each other,  
we welcome guests to 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 Exodus.

READ Exodus 20: 1-17.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Silence

Reader: Hear the word of the Lord from Corinthians.

READ 1 Corinthians 1:18-25.

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 John.

**Hymn to greet the Gospel** HWB (blue) #506 I sought the Lord (v.1) *(rise)*

READ John 2:13-22.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Silence**

*(be seated with the reader)*

Homily

**Silence**

**Hymn of Response** HWB (blue) #307 Will you let me be your servant

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: As we enter our time of prayer this morning, let us share experiences of God's presence and lift our prayers of gratitude 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** *(e.g. 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 lift our prayers of petition and intercession 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** (e.g. "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 prayer.**

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:

**People: We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven:**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory**

**to judge the living and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father.**

**With the Father and the Son**

**he is worshipped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen**

*(Nicene Creed)*

## **SENDING**

**Hymn of Benediction** HWB (blue) #250 Beneath the cross of Jesus

*(rise)*

## **Benediction**

Leader: May the abundant love of God,  
the boundless grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and constant communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you in the week ahead. Amen.

*(adapted 2Cor 13:14)*

## **Silence**

*(be seated)*

## 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.

*Scriptures for next week: Numbers 21: 4-9; Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22;  
Ephesians 2: 1-10; John 3: 14-21*

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***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.***

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**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.

**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.

Adapted from a chant by  
Richard Langdon, c. 1729-1805

Our Fath - er Who art in heaven, hal - low - ed be Thy name;

Thy king - dum come; Thy will be done in earth, as it

is in heaven; Give us this day our dai - ly bread; And for -

give us our debts, as we for - give our debt - ors, as

we for - give our debt - ors; And lead us not in - to temp -

ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil; For Thine is the

king - dom, and the power and the glo - ry for ev - er. A - men.