

Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Sunday, March 11, 2018
Lent 4
Me & You & Darkness in View

Focus Statement: Allowing darkness and negativity to come in between people or in between people and God is sometimes easier than the vulnerability and humility of being exposed to the light. What are the things that we don't want to see that may be standing between you and me?

Gathering

Hymn: STJ (green) #97 The Lord is my light

Hymn: STJ (green) #96 I'm pressing on the upward way

Welcome and Announcements

Chiming to Worship and Silent preparation

Call to Worship

Leader: Who comes in the name of God? Step into the light and be known.

People: We are coming, through darkness and fear. We come into the light by the power of God.

Leader: People of God, God has heard your cries and is opening a way for you.

People: We are here, through darkness and fear. We come into the light of this day by the power of God.

Leader: You are here, and God is here. What will you do?

People: Together we will worship our God.

Invocation

Children's time

Theme Song: "*Between Me & You*" (by Bryan Moyer Suderman) (see insert)

Confession

God of creation and consequence, some days it's hard to face who we are.

We like to be in control, to know where we are going.

Relying on someone else, even you, is hard.

We get impatient and find things to criticize.

Some of us even like to complain.

Glossing over past hardships is easier than admitting that we needed your help, and still do.

We don't want to see how our attitudes and actions make things worse.

We are sorry.

Forgive our ingratitude.

Grant us the courage to face the truth.

Words of Assurance

Leader: Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress.

Offering

Hymn: HWB (blue) #580 My life flows on

Congregational Prayer

Scripture Reading Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-21 *(see insert)*

Hymn: HWB (blue) #336 When peace, like a river

Sermon "Darkness and New Life"

Hymn: HWB (blue) #347 Through our fragmentary prayers

Benediction

We are people of God.

**We go in God's love
to extend God's love
and live God's promise.**

Lenten theme: Our theme is "Between Me & You." This is about relationships, including covenants, between God, creation and each other.

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.

Headsets for hearing assistance are available from the ushers.

Childcare (infants to age 4): Staffed childcare is available in the nursery during the 10:45 Service. The nursery is located next to the sanctuary. Infant change table is located in washroom next to nursery. Ushers can direct you.

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

Offering: Thank you to 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 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.