

Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Sunday, December 2, 2018, 10:45 a.m.
Advent 1

Gathering hymns:

HWB (blue) #212 O, come, all ye faithful

HWB (blue) #201 Hark! the herald angels sing

Welcome and announcements

Chiming to worship

Lighting Advent Candle

Silent reflection (2 minutes)

Call to worship

Leader: Now is the time of waiting and watching. We wait expectantly for the Messiah, for God's promises to be fulfilled.

People: We turn to you, O God, in the midst of this chaotic world, longing for that day of salvation to arrive. How long must we wait?

Leader: Pay attention, be still and know that God is with us. The signs are all around us.

People: Fill us with the faith and the hope of what is to be as we come before you with open hearts.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Invocation (unison)

Loving God, at times our world seems out of control and we feel we are wandering in darkness. Yet we stand in faithfulness on your promises, knowing that you are always near, that you care for us and love us. We wait in expectation for the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ. Let us trust in you and remember your promises, being filled with love for you and for one another in this season of waiting. Amen.

Hymn: STJ (green) #54 Longing for light

Children's time

Congregational Prayer

Hymn: HWB (blue) #162 The God of Abraham praise

Offering* and Offertory

Scripture reading Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 21:25-36 (see last page)

Hymn: HWB (blue) #172 O come, O come, Immanuel

Sermon *"Where is the hope?"*

Hymn: HWB (blue) #195 It came upon a midnight clear

Benediction

*During the offering donated mittens, hats & socks can be hung on the tree.

Focus Statement: This first Sunday of Advent we wait and watch with anticipation for the one who comes proclaiming righteousness in the name of the Lord. This week is about holding our hope in the coming Messiah while we wait and learn what it means for us to receive God's righteousness today.

Headsets for hearing assistance are available from the ushers.

Childcare (infants to age 4): 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.

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.

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.

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (NRSV)

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

Luke 21:25-36 (NRSV)

²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”