

**Waterloo North Mennonite Church**  
**Matins Advent/Christmas Order of Service**  
**Sunday December 9, 2018**

For silent reflection in preparation for worship:

"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us."  
Luke 1:78

**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, O God, creator of heaven and earth.

**People: We enter your presence Jesus Christ, promised Redeemer and Lord.**

Leader: Be present with us, Holy Spirit, our comforter and guide.

**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) #200 Where is this stupendous stranger (vs 1,2,4)  
*(rise)*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*(remain standing)*

Leader: Let us praise the Lord, the God of Israel!

**People: God has come and redeemed us, his people.**

**God has provided for us a mighty Saviour,**

**to enable us to serve him without fear**

**in holiness and righteousness before God all our days.**

**Let us praise the Lord, the God of Israel.**

*(Luke 3:67-79)*

**Hymn of Praise** HWB (blue) #181 My soul proclaims with wonder

*(be seated after singing)*

Leader: Let us join together in reading the Canticle of Zechariah from Luke.

**Luke 1:68-79**

**All:** *Blessed be the Lord,  
the God of Israel;  
he has come to His people and set them free.*

*He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
born of the house of His servant David.*

*Through His holy prophets He promised of old  
that He would save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all who hate us.*

*He promised to show mercy to our fathers  
and to remember His holy Covenant.*

*This was the oath He swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
free to worship Him without fear,  
holy and righteous in His sight  
all the days of our life.*

*You, My child shall be called  
the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare His way,  
to give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.*

*In the tender compassion of our Lord  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

*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: Let us pray together in confession.  
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, extend your mercy to us.

**People:** Restore us, O Lord.

**The voices of the prophets are silent,  
and the faith of your people is low.**

**Darkness has obscured light  
and indifference has displaced zeal.**

*(STS 127)*

**You look for humble people  
and find instead our pride and independence.**

*(Luke 1:46)*

**Restore us, O Lord; let your face shine on us,  
that we may be saved.**

*(Psalm 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:** HWB (blue) #144 Kyrie

*(remain seated)*

**Words of Assurance**

Leader: The Lord your God is with you and rejoices over you with gladness.

The Lord has taken away the judgements against you.

*(Zeph 3:15,17)*

**Response to Assurance**

**People: God is indeed my salvation; I will trust and won't be afraid.**

*(Isaiah 12:2)*

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** *(Please speak loudly so that all can hear.)*

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 Malachi.

READ Malachi 3:1-4.

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 Philipians.

READ Philipians 1:3-11.

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 Luke

**Hymn to greet the Gospel** STS (purple) #17 Alleluia

(rise)

READ Luke 3:1-6.

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) #174 Bless'd be the God of Israel

(rise)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Life of the Church: Announcements

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? *(Please speak loudly so that all can hear.)*

**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: 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 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** HWB (blue) #486 God of our life  
(rise)

**Benediction**

Leader: Depart in peace, and take with you the certain knowledge  
that Jesus is always coming into the world. Amen. (be seated)

**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.

**All: 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: *Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6;  
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18.*

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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.

**Nursery:** 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.

**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.***

# The Lord's Prayer

Leonard Enns

Our Father who art in heav'n, haHow-ed be thy name. Thy king-dom come. Thy

will be done on earth, as it is in heav'n. Give us to-day our

dai-ly bread, and for-give us our tres-pas-ses, as we for-give those, who tres-pass a-

gainst us, and lead us not in-to temp-tation, but de-liv-er us from ev-il, for

thine is the king-dom, the pow'r, and the glo-ry for ev-er. A-men.