

Waterloo North Mennonite Church  
Sunday, December 9, 2018, 10:45 a.m.  
Advent 2 – Proclaiming

**Focus Statement:** On this second Sunday of Advent we listen with open hearts to the one who proclaims God's goodness embodied in the Messiah. By listening, we learn what we can do to prepare ourselves to live in right relationships as embodied in Jesus' life and message.

**Gathering hymns:**

**HWB (blue) #209 Oh, how joyfully**

**Insert (#9) Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets**

Welcome and announcements

Chiming to worship

Lighting Advent Candle

Silent reflection (2 minutes)

**Call to worship**

**Leader:** Prepare the way of the Lord, for things are about to change.

**People:** **Every valley shall be filled in and every mountain made low.**

**Leader:** As we await the coming of the Messiah, we are called to prepare our hearts for his coming.

**People:** **We are called to turn around, repent, and allow God to renew us and work within us.**

**All:** ***Then we will see the salvation of our God!***

**Invocation (unison)**

***Merciful God, during this busy, bustling season, quiet us, so we may hear your voice. Forgive us when we have failed; renew your Spirit within us; change our hearts to be more loving, more caring, and more forgiving. Lead us, God, as we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ child. Amen.***

## **Hymn: Insert (#1) In the Beginning**

Offering\* and offertory

Children's time

## **Hymn: STJ (green) #61 How can we be silent**

Scripture reading Luke 1:68-79; Luke 3:1-6 (see insert)

Sermon *"The Last Word"*

## **Hymn of Response: STS (purple) #15 Hope is a candle**

Congregational Prayer

## **Hymn: STS (purple) #14 Prepare the way of the Lord**

## **Benediction**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

*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): 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.***

## Luke 1:68-79 (NRSV)

<sup>68</sup>“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

<sup>69</sup>He has raised up a mighty savior for us  
in the house of his servant David,

<sup>70</sup>as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
<sup>71</sup>that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

<sup>72</sup>Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
and has remembered his holy covenant,

<sup>73</sup>the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
to grant us <sup>74</sup>that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup>in holiness and righteousness  
before him all our days.

<sup>76</sup>And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

<sup>77</sup>to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

<sup>78</sup>By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
<sup>79</sup>to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

## Luke 3:1-6 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”