

**Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Season of Lent Matins Order of Service
Sunday March 31, 2019**

For silent reflection in preparation for worship:

When you open yourself to God, to hear what God has to tell you,
what do you anticipate from God?

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 God whose love is eternal.

People: We come into your presence Jesus Christ, our living Lord.

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) #18 Before Jehovah's awful throne *(rise)*

Prayer of Praise

(remain standing)

Leader: We give thanks and praise to our great God!

People: Our God is a faithful covenanting God. *(Gen 15:18 & 1Cor 10:13)*

Our God is a shelter on the day that trouble befalls us. *(Ps 27:5)*

**The steadfast love of God surrounds those
who trust in the Lord. Amen!** *(Ps 32:10)*

Hymn of Praise STS (purple) #63 God, fill me now

(be seated after singing)

Leader: Let us join together in reading the Psalm.

Psalm 32

Leader: Count yourself lucky; how happy you must be!
You get a fresh start, your slate is wiped clean. Count yourself lucky!
God holds nothing against you and you're holding nothing back.

**People: When I kept it all inside, my bones turned to powder,
my words became daylong groans. The pressure never let up.
All the juices of my life dried up.**

Leader: Then I let it out. I said: "I'll make a clean breast of my failures to God."
Suddenly the pressure was gone: my guilt dissolved, my sin disappeared.
God is my island hideaway, keeps danger far from the shore,
throws garlands of hosannas around my neck.

**People: I'm looking you in the eye and giving it to you straight: "Don't be
ornery like a horse or mule that needs bit and bridle to stay on track."**

Leader: God-defiers are always in trouble; God-affirmers find themselves loved
every time they turn around.

**People: Celebrate God. Sing together, everyone!
All you honest hearts, raise the roof!**

**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: God examines us, heart and mind, from head to foot. *(Ps 26:2)*

**People: We confess that we have broken our covenant with you, O God.
Our sin and transgression are always before us,
we can't forget it. In our arrogance we have sinned
against you; we have sinned in our actions
towards our neighbours and towards your whole Creation.
Wash us thoroughly, cleanse us of thoughts and actions
that continue to break our covenant with you.** *(adapted, Ps 51:2-4)*

Leader: Jesus, Lamb of God, pour out your 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: Do not fear, the Lord is our light and our salvation! *(Ps 27.1)*
Look! God is about to do something new. *(Is 43:19)*

Response to Assurance

All: From now on we see things as God sees them,
for we are part of the New Creation in Christ.
May the Holy Spirit empower us to be faithful
to walk in the way of that new life. Amen.

(2Cor 5.16-17)

(WNMC Covenant)

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 especially 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 Joshua.

READ Joshua 5:9-12.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Silence

Reader: Hear the word of the Lord from the Letter to the Corinthians.

READ 2Corinthians 5:16-21.

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 HWB (blue) #506 I sought the Lord (v.1)

(rise)

READ Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32.

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) #150 Wonderful grace of Jesus

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: Let us gather our prayers of petition as we lift them 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 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:

**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) #247 Jesus, remember me *(sing 3 times)*
(rise)

Benediction

Leader: May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus,
today and every day. Amen.

(Phil 4:7)
(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: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14;
John 12:1-8.*

***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.***

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

in flowing style

Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy
name, Thy King - dom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in
heav'n. Give us this 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 ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil, for Thine is the
Kingdom, the Power, and the Glo - ry for e - ver, A - men.