

**Waterloo North Mennonite Church**  
**Matins Advent/Christmas/Epiphany Order of Service**  
**Sunday, December 15, 2019**

For silent reflection in preparation for worship:

"Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." (Matthew 11:4-5)

**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 Eternal God, Creator of heaven and earth.

**People: We enter your presence Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.**

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) #177 Creator of the stars of night (vv1,4,5,6) *(rise)*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*(remain standing)*

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel  
who alone does wondrous things!

(Ps 72:18)

**People: Our God has done wondrous things!**

**His mercy is on those who fear Him  
from generation to generation.**

**He has put down the mighty  
and exalted those of low degree.**

**He has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.**

(adapted Lk 1:50-53)

Leader: Instead of a Psalm, let us sing the song that Mary sang when she visited Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist.

**Hymn of Praise** HWB (blue) #181 - My soul proclaims with wonder  
(based on Luke 1:46-55, Mary's Song – The Magnificat)  
*(be seated after singing)*

**Silence**

**CONFESSION**

Leader: Righteous God of judgment and grace  
we confess we have willingly entered  
the darkness of division and diversion.

**People: The darkness is our sin  
that prevents us from seeing you.  
In our arrogance and fear  
we create chasms and build walls:  
divisions where you would have us love. (see Matt 5:44)  
In our greed for pleasure and happiness  
we are lured into distraction and entertainment: (see Rom 13:11)  
diversions from seeking your Truth. (see Matt. 6:33)**

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: Kyrie (remain seated)**

# Kyrie

Leonard Enns

Ky-rie e - lei - son, Ky-rie e - lei - son, Ky - ri - e - e -

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef. The melody in the top staff begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4 and B4, then a quarter note C5. The accompaniment in the bottom staff starts with a half note chord of G2, B2, and D3, followed by quarter notes G2, B2, and D3.

lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son, Chris - te e - lei - son,

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The top staff features a quarter note C5, followed by quarter notes B4 and A4, then a quarter note G4. The bottom staff continues with quarter notes G2, B2, and D3, followed by a half note chord of G2, B2, and D3.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Ky-rie e - lei - son,

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The top staff features a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4 and B4, then a quarter note C5. The bottom staff continues with quarter notes G2, B2, and D3, followed by a half note chord of G2, B2, and D3.

Ky-rie e - lei - son, Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

The fourth system concludes the piece. The top staff features a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4 and B4, then a quarter note C5. The bottom staff continues with quarter notes G2, B2, and D3, followed by a half note chord of G2, B2, and D3.

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## Words of Assurance

Leader: The prophet declares "Arise, shine for your light has come!" (Is 60:1)  
May you abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom 15:13)

## Response to Assurance

**All: Christ is the Light of the World!** (Jn 1:9)  
**Our blind eyes have been opened, our deaf ears unstopped.** (Is 35:5)  
**Now we truly see the world around us and hear your calling for us to carry your healing and hope to the world. Amen.**  
*(Vision: Healing and Hope, 1995)*

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 Isaiah.

READ Isaiah 35:1-10.

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 James.

READ James 5:7-10.

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 Matthew.

**Hymn to greet the Gospel** HWB (blue) #101 Alleluia *(rise)*

READ Matthew 11:2-11.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ!**

**Silence** *(be seated with the reader)*

Homily

**Silence**

**Coming to the Table**

**Hymn of Preparation** HWB (blue) #172 O come, O come, Immanuel \* (rise)

**Prayer of Preparation**

Leader: One and Eternal God,  
whose Love was embodied in Jesus,

**People: We come to this communion table with joy  
because here we find the Holy Way.** (Is 35:8)

**Here we meet the Christ whom you sent.  
Here your mercy has been poured out  
from generation to generation. Amen.** (Lk 1:50)

**Communion**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Leader: One and Eternal God, you are the source of our life,  
and we depend on your mercy.

**People: You have fed our bodies with food and drink, gifts of the earth.**

**You delighted our souls with abundant grace.**

**You have nourished our spirits with eternal love.**

**We sing our praise and gratitude to you. Amen.**

(adapted *Words for Worship 2*, #117)

**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 lift our prayers of petition and intercession 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 and intercession 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 God above us,  
Maker and sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon,  
of water and earth,  
of all living things.  
We believe in God beside us,  
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,  
born of a woman, servant of the poor,  
tortured and nailed to a tree.  
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.  
He descended into the earth,  
to the place of death.  
On the third day he rose from the tomb.  
He ascended into heaven  
to be everywhere present,  
and his kingdom will come on earth.  
We believe in God with us,  
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,  
life-giving Breath of the church  
spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.**

*(adapted, Iona Abbey Worship Book)*

## **SENDING**

**Hymn of Benediction** HWB (blue) #118 Praise God from whom

(rise)

### **Benediction**

Leader: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you prepare the way of the Lord, in your life, across the street and around the world. Amen.

(Rom 15:13; Matt 3:3; *Vision: Healing and Hope*)  
(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.**

\**Veni Emmanuel*, the melody we know as **O Come, O Come Immanuel** was drawn from plainchant. It exists in a 15<sup>th</sup> century manuscript at the Paris Bibliothèque Nationale, and was used as a processional for a community of French Franciscan nuns.

In many liturgies since the 8<sup>th</sup> century, antiphons/verses are sung/read from Dec. 17-23 at Vespers, citing Messianic names of Christ from Isaiah: O Sapientia/Wisdom; O Adonai/Lord; O Radix Jesse/Root of Jesse, O Clavis David/Kay of David; O Oriens/Dayspring; O Rex Gentium/King of the Nations; O Emmanuel/O With-us-is-God. These *O Antiphons* were translated into English metrical verse by John M. Neale and Thomas Helmore published the verses with the French melody in Carols for Christmas-Tide, 1853, which we sing today.

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 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7,17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25.

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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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# 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.