Waterloo North Mennonite Church

Sunday, July 30, 2017 9:30AM

Gathering Hymns:

HWB (blue) #1 What is this place

HWB (blue) #13 Blessed Jesus, at your word

Welcome, Introduction, Announcements

Call to Worship:

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 all life.

People: We enter your presence Jesus Christ, the Way of Abundant Life.

Leader: Be present with us Holy Spirit, inspire our daily living.

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.

Confession:

Leader: God of boundless Eternity, God of graceful New Beginnings

God who lived with us in Jesus,

People: Our faith is uncertain, our conviction is weak. (HWB #703)

But our fears are constant,

our anxieties have strong hold on us.

We are anxious about the future of the earth.
We are anxious about the future of our children.
We fear for our security; we fear "the Other".

We fear the loss of the good things

in this life we have built. (see Lk 12:18-19)

We go through life fearing its end in death.

Save us O God! Help our unbelief! (Mk 9:24)

Silence

Words of Assurance:

Leader: God says "I will heal your disloyalty and love you freely. (Hos 14:4)

Jesus said "Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid." (Mt 14:27)

Response to Assurance:

People: Therefore, if God is for us who can assail against us? (Rm 8:31)

In Christ we have been given new hope and new life, and to this newness of life we commit ourselves. Amen. (WNMC Covenant)

Hymn StJ (green) #23 Slowly turning, ever turning

Children's time

Congregational Prayer

Hymn StJ (green) #79 As I went down to the river

Scripture I Kings 3:5-12

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Sermon "What is it you want?"

Hymn HWB (blue) #336 When peace, like a river

Offering

Benediction

Hymn StJ (green) #78 Sizohamba naye

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 are available, from the ushers, for hearing assistance.

Childcare (infants to age 4): The nursery is located outside the sanctuary. Ushers can direct you. Staffed childcare resumes in the Fall.

Offering. For 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.

Information Sheets with church news and activities are available on the table in foyer for those who do not receive them electronically.

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.

I Kings 3:5-12 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. 8 And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. 11 God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

³¹He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."