

Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Matins Advent/Christmas Order of Service

December 17, 2017

For silent reflection: “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness
can never extinguish it.” John 1:5)

Gathering

Silence

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 of Promise:

Leader: We enter your presence O God, divine King of all that is.

People: **We enter your presence Jesus Christ, born on earth.**

Leader: Be present with us Holy Spirit, our constant companion.

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 STS (purple) #1 Praise the One who breaks... *(rise)*

Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving *(remain risen)*

Leader: We magnify the Lord!

People: **We rejoice in God our Savior. Holy is his name!** (Lk 1:46-47)

Prepare the way for God our Savior, (Is 40:3)
who comes in love to our world.

With the angels we praise God saying

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace.”

Peace to those God favours and peace to all the earth.

Glory to God in the Highest. Amen. (Lk 2:14)

Hymn of Praise HBW (blue) #180 The Angel Gabriel

(be seated after singing)

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

Hymn STJ (green) #13 My soul is filled with joy
(based on Luke 1:46-55, Mary's Song - The Magnificat) (rise)

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.** (be seated)

Silence

Confession

Leader: Holy God, the Great I AM, who is beyond the universe,
yet is also intimate with our soul, we confess that we wander,
lost, far from the Way you created for us, (cf. Is 40:3)

People: **We are lost in sin because we turn our eyes from your face.
We have trusted signposts and guides that led us
away from you into the darkness that mesmerizes.
We long to know your True light. Restore us O God!** cf. Jn 1:10
Let your face shine that we may be saved! (Ps 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: HBW (blue) #144 Kyrie (remain seated)

Words of Assurance

Leader: The Light that comes from God has been born into the world.
That Light shines in the darkness and the darkness
did not overcome it. (adapted Jn 1:3-5)

Response to Assurance

All: **God is faithful. God has called us into fellowship
with his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.** (1 Cor 1:9)
**According to God's promise, we wait for new heavens
and new earth where righteousness is at home. Amen.** (2Pet 3:13)

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.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Before we offer the peace of Christ to each other,
we especially welcome guests at Waterloo North today.

Introduction of Visitors

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 61:1-4, 8-11.

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 Thessalonians.

READ 1Thessalonians 5:16-24.

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 John.

Hymn to greet the Gospel STJ (green) #41 Alleluia

(rise)

READ John 1:6-8, 19-28.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you O Christ!

(be seated with the reader)

Silence

Coming to the Table

Homily

Silence

Hymn of Response STS (purple) #4 Rejoice, Rejoice, the Savior Comes

(rise)

Prayer of Preparation

Leader: God of all Creation, God of Hope and Love

**People: God of Mary, who gave birth to hope incarnate,
we come to your table seeking the Way of the Lord
proclaimed by the Voice in the Wilderness.
We come to your table seeking your love
that heals and calls us to repentance.
We come to your table waiting for your peace
to shine forth brilliantly in this world.
We come to your table confident in your presence with us.
Amen.**

Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Great God, we give you thanks for this foretaste of the heavenly feast.

**People: May this food of heaven we have eaten inspire us
to be more like Mary and
give birth to love in our world
that is hope and light that will outlast
the darkness that so many see all around us.
Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Leader: As we enter our time of prayer this morning, let us share experiences of God's presence and gather our prayers of gratitude as we lift them 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?

People: audible sharing or sentence prayers (eg. "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 and intercession 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** (eg. "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) #182 Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee (rise)

Benediction

Leader: May the blessing of Christmas make you a blessing to others;
may the peace of the Advent pervade all that you do.
Depart in peace, and take with you the certain knowledge that
Jesus is always coming into the world. Amen.

(adapted voxveniae.com)

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. 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.

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.

Child care: 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.

Children's Worship Binder, an instrument to help children through the worship service, is available by the sanctuary entrance.

Information Sheets with church news and activities are available in the 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.

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 - pass -
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.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo/style is marked 'in flowing style'. The lyrics are written below the vocal line, and the piano accompaniment is written below the bass line. The score is divided into six systems, each with a vocal line and a piano line. The lyrics are: '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 - pass - 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.'