Waterloo North Mennonite Church Matins Season of Easter Order of Service April 22 2018

For silent reflection in preparation for worship:

Jesus, you are all compassion, boundless love that makes us whole. (Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, Charles Wesley in <u>Hymns for Today's Church</u>)

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.**

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

Invocation:

Leader: We enter your presence, Eternal God, Creator.

People: We follow in your footsteps, Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Leader: Be present with us Holy Spirit, our Comforter.

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) #278 Christ is Alive! (rise)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

(remain risen)

Leader: God of life and death. Ruler of the universe!

People: We praise you for Jesus Christ who shared our mortality

and has risen immortal from death! (Mk 16:6)
As we abide in Christ, we celebrate the resurrection, (Jn 15:4)

live in Christ and anticipate the promise (Rm 6:11)

of the Spirit at Pentecost. Amen.

Hymn of Praise STJ (green) #61 How can we be silent (vv 1,2 &4)

(be seated after singing)

Leader: Let us join together in reading the Psalm.

Psalm 23

Leader: The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters.

People: The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Leader: He restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths

for his name's sake.

People: The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Leader: Even though I walk through the darkest valley

I fear no evil for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me.

People: The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Leader: You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

People: The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Leader: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

my whole life long.

People: The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

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, you are Righteousness and Love.

People: We have sinned against you and one another. (adapted, Lk 15:21)

We have held many personal concerns

and desires as gods before you. (Ex 20:3)

We have heaped up words of love

but have been stingy with deeds of love. (1Jn 3:18)

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: Kyrie (remain seated)



Words of Assurance

Leader: See what love God has given us

that we should be called the children of God! (1Jn 3:1)

Response to Assurance

AII: Goodness is stronger than evil.

> Love is stronger than hate. Light is stronger than darkness.

Life is stronger than death.

Victory is ours through him who loved us! (Bishop Desmond Tutu)

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 welcome guests to 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

AII: 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 Acts.

READ Acts 4:5-12.

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 John.

READ 1 John 3:16-24.

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 10:11-18.

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) #236 Oh Love, how deep, how broad

(rise)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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?

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 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 prayer.**

Leader: We offer our prayers in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

All: Lord's Prayer (Note: a new setting by Len Enns) (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) #592 Love divine, all loves excelling (rise)

Benediction

Leader: May the God of peace who brought our Lord Jesus from the dead

equip you with everything good so that you may do his will, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

(adapted Heb 13:20f) (be seated)

Silence Closing the Bible

Declaring the Mystery of Faith

Leader: Let us declare the mystery of our faith!

People: Christ has died! Christ is risen!

Christ will come again!

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: Acts 8:26-38; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John4:7-19; John 15:1-8.

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.

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

Leonard Enns



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