

Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Matins Advent/Christmas Order of Service
Sunday December 16, 2018

For silent reflection in preparation for worship:

"God's Sunrise will break in upon us, shining on those in the darkness,
those sitting in the shadow of death."

Luke 2:78

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, O God, creator of heaven and earth.

People: We enter your presence Jesus Christ, promised Redeemer and Lord.

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) #200 Where is this stupendous stranger (vs 1,2,4)
(rise)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

(remain standing)

Leader: Let us praise the Lord, the God of Israel!

People: God has come and redeemed us, his people.

**God has provided for us a mighty Saviour,
to enable us to serve him without fear
in holiness and righteousness before God all our days.
Let us praise the Lord, the God of Israel.**

(Luke 3:67-79)

Hymn of Praise STJ (green) #17 Halle, halle, hallelujah!

(be seated after singing)

Leader: Let us join together in reading the passage from Isaiah 12, which today replaces the Psalm reading.

Isaiah 12:2-6 adapted from The Message

Leader Yes, God is my salvation.

People I won't be afraid.

All: Yes, God is my strength and song, and my salvation.

Leader Joyfully you'll pull up water from the wells of salvation, saying, "Give thanks to God".

**People Call out his name, ask him anything.
Shout to the nations, tell them what he's done!
Spread the news of his great reputation!**

Leader Sing praise-songs to God.
Let the whole earth know what he's done.

**People Sing your hearts out, O Zion.
The Greatest lives among you: the Holy One of Israel.**

**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: Let us pray together in confession.
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, extend your mercy to us.

**People: Restore us, O Lord.
The voices of the prophets are silent,
and the faith of your people is low.
Darkness has obscured light
and indifference has displaced zeal. (STS 127)
You look for humble people
and find instead our pride and independence. (Luke 1:46)
Restore us, O Lord; let your face shine on us,
that we may be saved. (Psalm 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: HWB (blue) #144 Kyrie (remain seated)

Words of Assurance

Leader: The Lord your God is with you and rejoices over you with gladness.
The Lord has taken away the judgements against you. *(Zeph 3:15,17)*

Response to Assurance

People: God is indeed my salvation; I will trust and won't be afraid. *(Isaiah 12:2)*

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 *(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 Zephaniah.

READ Zephaniah 3:14-20.

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 Philippians.

READ Philippians 4:4-7.

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 STS (purple) #17 Alleluia *(rise)*

READ Luke 3:7-18.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Silence *(be seated with the reader)*

Coming to the Table

Homily

Silence

Hymn of Preparation HWB (blue) #184 Hark! The glad sound! (rise)

Prayer of Preparation

Leader: God of Advent, God who is always present with us even when we do not perceive you and our hearts are secretly closed to you.

People: **Open our hearts to your presence at this table.
Open our eyes to see you in the brothers and sisters
who gather with us. Open our ears to hear you
as those who heard John the Baptist's call.**

May the food of this table and the presence of the Lord (Zeph 3:15)
in our midst give us courage to bear true fruits (Lk 3:8)
of repentance in our daily life.

Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Loving God, with gratitude we receive the gift of your peace which surpasses all understanding. (Phil 4:7)

People: **With grateful hearts,
we have come to the Lord's table,
we have eaten the bread of heaven.
God is the one who transforms us
so that we can bear the fruits of repentance,** (Lk 3:8)
**so that we can be the body of Christ in the world,
proclaiming the good news of the kingdom.
Come Lord Jesus! Amen.**

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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: 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:

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 #172 (blue) O come, Immanuel, vv.1,6 (rise)

Benediction

Leader: Depart in peace, and take with you the certain knowledge
that Jesus is always coming into the world. Amen. (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: Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10;
Luke 1:39-45.*

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

Leonard Enns

Our Fa-ther who art in heav'n, haHow-ed be thy name. Thy king-dom come. Thy

will be done on earth, as it is in heav'n. Give us to-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-tation, but de-liv-er us from ev-il, for

thine is the king-dom, the pow'r, and the glo-ry for ev-er. A-men.