

Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Sunday, December 16, 2018, 10:45 a.m.
Advent 3 – Rejoicing in God's Justice

Focus Statement: On this third Sunday of Advent we rejoice and join with the voice who calls out from the wilderness, converting us to the way of God's justice. Out of this rejoicing comes the call to make changes in the way we live so that this justice may be shared with others.

Gathering hymns:

HWB (blue) #178 Come, thou long-expected Jesus

HWB (blue) #202 The virgin Mary had a baby boy

Welcome and announcements

Chiming to worship

Lighting Advent Candle

Silent reflection (2 minutes)

Call to worship

Leader: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for God-with-us is coming to set things right!

People: **The proud will be scattered and the humble lifted up.**

Leader: The hungry will be filled and the prisoners set free.

People: **He will guide us in the way of peace and proclaim salvation.**

All: *Let us rejoice, for our God comes to bring wholeness and new life to the world.*

Invocation (unison)

Loving God, like Mary, may our souls magnify your name and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior. We rejoice in your promises and open our hearts in worship and in love. Let the spirit and the example of Jesus be born anew in our hearts and our lives, that we may spread your love and peace throughout the world. Amen.

Hymn: Insert (#5) With Mary Sing Magnificat

Children's Sunday School presents the Christmas Story
Congregational Prayer

Hymn: HWB (blue) #176 Comfort, comfort, O my people

Offering* and offertory

Scripture reading Luke 3:7-18; Philippians 4:4-7 (see insert)

Hymn: HWB (blue) #183 On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry

Sermon *"Indicative Joy"*

Hymn of Response: STS (purple) #16 Peace before us

Benediction

Postlude

*During the offering donated mittens, hats & socks can be hung on the tree.

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.

Headsets for hearing assistance are available from the ushers.

Childcare (infants to age 4): The nursery is located next to the sanctuary. Infant change table is located in washroom next to nursery. Ushers can direct you.

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

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.

Luke 3:7-18 (NRSV)

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Philippians 4:4-7 (NRSV)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.