

Waterloo North Mennonite Church  
Sunday, December 23, 2018, 10:45 a.m.  
Advent 4 – Blessing and Restoration

**Focus Statement:** On this final Sunday of Advent we delight with Mary in the blessing bestowed on all God's people through the gift of Christ. In preparation for Christmas Day we humble ourselves before God's greatness—our Messiah who comes to restore the world. We rejoice that Jesus came into the world to be our light, our peace, and our example.

**Gathering hymns:**

**HWB (blue) #210 Good Christian friends, rejoice**  
**HWB (blue) #190 'Twas in the moon of wintertime**

Welcome and announcements

Chiming to worship

Lighting Advent Candle

Silent reflection (2 minutes)

**Call to worship**

**Leader:** Mary is with child! God's long-awaited promise is being fulfilled!

**People:** **Rejoice in his name! Emmanuel, God be with us!**

**Leader:** There is a baby in a mother's womb; the child will be the Saviour of this hurting world.

**People:** **Bringing us new life, filled with joy and peace, calling us to faith and action.**

**All:** ***Praise be to God. Alleluia! Amen!***

**Invocation (unison)**

***Faithful God, thank you that the long-awaited promise has been fulfilled. Jesus is born! We rejoice and celebrate that you have loved us enough to send Jesus into the world to be our light, our peace, and our example. We pray that his Spirit might be born anew in us today, calling us to greater discipleship and spreading your light throughout the world. We pray in the name of your precious Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.***

**Hymn: Insert (#6) Poor of the Earth**

Children's Time

Congregational Prayer

**Hymn: STS (purple) #11 No wind at the window**

Offering\* and offertory

Scripture reading Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-56 (see insert)

**Hymn: HWB (blue) #204 Gloria**

Sermon

**Hymn of Response: STJ (green) #13 My soul is filled...**

Benediction

For unto us a child is born. Unto us a child is given, and the glory of his grace has been revealed. Go out into the world, shouting the good news and spreading the love of Jesus wherever you go. Go in peace. Amen.

Postlude

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

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*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.*

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**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.***

### **Micah 5:2-5a** (NRSV)

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

### **Luke 1:39-56** (NRSV)

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

<sup>56</sup> And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.