

Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Season of Lent Matins Order of Service
Sunday April 7, 2019

For silent reflection in preparation for worship:
Do you perceive the new thing beginning?

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 God whose love is eternal.

People: We come into your presence Jesus Christ, our living Lord.

Leader: We seek your guidance Holy Spirit.

**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) #42 All people that on earth do dwell *(rise)*

Prayer of Praise

(remain standing)

Leader: We give thanks and praise to our great God!

People: Our God is a faithful covenanting God. *(Gen 15:18 & 1Cor 10:13)*

Our God is a shelter on the day that trouble befalls us. *(Ps 27:5)*

**The steadfast love of God surrounds those
who trust in the Lord. Amen!** *(Ps 32:10)*

Hymn of Praise HWB (blue) #71 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

(be seated after singing)

Leader: Let us join together in reading the Psalm.

Psalm 126

Leader: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

**People: Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,**

Leader: The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

**People: Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

Leader: May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

**People: Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves!**

**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 examines us, heart and mind, from head to foot. *(Ps 26:2)*

**People: We confess that we have broken our covenant with you, O God.
Our sin and transgression are always before us,
we can't forget it. In our arrogance we have sinned
against you; we have sinned in our actions
towards our neighbours and towards your whole Creation.
Wash us thoroughly, cleanse us of thoughts and actions
that continue to break our covenant with you.** *(adapted, Ps 51:2-4)*

Leader: Jesus, Lamb of God, pour out your 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: Do not fear, the Lord is our light and our salvation!
Look! God is about to do something new.

(Ps 27.1)
(Is 43:19)

Response to Assurance

**All: From now on we see things as God sees them,
for we are part of the New Creation in Christ.
May the Holy Spirit empower us to be faithful
to walk in the way of that new life. Amen.**

(2Cor 5.16-17)
(WNMC Covenant)

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 especially 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 Isaiah.

READ Isaiah 43:16-21.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Silence

Reader: Hear the word of the Lord from the Letter to the Philippians.

READ Philippians 3:4b-14.

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 HWB (blue) #506 I sought the Lord (v.1) *(rise)*

READ John 12:1-8.

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 #580 My life flows on *(rise)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Life of the Church: Announcements

Leader: Invitation to anointing

Prayer and Anointing for Healing:

Please proceed to meet with one of the Ministers.

Music will be played during the time of healing prayer.

Everyone is invited to silent prayer, for example, regarding matters of praise or petition you carry today, or to silent reflection on the message of the homily, or to silent resting in the presence of God and the gathered community.

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:

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) #247 Jesus, remember me *(sing 3 times)*
(rise)

Benediction

Leader: May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus,
today and every day. Amen.

(Phil 4:7)
(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: Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29;
Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40.*

***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

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 pas -
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.

This lament that I have written focuses on my journey with Parkinson's disease. There are things I do not like (despair) about having to live with it. However there are many things I am thankful for. I do have a lot of hope.

My prayer for healing (anointing) is that I can always maintain hope.

Tony Bender

May Tony's words invite us to vulnerable and honest places; places where we can be open to the surprise of God and healing moments. In the healing prayers and anointing service today, may hope come near to us. May we hold each other in deep love and prayer as a community gathered here.

November 23, 2018

Parkinson's Lament

I don't like what Parkinson's is doing to me.

At my worst times and fortunately I hardly ever have these times I wonder if is worth it to keep going. I think it would be easier if I wasn't here anymore. Like I said I hardly ever think like this. However to say I never have would also not be true.

I am tired.

I am tired of my balance being poor.

I am tired of my feet shuffling.

I am tired of not being able to walk correctly anymore. I think everyone looks at me when I am walking. .This is my problem. I sometimes think I am getting paranoid.

I am tired of telling people I don't feel well. .However I don't always want to say I am feeling well if I am not. I am sure this doesn't make sense but sometimes I feel like I have failed.

I feel bad about what it has done to my primary relationship (my dear Connie).

I feel bad that we have both just retired and now we should be able to do all kinds of things together but often I don't have the energy to do them. It would be great to go to movies, go to concerts, walk uptown and explore restaurants and to entertain.

I feel bad about of all my losses before I should have to deal with them.

I am angry. I have my times when anger dominates my feelings. I just want to spit bullets.

I am afraid for the future. Will I be able to enjoy my retirement or will I just exist?

I feel really ripped off.

And yet as I live through the valleys of anger and grief I know God that you are there and you are with me.

I wake up from dreams with the song ‘When peace like a river - it is well with my Soul’ singing in my head – where does that come from? Somewhere in the depths of my being there is a faith grounded in something that is much bigger than me.

I am thankful for the gift of each day that God grants to me. I am thankful for each sunrise and sunset.

I am thankful for relatively good health. I am thankful for each day that I can still look after myself.

I am thankful for the ability to still be able to do exercises.

I am thankful that I can still play guitar.

I am thankful I can still drive.

I am thankful I can still swallow without any difficulty.

I am thankful I can still read.

I am thankful I can still volunteer.

I am thankful for all of my friends.

I am thankful for all the medical/health resources I have been able to access. I am thankful for neurologists, neurosurgeons and all the researchers who have developed neuro transmitters.

I am thankful for the resources at the MDRC (movement disorder research centre) at WLU. I am thankful I can participate in their research programs.

I am thankful for my faith. I am thankful that I can be part of a faith community.

Above all I am thankful for the gift of life with all its joys and challenges.

Through the struggles of living with the reality of a chronic illness I know that Thou art with me – my Sanctuary.

Anthony (Tony) Bender