

Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Sunday, December 15, 2019, 10:45 a.m.
Advent 3 - JOY

Gathering Hymns

HWB (blue) #197 Angels we have heard on high
STS (purple) #28 Holy Child within the manger

Welcome and Announcements

Chiming to Worship

Call to Worship

Leader: Oh God, my God, I cry out to you.

**People: Asking, when will I start rejoicing that you
are coming?**

Will I trust your faithfulness to your creation?

Leader: Can I be patient enough to trust in your time,
instead of my own?

All: God, what am I waiting for?

Invocation

STS (purple) #13 Sing we a song of high revolt

Responsive Reading

(from Isaiah 35:1-10)

Leader: The Lord our God will come and save us.

People: We will let go of our fears.

Leader: God will strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

People: We will find our strength in the Lord.

Leader: The redeemed shall walk in the way of the Lord.

**All: We shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God!**

Theme Song: STS (purple) #15 Hope is a candle

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Scripture Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

(see insert)

Children's Time

Hymn: HWB (blue) #183 On Jordon's banks the Baptist's...

Offering

Congregational Prayer

Hymn: STS (purple) #26 Helpless and hungry

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10 (see insert)

Sermon "Joy: gifted and regifted"

Hymn of Response: HWB (blue) #184 Hark! The glad sound!

Benediction

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.

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.

Matthew 11:2-11 (NRSV)

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Isaiah 35:1-10 (NRSV)

35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.