

**Waterloo North Mennonite Church**  
**Matins Order of Service: Sunday, December 31, 2023, 10:45am**

**For silent reflection in preparation for worship:**

How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land? (Psalm 137:4)  
Praising God in a broken world.

**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 gather in your presence, Eternal God, Creator of Light.

**People: We are guided by your presence, Jesus Christ, Light of the World.**

Leader: We are filled with your presence, Holy Spirit, Light within us.

**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:** VT #274 See Whose Glory Fills the Skies *(rise)*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** *(remain standing)*

Leader: Generous and loving God,

**People: We thank you for this world, filled with your glory, and for our lives, created in your image, filled with your love. We thank you for your transforming presence among us, healing, forgiving, and making all things new. We thank you for the abundant gifts from your Spirit, with which we worship you and serve our world.**

**All: *All praise and thanks to you, O God. Amen.***

**Hymn of Praise:** VT #273 Arise, Your Light Is Come!

*(be seated after singing)*

Leader: Let us join together in reading the Psalm.

**Psalm 148** (NRSV)

Leader: Praise the Lord!

**People: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!  
Praise the Lord, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!**

Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for he commanded, and they were created.  
The Lord established them for ever and ever;  
he issued a decree that will never pass away.

**People: Praise the Lord from the earth, sea creatures and ocean depths,  
fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!  
Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!  
Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

Leader: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!  
Young men and women alike, old and young together!

**People: Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.**

**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:  
Loving and Merciful God,

**People: Our sin and our pain, and the sin and pain of the world are heavy burdens. We cannot carry or remove them ourselves. We come to you in need of forgiveness, healing, and hope. Forgive us, restore us, and lead us, so that our lives will reflect your love and your truth.**

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.

**All: Amen.**

## **Silence**

**Hymn:** VT #147 Kyrie eleison (v1 Kyrie, v2 Christe, v3 Kyrie)

## **Words of Assurance**

Leader: God, great in love and rich in mercy,  
forgives, restores, and gives us hope.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Passing the Peace of Christ**

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:  
I leave you peace, my peace I give you.  
Grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom  
on earth, as it is in heaven. Amen.

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us offer each other the sign of Christ's peace.

*(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 61:10-62:3)*

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**Silence**

Reader: Hear the word of the Lord from the epistle to the Galatians.

*(read Galatians 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: VT #66**

*(rise)*

*(read Luke 2:22-40)*

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: VT #88 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

*(rise)*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Leader: Jesus said: "Ask and it will be given you; Search and you will find; Knock and the door will be opened for you."

Let us gather our prayers of petition as we lift them to God. These are some events and concerns for prayer in the life of our congregation and our world ...

Leader: Lord in your mercy OR For your goodness

**People: Hear our prayers. OR We give you thanks O God.**

Leader: What prayers of thanksgiving and petition do you bring this morning?

*(Audible sharing or sentence prayers eg I give thanks... I hold in prayer ...)*

Leader: Lord in your mercy OR For your goodness

**People: Hear our prayers. OR We give you thanks O God.**

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:**        *We believe in God above us,  
Maker and sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon, of water and earth, of all living things.  
We believe in God beside us,  
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,  
born of a woman, servant of the poor,  
tortured and nailed to a tree.  
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.  
He descended into the earth, to the place of death.  
On the third day he rose from the tomb.  
He ascended into heaven  
to be everywhere present,  
and his kingdom will come on earth.  
We believe in God with us,  
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,  
life-giving Breath of the church  
spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.*

Ionian Creed (*Iona Abbey Worship Book*), adapted.

## **SENDING**

**Hymn of Benediction:** VT #715 Longing for Light (verse 1) *(rise)*

### **Benediction**

Leader: May the light of Christ fill your heart, so that the knowledge and glory of  
God which is in Christ Jesus, may shine through you into the world.

*(be seated)*

### **Silence**

### **Closing the Bible**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: May the God of glory, the Word of life, and the Spirit of truth be with you  
now and forever.

**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, or to share electronically.

Scriptures for next week: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14;  
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12.

### **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.***

**Assistive Listening Devices and headphones** are available.

**Children and Worship.** We are delighted to welcome children into worship! If desired, tables are available in the fellowship hall for children to engage in creative worship activities. Children's Worship Binders are also available at the sanctuary entrance for use in the sanctuary or fellowship hall. **[Nursery** is next to the sanctuary. Infant change table located in washroom next to nursery.] These areas are unstaffed during Matins.

### **Territorial Acknowledgement**

Waterloo North Mennonite Church acknowledges that we are worshipping on the ancestral and treaty territory of the Original Peoples of the Neutral Nation, the Haudenosaunee of the Grand River and the Anishnaabeg People of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize today that we have benefitted from the colonial violence that has sought to erase Indigenous histories, the breaking of Treaties and the theft of land and funds. We pledge to work for justice and reconciliation and to uphold our responsibilities within the Haldimand Proclamation of 1784 and the Between the Lakes Treaty of 1792.

# The Lord's Prayer

*in flowing style*  $\text{♩} = 63$

Jan Overduin

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 King - dom, the Power, and the Glo - ry for e - ver, A - men.

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