



# Waterloo Christian Reformed Church

209 Beringer Road N2L 4H5 (519) 746-5727

## Lenten Season - Sunday, February 26, 2023

In this season of LENT, we focus on Christ's sorrow and our repentance and renewal. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday—six weeks before Easter.

This year we are emphasizing the power of stories.

The mythical story of the mother pelican feeding her babies by piercing her breast was told to evoke the feeling of great suffering and sacrifice.

The banner reminds us of Jesus' suffering and death.

Preacher: Rev. Vicki Cok  
Deacon: Wayne Miedema

Worship Leader(s): Dave Jaarsma  
Pianist: Pam Joosse

Praise Team: Joyful Noise

Liturgy: Terry Sturtevant  
Visuals: Nelda Looyenga

*Large-print hymnals and Bibles are available from the ushers.*

*Hearing devices can be obtained prior to the service from the person operating the sound system.*

*Note that \* indicates to stand in body or in spirit, and **bold italic** indicates congregational response.*

Welcome and Announcements

## We Gather to Worship

### \* Call to Worship

Lord God,  
in this season of Lent  
we look forward to our remembrance of Jesus' death  
and our celebration of his resurrection.  
We pray that your Spirit will renew in us today  
our anticipation for these events  
and our awareness that Jesus' death and resurrection  
are a sure source of hope and life.  
In the power of Jesus' name we pray. ***Amen.***

### \* Opening Song: LUYH #593 – **Lord Most High**

From the ends of the earth, (*echo*)  
from the depths of the sea, (*echo*)  
from the heights of the heavens (*echo*)  
your name be praised.  
From the hearts of the weak, (*echo*)  
from the shouts of the strong, (*echo*)  
from the lips of all people (*echo*)  
this song we raise, Lord.  
Throughout the endless ages  
you will be crowned with praises,  
Lord Most High.  
Exalted in every nation,  
sovereign of all creation,  
Lord Most High,  
be magnified, be magnified. (repeat song)

Come to the Lord, who is rich in grace;  
approach our God, who is full of mercy.

***We will praise God with all our heart  
and glorify the name of the Most High forever.***

\* Song of Praise: LUYH #606 – **In the Sanctuary**

- 1 We lift our hands in the sanctuary,  
we lift our hands to give you the glory;  
we lift our hands to give you the praise,  
and we will praise you for the rest of our days;  
yes, we will praise you for the rest of our days.

**Refrain**

Jesus, we give you the praise.  
Emmanuel, we lift up your name—  
heavenly Father, coming Messiah—  
and we will praise you for the rest of our days;  
yes, we will praise you for the rest of our days.

- 2 We clap our hands in the sanctuary . . .
- 3 We sing our song in the sanctuary . . .
- 4 Hallelujah in the sanctuary . . .

\* God's Greeting and the Passing of the Peace

*We greet each other, saying, "The peace of the Lord be with you."*

## **We Confess our Sin and Receive Assurance of Forgiveness**

Prayer of Confession

Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
***try me and know my thoughts.***  
See if there is any wicked way in me,  
***and lead me in the way everlasting.***

Song of Invitation: LUYH #115 – **Jesus, Tempted in the Desert**

- 1 Jesus, tempted in the desert,  
lonely, hungry, filled with dread:  
"Use your power," the tempter tells him;  
"Turn these barren rocks to bread!"  
"Not alone by bread," he answers,  
"can the human heart be filled.  
Only by the Word that calls us  
is our deepest hunger stilled!"
- 2 Jesus, tempted at the temple,  
high above its ancient wall:  
"Throw yourself from lofty turret;  
angels wait to break your fall!"  
Jesus shuns such empty marvels,  
feats that fickle crowds request;  
"God, whose grace protects, preserves us,  
we must never vainly test."
- 3 Jesus, tempted on the mountain,  
by the lure of vast domain:  
"Fall before me! Be my servant!  
Glory, fame you're sure to gain!"  
Jesus sees the dazzling vision,  
turns his eyes another way;  
"God alone deserves our homage!  
God alone will I obey!"

- 4 When we face temptation's power,  
lonely, struggling, filled with dread,  
Christ, who knew the tempter's hour,  
come and be our living bread.  
By your grace, protect, preserve us,  
lest we fall, your trust betray.  
Yours, above all other voices,  
be the Word we hear, obey.

#### Assurance

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,  
that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.  
He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,  
so that we, free from sins, might live for righteousness;  
by his wounds we have been healed.

## We Hear God's Word

#### Children's Blessing

*For children aged 3 to grade 3, teachers, and others leaving for Sunday School activities.*

Song: LUYH #894 (vs. 1) – **May the Lord God Hear You Pray**

- 1 May the Lord God hear you pray;  
may God's strength be yours today;  
may God bless you from above,  
lifting up your heart in love.

As you go to learn more about what God is like, we send you with this blessing;

***May you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
Go in peace.***

#### Prayer for Illumination

Send your Spirit among us, O God,  
as we meditate on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.  
Prepare our minds to hear your Word.  
Move our hearts to accept what we hear.  
Purify our will to obey in joy and faith.  
This we pray through Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading: **Matthew 4:1-11** NRSV

(concluded with "This is the Word of the Lord" and "**Thanks be to God**")

Sermon: **The First (Recorded) Temptations of Christ**

#### Moment of Silent Meditation

*(Take a moment to reflect on what God's word might mean for your life or on a truth that spoke to you.  
Please be still until after the pianist concludes this time of silence.)*

## We Respond with Gratitude

\* Song of Response: LUYH #132 – **Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days**

- 1 Lord, who throughout these forty days  
for us did fast and pray,  
teach us with you to mourn our sins  
and close by you to stay.
- 2 As you with Satan did contend,  
and did the victory win,

O give us strength in you to fight,  
in you to conquer sin.

- 3 As you did hunger and did thirst,  
so teach us, gracious Lord,  
to die to self, and so to live  
by your most holy Word.
- 4 And through these days of penitence,  
and through your Passion-tide,  
forevermore, in life and death,  
O Lord, with us abide.
- 5 Abide with us, that through this life  
of doubts and hope and pain,  
an Easter of unending joy  
we may at last attain!

Prayers of the People (Live and on Chat)

*As we bring our thanksgiving and petitions before God and each other, let us respond in reverence with the words: "Thanks be to God" or "Lord, hear our prayer".*

*We will conclude this time of prayer with the Lord's Prayer:*

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name;  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.***

Offering: **Centre for Public Dialogue**

*If you, or anyone you know of, needs financial assistance, please send an email to:  
deacons@waterloocrc.org.*

Offertory: **Living Word** – Ian Eskelin & Jeremy Camp – *presented by Joyful Noise*

- 1 In this life, there is one guarantee.  
This broken world will only leave me empty.  
But there's a life that healed my heart.  
And it holds firm when I'm falling apart.  
**Refrain**  
I will stand on the truth in the loving word of God.  
"Cause every time it moves my soul and shapes my every thought.  
It's alive in me, the very breath I breathe.  
I'm holding on with all I've got to the living word of God!  
The living word of God.
- 2 I can't survive on bread alone.  
I hunger and I thirst for your words that give me hope. **Refrain**
- 3 Speaking to me now, your voice is all I'm craving.  
For the treasures I have found in the living word of God. **Refrain**

Diaconal Prayer

## **We Are Sent Out with the Spirit**

\* Closing:

God of all times and places,

in Jesus Christ, lifted up on the cross,  
you opened for us the path to eternal life.  
Grant that we, being born again of water and the Spirit,  
may joyfully serve you in newness of life  
and faithfully walk in your holy ways,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

\* Closing Song: LUYH #104 – **Songs of Thankfulness and Praise**

- 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,  
manifested by the star  
to the sages from afar;  
branch of royal David's stem,  
in your birth at Bethlehem:  
**Refrain**  
"You are Christ," by us confessed—  
God in flesh made manifest.
- 2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
and at Cana, wedding guest,  
in your Godhead manifest,  
you revealed your power divine,  
changing water into wine, **Refrain**
- 3 Manifest in making whole  
weakened body, fainting soul;  
manifest in valiant fight,  
quelling all the devil's might;  
manifest in gracious will,  
ever bringing good from ill: **Refrain**

\* Benediction and Choral "**Amen, Amen, Amen**".

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Sermons from our worship services can be found on Waterloo CRC's website, [www.waterloocrc.org](http://www.waterloocrc.org)