



Waterloo Christian Reformed Church

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

1st Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2020

In this year of uncertainty, we can find hope in an unchanging God who offers comfort through his assurance to “Be not afraid”. While we wait for the coming of Christ during this Advent season, we can look to the natural world to see examples of how “all creation waits.”

Preacher: Rev. Vicki Cok
Worship Leader: Nelda Looyenga

Praise Team: Scott + friends
Pianist: Pam Joosse

Storyteller: Fran Williston
Deacon: Mark Parker

Visuals: Alanna Groen-Brunsting
Liturgy: Nelda Looyenga

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

Welcome and Announcements

We Gather to Worship

Lighting of the Advent Candle - *by Jaarsma family*

On this first Sunday of Advent we light the candle of Hope.

Isaiah gives us a vision of a kingdom yet to come
where everything has been made new and where creation is at peace.

“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;

From his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him –

The Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,

The Spirit of counsel and of might,

The Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord –

And he will delight in the fear of the Lord (Isa, 11:1-3)

We light this candle of hope as a sign of our waiting
and expectation for the coming of Christ.

[candle is lit]

LUYH #930 (vs. 1,2) – **This Little Light of Mine**

1 This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine;
this little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine;
this little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2 Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine . . .

Call to Worship

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

And in his word I hope;

My soul waits for the Lord

More than those who watch for the morning.

We wait and we hope.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,

And with him there is great power to redeem.

We wait and we hope.

Glory to God the Father, to Jesus the Messiah,
and to the Holy Spirit.

We wait and we hope, amen.

We Confess our Sin and Receive Forgiveness

Call to Confession: LUYH #63 (vs. 1) – **My Soul in Stillness Waits**

Refrain

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;
truly my hope is in you.

- 1 O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,
your radiance shines in all who look to you.

Come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow. **Refrain**

We wait and we hope.

For many of us, Christmas feels like a time in which we do neither.

This year, however, it seems like that's all we do.

We don't know if there will be gatherings of friends and family,

We continue to decorate our homes, buy gifts for our loved ones,

And hope that we can share a meal with others.

But we wait ...

This morning let us take some time to bring our hopes and fears

to our God in a time of silence,

perhaps in prayer or just in silent contemplation.

[Silence]

LUYH #462 (vs. 1) – **O Lord, Hear My Prayer**

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
When I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.

Emmanuel, God with us, in this Advent season,

we confess how difficult it is to wait.

***When we look at the world around us, it is hard to feel hopeful;
about the world, about our nation, about ourselves.***

We are surrounded by death, destruction and pain

and we long for a day when your promised kingdom comes to make all things new.

Give us hope that this day is indeed coming,

And help us to rest in this because your promises are always true. Amen.

LUYH #462 (vs. 2) – **O Lord, Hear My Prayer**

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise.

All my hope comes from God.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise.

God, the wellspring of life.

Our hope for a new creation is not tied to what humans can do,

For we believe that one day every challenge to God's rule will be crushed.

His kingdom will fully come,

And the Lord will rule.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

- Our World Belongs to God, st.55

We Hear God's Word

Children's Story – based on **All Creation Waits: The Advent Mystery of New Beginnings** by Gayle Boss; *condensed and told by Fran Williston*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: **Isaiah 11:1-10**

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

Sermon: **The Hopes and Fears of All the Years**

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 #79 – **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

- 1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung;
of Jesse's lineage coming,
as saints of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter
when half spent was the night.
- 2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior
when half spent was the night.
- 3 This flower, so small and tender,
with fragrance fills the air;
his brightness ends the darkness
that kept the earth in fear.
True God and yet true man,
he came to save his people
from earth's dark night of sin.
- 4 O Savior, child of Mary,
who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory,
who does our weakness know:
bring us at length, we pray,
to the bright courts of heaven
and into endless day.

Prayers of the People (on chat)

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.

Song during Prayer: **Comfort Ye** – Deanna Witkowski- presented by Jon & Julie Hunse w. Band

Offering: **Monica Place**

Offertory: **Light of the World** – Lauren Daigle, Paul Duncan and Paul Mabury - *presented by Nelda Looyenga w. Band*

The world waits for a miracle,
The heart longs for a little bit of hope.
O come, O come, Emmanuel.
A child prays for peace on earth,
And she's calling out from a sea of hurt.
O come, O come, Emmanuel.
And can you hear the angels singing:
Glo-ry to the Light of the World.
Glo-ry, the Light of the World is here.
The drought breaks with the tears of a mother,
A baby's cry is the sound of love come down.
Come down, Emmanuel.
He is the song for the suffering.
He is Messiah. The Prince of Peace has come,
He has come, Emmanuel.
Glo-ry to the Light of the World. (4x)
For all who wait, for all who hunger,
For all who've prayed, for all who wonder,
Behold your King, behold Messiah.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel.
Glo-ry to the Light of the World. (3x)
Behold your King, behold Messiah.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel.
The world waits for a miracle,
The heart longs for a little bit of hope.
O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Diaconal Prayer

We Are Sent Out with the Spirit

In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,

We trust in the Lord's goodness,

We rely on his mercy,

We find shelter in his steadfast love.

In this Advent season of waiting,

Lord, we await your salvation,

We await your leading,

We await your coming.

In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,

We walk in the Lord's way,

We keep our covenant promises,

We follow his example of love.

Closing Song: LUYH #611– **Mighty to Save**

- 1 Everyone needs compassion,
a love that's never failing; let mercy fall on me.
Everyone needs forgiveness,
the kindness of a Savior,
the hope of nations.
- 2 So take me as you find me,
all my fears and failures; fill my life again.

I give my life to follow
everything I believe in.
Now I surrender, (yes, I surrender.)

Refrain

Savior, he can move the mountains;
my God is mighty to save,
he is mighty to save.
Forever author of salvation,
he rose and conquered the grave;
Jesus conquered the grave.

Shine your light and let the whole world see
we're singing for the glory of the risen King. Jesus!
Shine your light and let the whole world see
we're singing for the glory of the risen King.

Savior, he can move the mountains;
my God is mighty to save,
he is mighty to save.
Forever author of salvation,
he rose and conquered the grave;
Jesus conquered the grave.
You are mighty to save.

*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,