



Waterloo Christian Reformed Church

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

2nd Sunday of Advent, December 6, 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
Pianist: Miriam Miedema

Worship Leader: Carolyn Kleefman
Deacon: Sheila Kooy

Storyteller: Fran Williston

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 Ben Kleefman*

Last Sunday we lit the candle of hope and were reminded to put our hope in God's promises of a peaceful kingdom.

On this second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of love.

Our God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,

That whoever believes in him shall not perish

But have eternal life (John 3:16)

We light this candle to remember God's love,

which brings joy to the world and peace on earth.

[candles are lit]

LUYH #908 (vs. 1,2) – **Christ, Be Our Light**

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your Word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice. **Refrain**

Call to Worship

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I will say it again; Rejoice!

Let your gentleness be evident to all.

The Lord is near.

We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

God's Greeting

We Confess our Sin and Receive Assurance of Forgiveness

Call to Confession: LUYH #63 (vs. 1,2) – **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**
- 2 O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits;
our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word.
Come, make us whole; be comfort to our hearts. **Refrain**

Prayer of Confession

Emmanuel, God with us,
We confess how hard it is for us to wait.
Like Zechariah, we have a hard time waiting on you,
And we lose hope so quickly when it seems as though
You aren't answering our prayers in the ways we hope.
Sometimes your timing is mysterious.
Sometimes you answer our longings and our prayers
In ways we have a hard time comprehending.

Take away all the barriers in our lives

**That keep us from being able to hear you, to know you,
And to love you with all our hearts.**

**And give us ears to hear your gentle voice saying,
"Be not afraid". Amen.**

Assurance

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: **Luke 1:5-25**

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

Sermon: **Trust, Fear and Disappointment**

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 #67 – **Blessed Be the God of Israel**

- 1 Blessed be the God of Israel,
who comes to set us free

and raises up new hope for us:
a Branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared
that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies
and all who wish us harm.

- 2 With promised mercy will God still
the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham,
from foes to save us all,
that we might worship without fear
and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness
to serve God all our days.
- 3 My child, as prophet of the Lord,
you will prepare the way,
to tell God's people they are saved
from sin's eternal sway.
Then shall God's mercy from on high
shine forth and never cease
to drive away the gloom of death
and lead us into peace.

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.***

Offering: **Supportive Housing of Waterloo (SHOW)**

Diaconal Prayer

We Are Sent Out with the Spirit

The same voice that speaks over the waters and calls us to follow and obey,
The same voice that promises "I am your God, you are my people,"
The same voice that spoke "This is my beloved Son,"
Now blesses the people with peace:
"So, do not fear, for I am with you;
Do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

- Based on Ps 29:2,9; Ex. 20:18, Matt. 3:17 and Is. 41:10

Closing Song: LUYH #61 (vs. 1,2 & 7) – **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

- 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go. ***Refrain***
- 7 O come, desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease,
and be thyself our King of peace. ***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,