



Waterloo Christian Reformed Church

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

3rd Sunday of Advent, December 13, 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: Lisa Pardys

Worship Leader: Dave Jaarsma
Deacon: Grace Pidduck

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 Candles - *by Jaarsma family*

On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit the candle of *hope*
and were reminded to put our hope in God's promises
of a peaceful kingdom.

On the second Sunday of Advent, we lit the candle of *love*
to represent God's love for us

Through the incarnation of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
this morning we light the candle of *peace*.

We wait for God's promises of peace on earth and goodwill to all.

We pray that God's peace would break through our restless hearts
and lead us to Bethlehem, where we can celebrate our Saviour's birth.

[candles are lit]

Call to Worship

We have heard the story of Jesus Christ with joy and anticipation.

We have come to worship.

We open our hearts to prepare room for his coming.

We have come to worship.

We open our hearts to hear the choirs of angels proclaim his holy birth

We have come to worship.

We open our lives to God's greater plans for us.

We have come to worship.

Through the grace of God's Holy Spirit,

We have come to worship Christ, the newborn King.

Opening Song: LUYH #60 (vs. 1 & 4) – **Hark, the Glad Sound! The Saviour Comes**

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long!
Let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

God's Greeting

We Confess our Sin and Receive Assurance of Forgiveness

Prayer of Confession

The Worship Leader will pray and the congregation will respond when prompted, as follows ...

Restore us, O God

And make your face shine upon us

That we might be saved.

Song: LUYH #72 – **Imagine**

1 Who hears?

Who hears the voice of the hungry, the thirsty?

Who sees?

Who sees the tears of the suffering ones?

Refrain

Imagine a King who would come through the darkness
and walk, where I walk, full of greatness,
and call me to his side,
just like a father and child.

2 Who knows?

Who knows the hopes that lie hidden, forgotten?

Who comes?

Who comes to lead all the children home? ***Refrain***

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 1:26-45**

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

Sermon: **Fear of Change**

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 #157 (vs. 1 & 3) – **Meekness and Majesty**

1 Meekness and majesty, manhood and Deity
in perfect harmony, the Man who is God.

Lord of eternity dwells in humanity,
kneels in humility, and washes our feet.

Refrain

Oh, what a mystery—meekness and majesty;
bow down and worship, for this is your God.

- 3 Wisdom unsearchable, God the invisible,
Love indestructible in frailty appears.
Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly,
lifts our humanity to the heights of his throne.

Refrain

Oh, what a mystery—meekness and majesty;
bow down and worship, for this is your God.

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: **Newcomer Sponsorship Fund**

Diaconal Prayer

We Are Sent Out with the Spirit

Sending Prayer

Gracious God, on this Advent journey,
may we wait with Mary's joyful anticipation
as we prepare to welcome your Son, our Saviour,
into this broken world in need of his redeeming.

Gather us, guide us, and keep us as your people.

***Send us into the world so that our hands might be Christ's own,
and his mind one with ours in all that you would have us do.***

As his ambassadors we pray, Amen.

Closing Song: LUYH #69 (vs. 1, 2 & 4) – **My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout**

- 1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!

- 2 Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.

Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!

- 4 Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. **Refrain**

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

All songs reprinted under CCLI License # 298495

Sermons from our worship services can be found on Waterloo CRC's website, www.waterloocrc.org,