



Waterloo Christian Reformed Church

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

Christmas Season, December 27, 2020

In this year of uncertainty, we can find hope in an unchanging God who offers comfort through his assurance to "Be not afraid".

Preacher: Rev. Meg Jenista Kuykendall
Pianist: Lisa Pardys

Worship Leader: Pastor Vicki
Deacon: Rick Strooboscher

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

Call to Worship

May the light of God's love push back the darkness.

***We come to the light from the four corners of the earth,
from the north, from the south, from the east, and from the west.***

We come from many nations and many cultures.

But we are all one in Jesus Christ.

We come seeking the light that guides us to life.

But we are all one in Jesus Christ.

Let us lift up our many voices and praise the God of all people.

Opening Song: LUYH #103 (vs. 2, 3, 4) – **Arise, Shine, for Your Light is Come**

- 2 The nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
And they shall call you the city of the LORD,
O Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Refrain

Arise, shine, for your light is come,
and the glory of the LORD is risen.
O arise, shine, for your light is come,
and the glory of the LORD is upon you.

- 3 Lift up your eyes round about and see;
all gather themselves together;
and they shall come, your sons from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried at your side. **Refrain**

- 4 Then you shall see and be filled with joy,
and your heart shall thrill with rejoicing.
The abundance of the sea will be brought unto you,
and the wealth of the nations unto you. **Refrain**

God's Greeting

We Confess our Sin and Receive Assurance of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

God calls us to live in the light and to walk as people of the light.

But on this first Sunday after Christmas,

we come before the Lord in prayer to confess that we still walk in darkness.

We make personal decisions that drive us into the darkness.
Our world is one filled with darkness, brokenness, and despair.
We are deeply in need of Jesus Christ, the light of the world,
to enter in and shine on us.
Together we confess in song our need for light.

Song: LUYH #908 (vs. 1, 2, 5) – **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**
- 5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. **Refrain**

Assurance

The light of God shines in the darkness.
God is calling the whole world together in unity
to walk in the light as beloved and chosen people.
Open your hearts to God's light and to one another.
Thanks be to God.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: **Matthew 2:1-12**

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

Sermon: **Fear of Strangers** – *written and preached by Rev. Meg Jenista Kuykendall*

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 #105 – **As with Gladness Men of Old**

- 1 As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore your splendor see.

- 2 As with joyful steps they sped
to that lowly manger bed,
there to bend the knee before
Christ, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek your mercy seat.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger plain and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.
- 4 Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way,
and when mortal things are past,
bring our ransomed lives at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds your glory hide.
- 5 In that glorious city bright
none shall need created light;
you its light, its joy, its crown,
you its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing
alleluias to our King!

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: **Partners Worldwide**

Diaconal Prayer

We Are Sent Out with the Spirit

Call to Service

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,

To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

-Howard Thurman "The Work of Christmas," The Mood of Christmas & Other Celebrations; Friends United Press, 1985.

Closing Song: LUYH #302 – **Hear Our Praises**

- 1 May our homes be filled with dancing,
may our streets be filled with joy.
May injustice bow to Jesus
as the people turn and pray.

Refrain

From the mountain to the valley,
hear our praises rise to you.
From the heavens to the nations,
hear our singing fill the air.

- 2 May your light shine in the darkness
as we walk before the cross.
May your glory fill the whole earth
as the water over the seas. **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