

Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Sunday, November 6, 2016
Stories of Peacebuilders

Gathering Hymns

Hymn STS (purple) #53 Here to the house of God we come

Hymn HWB (blue) #407 We are people of God's peace

Announcements and Introduction of Visitors

Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome to the house of the Lord this morning! As we gather together on this holy day, we are reminded that we are people of God's peace.

Left: *We have been invited to stand as witnesses to the life of Jesus Christ, learning from his example.*

Right: We have been welcomed into a family of faith, working together to extend the peaceful reign of God.

All: **We are privileged to stand shoulder to shoulder with women and men who have committed themselves to peacebuilding throughout the generations and around the world.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who has called us into this service.

All: **Let us open our eyes, our ears and our hearts to the message of peace God has for us here this day.**

Dann and Joji's story: Partnership Celebration

Offering

Children's time

Hymn HWB (blue) #540 Strong, righteous man of Galilee

Congregational Prayer

Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Susanna's story: Luke 8:1–3; 23:49;
23:55–56; 24:1–10

Stories of Women from Kenya, China, and Quebec

Confession

Merciful God,

We confess that we struggle to stand as witnesses to the dark and devastating brokenness of our world.

There is so much uncertainty, so much fear, so much hate.

We avert our eyes, we cover our ears, we harden our hearts to the stories of injustice and violence that swirl around us. What could we possibly do? What could we say that would make any difference? Surely someone else is better suited to pursue the path toward peace.

We turn our backs, hoping that someone else will step forward and make a difference.

We walk away, convincing ourselves that there is someone else who will stand with those who cry out for justice.

We give ourselves permission to forget the stories of those who suffer and, when we do, we release ourselves from the work you have entrusted to us.

Forgive us for failing to stand as witnesses to suffering and injustice.

Forgive us for faltering in our commitment to be peacebuilders here on earth.

Forgive us for allowing ourselves to forget the call you have placed on our lives and the lives of our communities.

Forgive us for the ways we contribute to violence and suffering. Call us deeper into our walk with you.

May we, like Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Susanna, travel a path of discipleship that does not shy away from suffering, but rather guides us through death into the hope of new life. Give us the courage to stand as witnesses to the brokenness of this world and transform us into messengers of peace by the power of your resurrection. Amen.

Words of assurance

Hear, now, these words of assurance:

The Lord Jesus,
who proclaimed the good news of the reign of God,
who called women to stand as witnesses to his life,
death and resurrection,
in his mercy, forgives you and calls you to be a voice for peace.

Hymn HWB (blue) #135 God, whose purpose is to kindle

Sermon The Pull To Justice

Hymn HWB (blue) #323 Beyond a dying sun

Benediction

Worship Participants

Pianist	Anita Fieguth
Song Leader	Ben Janzen
Worship Leader	Karen Cressman Anderson
Children’s Time	Natasha Krahn
Congregational Prayer	Craig Cressman Anderson
Scripture Reader	Karen Martin Schiedel
Story Readers	Barbara Cook, Sharon Neufeld
Sermon	Gordon Allaby
Partnership Celebration	Jason Martin, Amanda Witmer

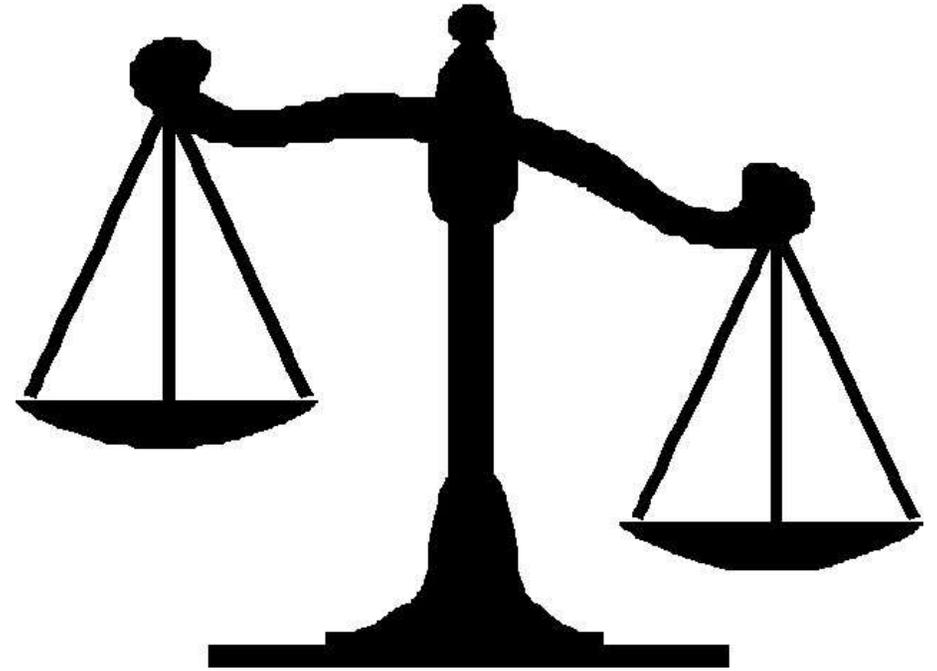
Childcare

Infants to Age 4 – Staffed Childcare is available during worship in Nursery located outside the sanctuary. Ushers are available to assist you.

Information Sheets with church news and activities are available on table in foyer for those who do not receive them electronically.

Head sets are available, from the ushers, for hearing assistance.

Offering - For those who contribute electronically, offering cards are available or use loose change/cash so that you can participate in the giving of offering worship experience.



PEACE SUNDAY

THE PULL TO JUSTICE

Featuring MCC’s Peace Sunday material:
Women called as peace builders