

**Waterloo North Mennonite Church**  
**Sunday, December 11, 2016 10:45 am**  
**Advent 3**

**THE HOLY WAY**  
God's healing is at hand.  
Come, walk in the way of God's heart.

**GATHERING**

Hymn HWB (blue) #197 Angels we have heard on high  
Hymn HWB (blue) #194 Away in a manger  
Welcome and Announcements

**PRAISING**

Chiming to worship  
Silence

**Call to Worship:**

Leader: In the nighttime of sorrow, we become impatient and lose hope.

**People: Our joy disappears, and our songs become silent.  
We forget the truth that God will restore all of creation.**

**All: Come! Walk in the way of God's heart!**

Invocation

Hymn STS (purple) #3 (vs.1&4) Come, Light of the world  
with Advent Candle Lighting

Advent 3 reading: Psalm: 146:5-10 and Luke 1:46-55 (see insert)

Hymn HWB (blue) #181 My soul proclaims with wonder

Children's time

Offering

**CONFESSING/RECONCILING**

**Prayer of confession:**

Leader: God of healing,

**People: we yearn to walk in your way, but often choose our own path of turmoil and pain. Save us, Lord, from the pride and foolishness of choosing our own course, that we may humbly and confidently follow your lead, through Jesus Christ, Amen.**

**Words of assurance:**

Leader: Throughout the tumult of life,  
God holds you close in love.  
Rejoice, because God's wisdom is your guide,  
God's compassion is your strength,  
God's love is your redemption.

**All: Come, let us walk in the way of God's heart!**

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

New Testament Lesson: Matthew 11:2-11

Hymn HWB (blue) #184 Hark the glad sound

Sermon: "What do you see?"

**RESPONDING**

Hymn HWB (blue) # 372 O healing river

Congregational prayer

Hymn HWB (blue) # 178 Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Benediction

**Worship Participants**

Pianist	Marie Burkholder
Song Leader	Peggy Snyder
Chimes	Soul Food Middlers
Worship Leader	Carmen Brubacher
Children's Time	Carmen Brubacher
Offertory	Tessa Hedrick, Thea Andres, Aaron Dyck
Congregational Prayer	Lorrie Shantz
Scripture readers and candle lighters	Rebecca, Josh and Caleb Gibbons
Sermon	Gordon Allaby
Ushers	Phil Ruby, Jan Fretz
Sound	Kevin Lanctot

**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.

### Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, <sup>[a]</sup>  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it, <sup>[b]</sup>  
but it shall be for God's people; <sup>[c]</sup>  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### Matthew 11:2-11

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see:

<sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you."

<sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

# THE HOLY WAY



***Walking the way  
of God's heart***