

Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Sunday, December 18, 2016 10:45 am
Advent 4
THE HOLY WAY
God's Restoration Is At Hand.

GATHERING

Hymn HWB (blue) #195 It came upon a midnight clear. (vs 1-4)
Hymn HWB (blue) #178 Come, though long-expected Jesus
Welcome and Announcements

PRAISING

Chiming to Worship
Silence
Call to Worship

Leader: In the nighttime of longing, we find ourselves far from
God's presence.

**People: Even though we yearn to see God's face, our daily
burdens and distractions keep us from coming near.
We forget that the truest joy comes from being in
God's presence.**

All: Come! Walk in the way of God's presence.

Invocation

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

Hymn STS (purple) #1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness

Children's time

Offering

CONFESSING/RECONCILING

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Radiant God,

**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

Advent 4 Reading Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (see insert)
Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 7:10-16
New Testament Lesson Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon *God's Restoration is at Hand*

RESPONDING

Hymn HWB (blue) #172 O come, O come, Immanuel

Congregational prayer

Hymn HWB (blue) #186 Fling wide the door, unbar the gate!

Benediction

Worship Participants

Pianist	Mary Letho
Song Leader	Leroy Shantz
Worship Leader	Fred Martin
Chimes	Soul Food Middlers
Advent candle lighters	Millie Osborne
Children's Time	Margaret Andres
Offertory	Choir
Scripture reader	Micah Beech
Sermon	Lisa Carr-Pries
Congregational Prayer	Gordon Allaby
Ushers	Marg Koop, Christine Weber
Sound	Don Weber

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

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 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

THE HOLY WAY



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