

Preston Mennonite Church

*Being transformed by and extending God's love
through worship, hospitality and service*

www.prestonmennonite.com

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Worship Leader: Laverne Martin

Song Leader: Margaret Martin Accompanist: Dianne Winkler

Advent 2: God's Peaceable Kingdom

As we begin our annual pilgrimage to Bethlehem, God of prophets
and of the poor, may we discover YOU revealed in the hope,
peace, joy, and love of this season. Amen.

PRELUDE

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Welcome

Introduction of Gary Knarr

Hymn: "Come, O unexpected Jesus!" *(to the tune
of "Once in Royal David's City," see insert)*

Call to worship: *(responsive—see back of bulletin)*

Reading from the original scriptures:

Isaiah 40:1-11

Hymn: HWB 176 "Comfort, comfort, O my
people"

Opening prayer

ONE: While others are making lists of things we have enough of, ... you come:

ALL: **to offer us salvation, the one gift we cannot purchase.**

ONE: As the world prepares to entice us with more and more, ... you come:

ALL: **to fill our hearts with all the hopes you have dreamed for us forever.**

ONE: When skepticism and fear callous our hearts, ... you come:

ALL: **to bathe us in the soothing lotion of compassion.**

ONE: When stress scoops out potholes for every step we take, ... you come:

ALL: **filling the emptiness with serenity as tough as your grace.**

ONE: As the clock turns faster and faster each day, ... you come:

ALL: **to swaddle us in a shawl woven with patience.**

ONE: When others push past us to get to the front of worry's line, ... you come:

ALL: **so we can clasp them so close to our hopes they can hear your heartbeat.**

ONE: So come to us, come to us, God in Community, even as we pray, saying,

ALL: Our Father, ...

Prayer of confession

Words of affirmation

ONE: At the beginning, at the end, and in every time between, the good news speaks to us of God's tender mercy and love for us.

ALL: **God comes! Not to punish, but to give us peace, not to judge, but to save us. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Lighting the second Advent candle of Peace

Prayer

Hymn: STS 15 "Hope is a candle," verse 1 & 2

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?

Young people's time

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 NRSV

Hymn: "Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine" (*see insert*)

Message: "Characters of the Christmas Story:
Joseph, another dreamer!"

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

Theme: STS 124 "My soul cries out"

Invitation to offering

Prayer of dedication

Sharing time and prayer requests

Prayers of the people

SENDING

Announcements

Hymn: HWB 189 "To us a Child of hope is born"

Blessing

ONE: As you are present with us in and through Jesus, O God:

ALL: may we be present to those you send us to serve this week.

ONE: As you feed us with your peace, Bread of life:

ALL: may we grace others with that peace, this day and all the days to come.

ONE: As you welcomed us to your table, Spirit of hope:

ALL: **may we welcome all those you send us, that they may find a home with us. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

CREDITS: Opening prayer, Prayer of confession, Words of affirmation, Prayers of the people, Blessing--*Seasons of the Spirit, Pentecost 2, 2017*;

"Come to us, startling God"—*A Star-filled Grace* by Rachel Mann;

Basho's last poem—*The Essential Haiku* edited by Robert Hass..



Welcome to our visitors! We hope our time of worship has been an encouragement to you. Please sign our guest book in the front foyer! God bless you and we hope to see you again!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP IN THE FOYER—ALL WELCOME!

Adult Discussion Class: A series on the women in Matthew's genealogy (Matthew 1:1-17). This week will focus on Ruth and Mary, read their stories in the book of Ruth and Matthew 1:18-25.

WIDER CHURCH & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Global Migration Film Festival, Dec 5-18, see poster on bulletin board for films and locations. Free admission!

Niska Noel, find the perfect gifts for your loved ones, one of a kind, handcrafted moccasins, jewelry, carvings and more made by Indigenous artisans. Join in the fun of beadwork demos, a silent auction and holiday refreshments. Tues Dec 12 from 10am to 6pm at 50 Kent Ave. Kitchener.

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Christmas Concert: Tues Dec 12 at 7:30pm at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. Students from grades 7-12 present *Songs for a Winter's Night*. Free will offering. All are welcome!

Men in Song: Schneider Male Chorus and the Waterloo Regional Police Male Chorus present a Christmas celebration on Wed Dec 13 at 7 pm at First United Church, 16 William St W, Waterloo. Tickets \$20, students \$15, children under 12 free. Contact 519-745-8487.

Messiah Sing-A-Long with orchestra and soloists at St. Jacobs Mennonite Church on Sun Dec 17 at 3 pm. Donations accepted, tax receipts for over \$20.

Langs Community Dinners! From 5:30 to 7:30 pm on Dec 19, drop in for a free dinner!

