



From Joanne and Syd's garden.

Welcome to Willowdale Christian Reformed Church

October 18, 2020, Thanksgiving Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Thirty-second ZOOM service in the time of COVID-19

*In worship, God speaks to us through his Word,
and we respond with praise and prayer.*

Reflection

"The very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof."

Barbara Kingsolver

"Hope is being able to see there is light despite all of the darkness."

Desmond Tutu

"So how come history takes such a long, long time
When you're waiting for a miracle?"

Bruce Cockburn

"Hope means to keep living amid desperation, and to keep humming
in darkness."

Henri Nouwen

Welcome and God's greeting — Dr. Brian Walsh

Call to worship — based on Psalms 5, 6, 44, Revelation 21

— Dr. Brian Walsh

Leader: People of God, this morning, our God, the LORD hears
your voice.

Come before God and present your case to God, and wait
in expectation.

People A: Someone's crying, Lord:
the sound of weeping and the cry of distress, do you
hear, Lord?

- People B: Someone's hungry, Lord; someone's homeless,
in Farsi someone's jobless.
They are destitute, do you see, Lord?
- People C: Someone's hurting, Lord: his bones are in agony, her
in Farsi soul is in anguish.
How long, Lord, how long?
- People D: Someone's dying, Lord: young and old, from illness, from
violence, from hopelessness.
Waiting for the miracle to come. Who will praise you
from the grave, Lord?
- People E: Someone's lonely, Lord: from isolation, from separation,
from rejection.
She is worn out from groaning; all night long he floods his
bed with weeping.
Awake, O Lord! Why do you sleep?
- People F: Yet, someone's singing, Lord.
She takes refuge in you and is glad; he loves your name
and rejoices in you.
They are humming in the darkness, do you hear, Lord?
- Leader: This is our hope, my friends, this is our hope.
Before we call, God will answer, while we are speaking
God will hear.
God is building a new city, God's dwelling place, and God
will live with us.
God will wipe every tear from our eyes.
No more death, no more mourning, no more crying, no
more pain.
Hope in God, and praise Him.
God who hears, God who sees: He is our help and our
God.
Let us worship.

Song of praise — LUYH 616 vs. 1, 2, refrain, 3, 6

— *As a Deer in Want of Water*

— Leanne Chuba, John Meiboom

1. As a deer in want of water,
so I long for you, O LORD.
All my heart and being falter,
thirsting for your living word.
When shall I behold your face?
When shall I receive your grace?
When shall I, your praises voicing,
come before you with rejoicing?
2. Bitter tears of lamentation
are my food by night and day.
In my deep humiliation
“Where is now your God?” they say.
When my sorrows weigh on me,
then I bring to memory
how with throngs I would assemble,
shouting praises in your temple.

Refrain

- O my soul, why are you grieving,
why disquieted in me?
Put your hope in God, believing
he will still your refuge be.
I again shall praise his grace
for the comfort of his face;
he will show his help and favour,
for he is my God and Saviour.
3. From the land beyond the Jordan
in my grief I think of you;
from the foothills of Mount Hermon
I will still remember you.
As the waters plunge and leap,
stormy troubles o’er me sweep.
Day and night God’s song is with me
as a prayer to him who loves me.

6. Send your light and truth to lead me:
send them forth to be my guide.
To your mountain let them bring me,
to the place where you reside.
Then, O God, I will come near
and before your throne appear,
to my Saviour praises bringing
with the harp and joyful singing.

Words: Psalter Hymnal, 1987, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

Children's message

Call to confession — “Jesus, are you the Coming One we are waiting for?”
— Luke 7:11-23 (ISV)

¹¹ Soon afterwards, Jesus went to a city called Nain. His disciples and a large crowd were going along with him. ¹² As he approached the entrance to the city, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only living son, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her.

¹³ When the Lord saw her, he felt compassion for her. He told her, “You can stop crying.” ¹⁴ Then he went up and touched the bier, and the men who were carrying it stopped. Jesus said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” ¹⁵ The man who had been dead sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

¹⁶ Fear gripped everyone, and they began to praise God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said, and “God has helped his people.” ¹⁷ This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding countryside.

¹⁸ John's disciples told him about all these things. So John called two of his disciples ¹⁹ and sent them to the Lord to ask, “Are you the Coming One, or should we wait for someone else?”

²⁰ When the men had come to Jesus, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the Coming One, or should we wait for someone else?’”

²¹ At that time Jesus had healed many people of diseases, plagues, and evil spirits, and had given sight to many who

were blind. ²² So he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have observed and heard: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear again, the dead are raised, and the destitute hear the good news. ²³ How blessed is anyone who is not offended by me!”

Prayer of confession — Dr. Brian Walsh

Song of dedication — LUYH 278 — *The City Is Alive, God*
— John Meiboom

1. The city is alive, O God,
with sound of hustling feet,
with rapid change and flashing lights
that pulse through every street;
but oft there's inhumanity
behind the bright facade,
and throngs with empty, hungry hearts
cry out for help, O God.
2. Is it your will, O loving God,
that races live in strife,
that loneliness and greed and hate
should mark a city's life?
Do you desire one person's wealth
to keep another poor?
Must crime and slums and lust abound?
O Lord, is there no cure?
3. In Galilee the people heard
your servant Christ declare
through healing touch, through word and cross,
the good news of your care.
He said your heart touched every heart
that longed for peace and right,
that those bowed down by burdens borne
could find your life, your light.

4. O God, inspire your church today
to take Christ's servant role,
to love the world, to hear its claims
to sense its yearning soul,
to live within the marketplace,
to serve both weak and strong,
to lose itself, to share its dream,
to give the world its song.

Words: William W. Reid, Jr., alt. © 1969 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company

Prayers of God's people — Sarah Moghadam

Virtual Offering Plate

1st Offering, Church Ministries, by cheque to the church or by online banking at any one of the 5 big banks, DUCA and Tangerine.

2nd Offering, Mission Aviation Fellowship, by cheque to the church.

Prayer for illumination — Dr. Brian Walsh

Scripture reading — Isaiah 65:17-25 (NIV) — Dr. Brian Walsh

¹⁷ "See, I will create
new heavens and a new earth.

The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind.

¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I will create,

for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight
and its people a joy.

¹⁹ I will rejoice over Jerusalem
and take delight in my people;
the sound of weeping and of crying
will be heard in it no more.

²⁰ "Never again will there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not live out his years;
the one who dies at a hundred
will be considered accursed.

²¹ They will build houses and dwell in them;
they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²² No longer will they build houses and others live in them,
or plant and others eat.

For as the days of a tree,
so will be the days of my people;
my chosen ones will long enjoy
the work of their hands.

²³ They will not labour in vain,
nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune;
for they will be a people blessed by the LORD,
they and their descendants with them.

²⁴ Before they call I will answer;
while they are still speaking I will hear.

²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will feed together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox,
and dust will be the serpent's food.

They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,"
says the LORD.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon — *"Humming in the Darkness"* — Dr. Brian Walsh

Songs of response — LUYH 551 — *All Creatures of Our God and King*
— Leanne Chuba, John Meiboom, Liese van Lingen

1. All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice with us and sing:
alleluia, alleluia!
O burning sun with golden beam,
and shining moon with silver gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
2. O rushing wind so wild and strong,
white clouds that sail in heaven along,
alleluia, alleluia!
New rising dawn in praise rejoice;
you lights of evening find a voice:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
3. Cool flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear:
alleluia, alleluia!
Fierce fire, so masterful and bright,
providing us with warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
4. Earth ever fertile, day by day
bring forth your blessings on our way;
alleluia, alleluia!
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,
let them his glory also show:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
5. All you who are of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part;
alleluia, alleluia!
All you who pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and on him cast your care:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6. Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
alleluia, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Words: Francis of Assisi, 1225; tr. William H. Draper, c. 1910, alt., P.D.

Benediction — Dr. Brian Walsh

Prayer Requests:

Pray for Ashkan Razaghi to be reunited with his wife and daughter who are back home. May the Lord bring his family back together soon, and comfort him while he waits.

Pray for families who are separated by borders and seas to be reunited.

Pray for everyone who needs to get a COVID-19 test, that they are able to do so safely, and get results in a timely manner.

Please continue to pray for all our essential workers in health care, and other vital services to our community, *especially as they prepare for the second wave, and flu season.*

Please continue to pray for the staff and residents of Holland Christian Homes, and all care homes dealing with the challenges of COVID-19. More information may be found at: <http://www.hch.ca/latest-hch-covid-19-updates/>.

Please pray for our church council - elders, deacons, ministry teams and committees, Operations Team, and staff as they continue to navigate this pandemic reality.

Please pray for the Pastor Calling Committee as they continue their search for a new pastor for Willowdale CRC.

Please pray for our 2nd offering cause: Mission Aviation Fellowship. Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) is an international, Christian relief and development organization that serves God through aviation and technology. MAF flights are used by organizations such as World Renew, Resonate Global Mission and Wycliffe Bible translators to reach isolated people with God's love through word and deed. For more information visit www.mafc.org.

If you have a prayer request or praise report to share on this page please contact Alana, an elder, or a deacon.

Thank you!:

A big thank you to everyone who stopped by the church on Thanksgiving Day to drop off donations for The Lighthouse food bank! We were blessed with many bags and boxes of food, as well as monetary donations for The Lighthouse.

A special thank you to Joanne and Syd Sytsma for providing us with 45 floral arrangements to share (a wonderful surprise)! Everyone was able to take one home after dropping off a donation!

After a fun time of collection, an impromptu delivery team safely delivered the remaining arrangements to homes in the neighbourhood (thank you team - you know who you are!)

Prayer for WCRC Pastor Search:

Please join a Zoom call on Thursday, November 5 from 7:30-8:00 p.m. to pray for the search for our next pastor. The zoom link will be sent to the congregation a few days prior to the call. Please contact Suanne Miedema if you have any questions.

URGENT Bookkeeper Required – Volunteer:

We are looking for someone to fill the role of Bookkeeper on a volunteer basis. The Bookkeeper plays an important role in ensuring regular invoice entry to support the timely payment of bills and recording in the accounting system and supporting the Treasurer. Duties currently include entry of all regular utility bills, supplier invoices, visiting minister entries and other bookkeeping items. Additional duties which would further assist the volunteer Treasurer might include invoicing ministry shares and second collection payments, cheque issuance, monthly bank reconciliations, etc. Exact duties will be tailored to the individual depending on experience and time availability.

Existing hours of work would be approximately 1.5 – 2 hours per week and are flexible. Depending on the final duties agreed with the individual it might involve more time. The work can be done mainly from home using Quickbooks online software. Full training will be provided and can be done virtually via zoom meetings. If interested please contact Mark VanHelden, Treasurer, at 647-808-8264 or mvh@rogers.com.

Birthday this week:

October 19 — Henry E.

October 23 — Mahmoud S.

October 24 — Sepehr B. N.

Preaching Schedule:

October 25 — Dr. Peter Schuurman — Lord's Supper

November 1 — Rev. Lesli van Milligen

November 8 — Rev. Lesli van Milligen

November 15 — Pastor Syd Hielema

November 22 — Dr. Peter Schuurman

November 29 — Rev. Lesli van Milligen — Lord's Supper

Weekly Zoom Events – Join us!:

- Worship Service – Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m.
- Bible Study – Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m., contact Hye-jin Im or Rob Datema
- Singing Gathering – Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m., contact Hye-jin Im
- Bible Study – Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Contact Suzanne Christie
- Bible Study – Wednesday mornings at 7:00 a.m., contact Rob Datema
- College & Careers Virtual Pizza & Board Games – Wednesday evenings at 8:00 p.m., contact Jennifer Dekker or Suanne Miedema
- Farsi Fellowship – Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., contact Sylvie Charliekaram

Zoom Video Conferencing is available for your small group, Bible study, or special visits with friends for free through the church Zoom account. To book your Zoom gathering please contact Jennifer Dekker (jenniferandekker@gmail.com).

