

AND THE TABLE WILL BE WIDE

And the table
will be wide.
And the welcome
will be wide.
And the arms
will open wide
to gather us in.
And our hearts
will open wide
to receive.

And we will come
as children who trust
there is enough.
And we will come
unhindered and free.
And our aching
will be met
with bread.
And our sorrow
will be met
with wine.

And we will open our hands
to the feast
without shame.
And we will turn
toward each other
without fear.
And we will give up
our appetite
for despair.
And we will taste
and know
of delight.

And we will become bread
for a hungry world.
And we will become drink
for those who thirst.
And the blessed
will become the blessing.
And everywhere
will be the feast.



Welcome to Willowdale Christian Reformed Church

January 10, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday after the Epiphany

Forty-fifth ZOOM service in the time of COVID-19

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

Welcome and God's greeting — Rev. Lesli van Milligen

Call to worship — The Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1, John 17:23
— Rev. Lesli van Milligen

Leader: People of God, what is your only comfort in life and in death?

All: That I am not my own, but belong—
body and soul, in life and in death—
to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.

He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven:

in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him,
Christ, by his Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life
and makes me wholeheartedly willing
and ready from now on to live for him.

Leader: Arise, all you who have died to live again forever, come to Jesus.

In complete unity, let us worship our God, for Jesus is in us
and God the Father is in Jesus. Let us show the world that
the Father loves us even as He loves Jesus.

Song of praise — LUYH 103 — *Arise, Shine, for Your Light Is Come*
— Pastors Tom and Lesli van Milligen

1. Behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the people,
but the LORD shall arise upon you and
his glory shall be seen upon you.

Refrain

Arise, shine, for your light is come,
and the glory of the LORD is risen.
O arise, shine, for your light is come,
and the glory of the LORD is upon you.

2. The nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
And they shall call you the city of the LORD,
O Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Refrain

3. Lift up your eyes round about and see;
all gather themselves together;
and they shall come, your sons from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried at your side.

Refrain

4. Then you shall see and be filled with joy,
and your heart shall thrill with rejoicing.
The abundance of the sea will be brought unto you,
and the wealth of the nations unto you.

Refrain

5. The sun shall no more be your light by day,
nor moon your light by night,
for the LORD shall be your everlasting light,
and the days of your mourning shall be ended.

Refrain

Words: Isaiah 60:1-5, 14, 20; para. Eric Glass, 1974 (ren.), alt., © 1995
Warner/Chappell Music Canada Ltd. , admin. Alfred Music Publishing Co., Inc.

- Call to confession** — Jesus' prayer for his followers
— John 17:6-11, 22-26 (NIV)
— Gerard Duiker, Tom van Milligen

⁶ “I have revealed you, [Father], to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

²⁰ “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴ “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

²⁵ “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

Prayer of confession — Rev. Lesli van Milligen

Assurance of forgiveness — Rev. Lesli van Milligen

Children's message — Sarah Moghadam

Song of dedication — LUYH 908 — *Christ, Be Our Light*
— Pastors Tom and Lesli van Milligen

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your Word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Refrain

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Refrain

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Refrain

5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Refrain

Words: Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957) © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications

Prayer of God's people — Jennifer Dekker

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, Toronto City Mission, by cheque to the church.

Prayer for illumination — Rev. Lesli van Milligen

Scripture reading — 1 John 1:1-2:2 (NIV) — Rev. Lesli van Milligen

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ²The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴We write this to make our joy complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

2 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon — *Belonging to Christ: Sharing Fellowship, Light and Forgiveness* — Rev. Lesli van Milligen

Song of response — LUYH 682 — *Before the Throne of God Above*
— Pastors Tom and Lesli van Milligen

1. Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
a great High Priest whose name is Love,
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.
2. When Satan tempts me to despair
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God the Just is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.
3. Behold him there! The risen Lamb,
my perfect, spotless righteousness;
the great unchangeable "I AM,"
the King of glory and of grace!
One with himself I cannot die,
my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God.

Words: Charitie Lees DeCheney Bancroft (1841-1923), P.D.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper — Rev. Lesli van Milligen

Apostles' Creed — in English and Farsi

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

من ایمان دارم به خدای پدر قادر مطلق، خالق آسمان و زمین، و به
پسر یگانه او خداوند ما عیسی مسیح که به واسطه روح القدس در
رحم قرار گرفت و از مریم باکره متولد شد و در حکومت پنطیوس
پیلطس الم کشید و مصلوب شده بمرد و مدفون گردید، و به عالم
ارواح نزول کرد و در روز سوم از مردگان برخاست، به آسمان
صعود نموده و به دست راست خدای پدر قادر مطلق نشسته است و
از آنجا خواهد آمد و زندگان و مردگان را داوری نماید و من ایمان
دارم به روح القدس و به کلیسای مقدس جامع و به شرکت مقدسین و
به امرزش گناهان و به قیامت ابدان و به حیات جاودان. آمین

Benediction — Rev. Lesli van Milligen

Prayer Requests:

Pray for all our Willowdale students of all ages as they continue their studies at home until at least January 25.

Please pray for the staff and residents of Holland Christian Homes. Harry A. is in Faith Manor and doing well. More information may be found at: <http://www.hch.ca/latest-hch-covid-19-updates/>.

Please pray for those who are experiencing financial hardship due to the latest COVID-19 lockdown in Toronto. Lord give us the courage to ask for help when we need it.

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 can do so safely, and get results in a timely manner.

Pray for the safe distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, praise the Lord that vaccinations are happening in Ontario.

Please continue to pray for all our essential workers in health care, and other vital services to our community, *especially as they cope with the second wave of COVID-19*.

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: Toronto City Mission. Toronto City Mission has been reaching out to the poor in the city of Toronto since 1879. The missionaries and volunteers live and work in five communities in Toronto, including Willowtree Housing on Willowdale Avenue, offering programs such as after-school tutoring, mentoring, employment counselling, high school equivalency classes, women's Bible studies, children's choirs, youth groups, and March Break and summer day camps, sharing the love and hope of Christ to help break cycles of poverty. See www.torontocitymission.com.

Birthdays this week:

January 14 — Ann G

January 15 — Fred d. J.

Preaching Schedule & Learning Resource:

From Pastor Lesli:

This week we begin our study of the book of 1 John. I am including a chapter from another great resource that students of scripture will find useful in their Bible study: [How to Read the Bible through the Jesus Lens by Michael Williams.](#)

I am praying that this will be a rich experience for our entire community.

January 17 — Pastor Syd Hielema — I John 2:3-11, Love one another: Love that comes from Knowing God

January 24 — Rev. Lesli van Milligen — I John 2:18-28, Love one another: Love that comes from Hoping in Christ

Farsi Fellowship:

Farsi Fellowship Zoom meetings are held on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Translations will be provided if need be. Contact Sylvie Charliekaram for more information (sylvieckaram@gmail.com).

مشارکت فارسی زبان و مطالعه کتاب مقدس، پنجشنبه ها از ساعت ۷ الی ۹.
از طریق زوم برقرار می باشد

New Fellowship Starting Next Week - The Chosen!:

Starting on **January 15, 2021** we will begin a new online fellowship similar to the way we did Alpha earlier this year. This time, we will watch an episode of The Chosen - a new series that documents the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. We will watch an episode in English with Farsi subtitles, and have small group discussions afterwards. We hope many of you will be able to join us on alternating Friday evenings starting on **Friday, January 15 at 7:30 p.m.!**

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
- **The Chosen** – Starting on January 15 on alternate Friday nights, contact Jennifer Dekker.

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 (jenniferanndekker@gmail.com).

Willowdale CRC Ward Elders and Deacons:

Moore Park Ward

(North of Drewry Ave./Cummer Ave. and west of Leslie St. south of Steeles Ave; Yonge St. north of Steeles Ave.)

Elders: Corrie Vanderhoef and Sarah Moghadam

Deacons: Suzanne Christie and Ashkan Razaghi

Branson Ward

(South of Drewry Ave./Cummer Ave. and west of Leslie St. plus Brampton and Mississauga)

Elders: Rob Datema and John Meiboom

Deacons: Nell de Boer and Kyle Pippel

Markham Ward

(East of Yonge St. for region north of Steeles Ave.; east of Leslie St. south of Steeles Ave.)

Elders: Jennifer Dekker, Sylvie Charliekaram and Nasser Zand

Deacons: Peter Grauds and Joyce McBride

For the contact information for your Ward Elders and/or Deacons, please email Alana at office@willowdalecrc.com or alana.yoneyama@willowdalecrc.com

