

Order of Worship: Sunday, November 10, 2024

Peace Sunday

10:00 am – In-person worship

Pastor: Jim Brown

Worship theme: Today the day before our country's Remembrance Day is our Peace Sunday. It's a day to reflect on Peace from a Christian perspective and not just how our culture or our country looks at and works at or fails to work at peace. A good place for us to start is to reflect on how God works at peace in the Bible. What can we learn from this? What can we hope for from this?

Prelude

Welcome & Call to worship

Opening prayer

Opening Hymn: #582 HWB – Guide me O Thou great Jehovah

Prayer of Confession/Affirmation

Scripture: Luke 19:37-44 (NIV) *When He came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples!" "I tell you," He replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."*

As He approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."

Hymn: #580 HWB –My life flows on

Scripture: Revelation 6 (NIV) *Brenda –I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest. When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other. To him was given a large sword.*

When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "Two pounds of wheat for a day's wages, and six pounds of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!"

When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood? Then each of them was given

a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.

I watched as He opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?"

Message: *How God works at peace ~ Pastor Jim*

Hymn of Response: #407 HWB – We are people of God’s peace

Sharing and Congregational Prayer
Announcements

Offering

Closing Hymn: #371 HWB – Let there be light

Benediction

Please join us downstairs for sermon discussion/coffee time

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**Announcements**

*\*\*Thank you to our family, church family and our friends for celebrating our 60th wedding anniversary with us. Thanks for the beautiful cards, gifts and well wishes we received. You are all such a blessing and very special to us. Hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did.  
Floris & Wayne*

**The Prime Ministers Path** has been a controversial issue in Wilmot Township. The time has come for the community to get fully engaged in a process to determine what should happen next. Plan to attend the first community gathering on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 from 4:30 to 8 p.m. at the Wilmot Recreation Complex.

**The Wilmot Ecumenical Working Group** on Indigenous/Settler Relationships hopes to see you on Thursday, November 14, 2024 7 p.m. at Zion United Church, 215 Peel Street, New Hamburg for the free screening of **Walking Through The Fire**. This special film is a collaboration with award winning Indigenous artists from across Canada and 6x Canadian Folk Music Award winners The Sultans of String. This trailer will give you a glimpse of what you will experience. <https://youtu.be/wWSZUduo5Kk>  
There are limited seats, so register now at <https://walkingwilmot.eventbrite.ca>  
Questions? Contact [ecumenicalworkinggroup@gmail.com](mailto:ecumenicalworkinggroup@gmail.com)

**The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Makers Market** will be happening at Steinmann Mennonite Church (1316 Snyder’s Rd. W. Baden) on Saturday, November 16, 2024 from 9 am to 2 pm. You are invited to attend and peruse 35+ local vendors’ homemade items as well as, the popular, Ten Thousand Villages and Raw Carrot. (A great opportunity to support local artisans **and** find that perfect gift). Soup lunch will be served at 11 am. For more information, see the attached poster. Hope to see you there!

**Rockway Mennonite Collegiate will hold their Annual General Meeting Wednesday, November 20 at 7:30 pm on ZOOM.** All are welcome to attend. To see if you’re eligible to vote or to RSVP for the Zoom link, visit our [AGM webpage](#). Membership applications are due Monday, November 11.

**The Annual Advent Ecumenical Prayer and Song service is on Sunday, December 1st.** We will be celebrating with our Christian brothers and sisters from the Mennonite, Lutheran and Salvation Army churches. Please join us at St. Agatha RC Church at 6:30 when the Salvation Army musicians will begin our service with an instrumental prelude. Scripture, prayers and hymns will begin at 7pm. Following the ecumenical service, everyone is invited to continue our fellowship as we gather for coffee/tea and treats in the church hall. Treats will be provided by the St. Agatha RC Parish this year. If you are interested in being a member of the Ecumenical Mass Choir, please reach out to Tracy Weber ( email gtweber@sympatico.ca ) in order to receive details about our 3 Saturday morning choir rehearsals. ( Nov 16, 23, 30, 9-10:30 am) We would love to have you join us in preparing music, as well as preparing our hearts for the upcoming Advent season.

**Wilmot Ignited Christmas Choir** will be performing at three events over the Christmas season:

1. Sunday, December 1, 7:30 pm - Christmas Chorale Concert hosted by Steinmann Mennonite Church, all are welcome
2. Thursday, December 12, 7:00 pm - WI Christmas Program at Nithview Home auditorium
3. Sunday, December 29, 10:00 am - Joint WI service at Wilmot Mennonite Church, featuring the WI Christmas Choir

**Lebanon Emergency Response.** With the escalating violence in Lebanon, people's lives are in danger and the need for basic necessities is great. MCC partners have mobilized in central Lebanon and Beirut to help, providing meals, hygiene items, bedding, health services, hot meals and psychosocial support for children. Every donation made by Canadians to a Humanitarian Coalition member is matched to a maximum of \$3 million until November 3, 2024. MCC participates in the Humanitarian Coalition through our membership in Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Donate today 888.622.6337 [mcc.org/lebanonemergency](http://mcc.org/lebanonemergency)

### **Upcoming Worship Services:**

Nov 10: Pastor Jim

Nov 17: Fred Lichti

Nov 24: Pastor Jim - Annual Memorial service to remember those who have died

**This year's Wilmot Ignite long weekend services** are as follows:

Dec 29: hosted by Wilmot

### **Future events**

**\*Thanks to all who helped in the spring cleaning of the foyer, office and sanctuary!**

**The basement cleaning is on hold until construction of the ramp is completed.**

Nov 17: Potluck lunch and congregational meeting to disburse funds

Dec. 1. 7 pm.: First Advent Joint service at St Agatha Roman Catholic church

Dec.22: Christmas potluck & then carolling

## **House of Friendship**

Victoria St. N., Kitchener, ON

John's Story

Dear Friend,

**Do you remember how hard you have to work  
to stay warm on the coldest days of winter?**

**I do, because I lived in my car.**

I had a routine. Every night, I would start by lighting candles. I would put foam around every window, to keep the heat in, and then I would wear a snowsuit to bed. I'd run the car as long as it felt safe, and I was sure to put out the candles before falling asleep. It was a nightly routine that I wouldn't wish upon anyone.

**Even with all this work, I could only sleep for a few hours at a time. It was so cold –  
the kind of numbing cold where you could see your breath in front of your face.**

During the day, I would do my best to find places to stay warm. I'd go to a coffee shop, and buy a small coffee – the most I could afford. I would stay as long as I could before I would get the looks from staff and customers that told me it was time to leave. And I would dread the thought of having to venture back out into frigid temperatures.

**My name is John, and I know what it's like to be homeless. I know how scary it is to not know where I'm going to sleep at night, and what tomorrow will bring.**

I'm one of the lucky ones – my path took me to House of Friendship's ShelterCare program. There, 100 guys like me get help every day in this shelter that comes with onsite health care, mental health, and addiction support. Here, we get the chance to leave homelessness behind for good by starting our journeys in a place that's warm and supportive.

**Today, I hope that by sharing my story with you, a critical member of the House of Friendship family, you'll find it in your heart to help another man like me. Please consider your most generous gift today to ensure there's always a warm bed ready for people who have nowhere else to go.**

I never expected to be homeless. I worked hard for 25 years, driving a forklift. I made a decent living. I was married, had a nice house, and was raising my children. Everything seemed fine, until my marriage suddenly ended. I was shocked and life changed in a heartbeat.

I suddenly found myself out on the street, and I had nowhere to go. I stayed with my sister for a bit, but I couldn't sleep on her couch forever. Our family home was put up for sale, but since we still owed money on the mortgage, there wasn't much money left over when we eventually sold our house.

It was enough, though, to start paying rent for a house in downtown Kitchener. It was the first time I paid rent in decades, and I was in for a shock. Everything was so much more expensive than I remember.

By this time, my daughter had come to live with me, and between the cost of groceries and our rent, we soon started falling behind. After a little over a year of struggling, we were evicted.

My daughter was able to go back home with her mom, but I had run out of options. The only safe place I had left was my car. It was February.

**Can you imagine what that feels like? To know you have nowhere to go, after spending years building a family and a life that felt safe and certain? I was 54 years old and homeless. There's nothing quite like that fear.**

At first, I still went to work. I was grasping so hard to keep the life I knew. I was allowed to park my car at work, and I would go in early, to give myself time to warm up.

But not being able to sleep for more than two hours at a time made it impossible to work. I just couldn't keep up. It wasn't long before I started making mistakes, before accidents started to happen. I wasn't really surprised when I lost my job.

Even though my sister wasn't able to have me at her house, she was concerned, and found out about some services in the community. I found out where I could get a shower, and where I could get a meal or two. I was so grateful for these moments of respite, these moments where I could catch my breath.

**But it wasn't the same as having a safe place to live.**

It was eight months before I found that safe place. I felt so lucky when I ended up at House of Friendship's ShelterCare program.

**For the first time in nearly a year, I had a bed of my own. I had a safe place in my room to put my belongings, and I could have a shower whenever I needed one. I also had people to talk to. People who cared and who listened.**

It was so wonderful to have four solid walls around me, to know I had a place to stay. But I soon learned that there was more than just a roof at ShelterCare.

I enjoyed activities like Coffee and Conversation, held a few times a week. It was a chance to get to know other guys in the shelter, and hear their stories. It felt good to know I wasn't alone.

There were workers who could help me find an apartment – and fill out all the forms that come with getting on the subsidized housing wait list. It's like a foreign language – one that I never thought that I'd have to learn.

I also really appreciated that there was a health care clinic on site. I didn't have to find a doctor, and for the first time in nearly a year, I could get the insulin I needed to treat my diabetes.

As I started to feel healthier, I began volunteering. It felt good to give back. It also kept my mind occupied. When I was done sweeping the hall or tidying up the dining room, I felt like I'd accomplished something that day.

I had almost forgotten what that felt like to have a purpose

It also felt good to have caring staff to talk to – there was Michaela, a counsellor who had her own office, but also spent time with all of us during some of the activities at the shelter.

**I started feeling a little bit more like myself as I opened up and shared my story with Michaela and other staff. It felt good to talk to people.**

And Michaela saw my potential – I ended up sharing my story on a video that was used to help train new staff, and I got other chances to give back.

**But everywhere I looked, I saw other guys like me who were homeless. And I saw how much they were struggling.**

A lot of the men in the program have problems with addiction or their mental health.

There were times they turned to me, as well as staff. I remember staying up all night long talking to one of the guys.

It made me realize just how big a problem homelessness is. There are 100 guys in ShelterCare all the time – and just as soon as someone gets a place to live, someone else moves in to fill that empty space.

**I am thankful to not be out there this winter – to not have to find different ways to warm up when the temperature is below 30 degrees. But I know the tents on Victoria Street and Weber are still out there, and there are other guys just like me who need a place to stay. Need someone to care about them. And we really need your help.**

I know that it's only because of people like you that I was able to finally come out of the cold. Your generosity makes it possible for guys like me to get a fresh start, and I could not be more grateful for you.

**Today, please consider the most generous gift you can afford, to help get another guy out of the cold – and to give him the help he needs to begin again.**

Before I became homeless, I usually avoided the people I saw on the street. Frankly, they scared me a little. And while I don't think I ever judged them, I know I didn't spend a whole lot of time thinking about homeless people. It was easier to look away.

**Before it happened to me, I never knew how easy it was to end up on the street. And how much it hurts to be judged for something out of your control. Can you imagine what it is like, to be 54 years old and have no place to live? To become that person that no one will make eye contact with?**

When I was living in my car, and hanging out in coffee shops or malls to try and get warm, people stared at me. It was hard for me to keep my clothes clean, and I probably didn't look my best. I always felt like people were looking down at me.

It was hard to feel their eyes on me, hard to feel like I didn't belong. Or worse, that I was invisible,

**But I know that you feel differently – otherwise, why would you still be reading this**

**letter? I'm glad to know that there's still kindness in the world. Every time I look at the walls around me, I remember that and what you made possible.**

I want to end with this thought. You may not know how much of a difference you make when you support ShelterCare. I'm pretty sure I would still be homeless. Actually, I'm not even sure I'd still be alive without someone like you.

You might be saving a life with your donation today. I hope you know what a difference you make.

I'm thankful for caring, compassionate people like you.

John

ShelterCare participant

**P.S. Your donation today means more than you know. Please consider making a lifechanging gift today to help more men like me!**