

*“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”*

**Niagara United Mennonite Church**

March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016

~ Good Friday ~

**Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.**

**Gathering**

Kathy Rempel

**Call to Worship**

Stephen Cox

Offering Focus- Christian Witness

“O sacred Head, now wounded” HWB 252 v. 1, 3 &

“O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden” v. 1

Congregation

**Proclamation**

“He gave himself”

Ensemble

Scripture: John 18, pew Bible p. 1049-1050

John Epp

“Child Jesus in His garden fair”

**“An Extreme Measure for an Extreme Problem”**

Pastor Rudy Dirks

“So much wrong” StS #84

Scripture: John 19, pew Bible p. 1050-1052

John Epp

“Call to Remembrance”

**Communion**

“Jesus, priceless treasure”

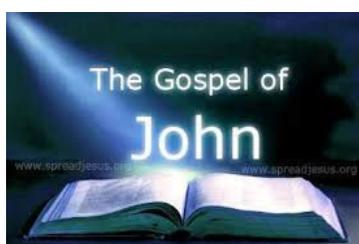
“When I survey”

Organ-Piano Duet

**Sending**

“Mary to the Saviour’s tomb”

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*“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”* expresses our desire to share our faith and love of Jesus Christ with all we meet. We welcome you and hope that your time with us will be enjoyable and enlightening. Families with children are invited to worship together with us in the service. For children 5 years old or younger who are not able to sit through the church service, there is a nursery downstairs, or a glassed-in room behind the sanctuary where you may sit with your baby and still follow the service. If you feel a sense of belonging, you are most welcome to be with us. Talk to us about how you can participate.  
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***“What Does it Look Like When God moves into your Neighbourhood?”***

John, known as the “beloved disciple” because of his close relationship with Jesus, wrote the last of the four gospel accounts of Jesus life. While each of the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) add their own unique perspective on Jesus, John stands out from the other three. By the time John writes several decades have passed since Jesus returned to

heaven, and legends and distortions about Jesus had become common (sort of like the legends that develop around famous current figures like John F. Kennedy or Elvis Presley). John, writing many years after the others, gives much more explanation and interpretation of Jesus’ life. Much of John is a record of the teachings of Jesus.

John was in a privileged position to write his gospel. He was a witness to everything that he recorded; *“This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true”* (John 21:24). Guided by the Holy Spirit, he gave generations of people the opportunity to understand the “big picture” of God’s purpose in sending Jesus into this world. As John puts it, his purpose in writing was *“that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you have life in his name”*.

Between now and Easter, we will explore the first part of this gospel in our Sunday morning messages.

I invite each one of you to read the Bible passage in the week before each message (the passages will be listed in the bulletin). Pray over the passage as you read it and ask the Spirit to show you what God wants you to see. I will do the best I can, in God's power, to preach the passage, but the greatest work happens when you open your heart to the Spirit of God and receive what God shows you.

Jan. 10	<i><b>"When God Moves In"</b></i>	John 1:1-18
Jan. 17	<i><b>"Wine for Weddings"</b></i>	John 2:1-11
Jan. 24	<i><b>"For God so LOVES the World"</b></i>	John 3:1-21
Jan. 31	<i><b>"Going back to the well"</b></i>	John 4:1-30
Feb. 7	<i><b>"When religion keeps us from God"</b></i>	John 5:1-15
Feb. 14	<i><b>"Eat.Sleep.Live"</b></i>	John 6:1-15
Feb. 28	<i><b>"Don't Judge by Outward Appearances"</b></i>	John 7:53-8:11
Mar. 6	<i><b>"The Apple Doesn't Fall Far From the Tree"</b></i>	John 8:31-59
Mar. 13	<i><b>"Open Your Eyes"</b></i>	John 9:1-41
Mar. 20	<i><b>"The answer to the question"</b></i>	John 12:20-36
Mar. 25	<i><b>"An Extreme Measure for an Extreme Problem"</b></i>	
	John 18 & 19	
Mar. 27	<i><b>"Hope Rising"</b></i>	John 20:1-18

\*If you have missed any of these messages, they are available for you on our church website. Please contact the office for any questions on how to access these.

**Live Streaming Privacy Notice** – Our church services are live streamed over the internet, capturing the stage and up to the front half of the church in the picture that is transmitted. We encourage all ages to sit towards the front of the church to showcase our lively and active congregation! Thanks for your support.