

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, March 10, 2024
4th Sunday in Lent
Rev. Gary Patterson
The Ministry of the Congregation

A Warm Welcome to everyone worshipping with us today at Waterford United Church. May this time together be a blessing to you as you pause to praise God, to give thanks and to gather spiritual strength for the coming week.

Please join us for **Coffee Hour and Fellowship Time** after the service.

GATHERING
WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Friends, we are invited to journey through this season of Lent towards the One who calls us each by a new name. We will walk with Jesus wherever he leads us, pulling our fears, our doubts, our longings, behind us. Believers, we seek to trust the God who always surprises us, whose promises take on flesh and blood in the good news called Jesus.

LIGHT THE CHRIST CANDLE

LENT CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

One: The events of Lent and our own personal reflections constantly remind us that no matter where we are or what has happened, God is here and will help us if we ask.

All: **Today, we hear about a son who was lost and a father who finds him.**

One: This happens when the son finds the humility to admit his mistakes and ask his father for help.

All: **How much more our Mother/Father God will help us if we honestly admit our mistakes and accept God's unconditional forgiveness.**

(Extinguish the fourth candle.)

GATHERING HYMN: Come and Find the Quiet Centre

VU #374

OPENING PRAYER:

Lord, as we gather here, on this day of sharing, remind us that you have shared with us your most precious gift, our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to model our lives after his messages of compassion and service to you and to all your world. In Christ's Name, we offer this prayer. Amen

CHORAL RESPONSE: Forty Days and Forty Nights (vs. 1)
Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.

VU #114

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURES:

Brian Holden

1st SCRIPTURE: Psalm 107 Part 1

VU #831

Refrain: "O give thanks to God for steadfast love."

One: O give thanks, for God is gracious;

All: **God's steadfast love endures for ever.**

One: Let the redeemed of God say so, those redeemed from trouble,

All: **whom God gathered in from the lands,**

One: from the east and the west,

All: **from the north and the south. (R)**

One: Some lost their way in desert wastes, finding no place to settle;

All: **hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.**

One: Then they cried to you, God, in their trouble; you rescued them from their distress.

All: **You led them by a straight path, till they reached a place to settle.**

One: Let them thank you, O God for your steadfast love, for the wonders you do for us.

All: **For you satisfy the thirsty, and fill the hungry with good things. (R)**

2nd SCRIPTURE: John 3: 14 - 21

MUSIC MINISTRY: Azrael Hackshaw

MESSAGE

HYMN: What a Friend We Have in Jesus

VU #664

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING

We are created in Christ Jesus for good works, and this is his gift to us. Let us now do the loving, good work of giving our gifts back to him. Let us bring our gifts of thanksgiving to celebrate his deeds and his wonderful works to humankind.

Offertory: Giver of the Perfect Gift (vs. 1) VU #116

*Giver of the perfect gift, only hope of human race,
Hear the prayer our hearts uplift, gathered at thy throne of grace.*

Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, you loved us so much you gave and gave and held nothing back, not even your precious Son. We offer these humble gifts back to you, but more than these we offer ourselves. Use us as your arms to comfort those who suffer, as your voice to speak for victims of injustice and oppression, as your feet that bring the good news of your love and grace to those who need it so. May every gift be pleasing in your sight. We pray in the name of our Rock and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung) VU #960

WE ARE SENT FORTH AS GOD'S PEOPLE

HYMN: Jesus Christ is Waiting VU # 117

BENEDICTION : As God has shared the best with you, now you are challenged to go forth to share your blessings with others. May the peace and love of God go with you always. AMEN.

SUNG BLESSING: O Jesus, I Have Promised (vs. 1) VU #120

*O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
Remain forever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.*

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

March 10, 2024

Worship Leader: Rev. Gary Patterson

Music: Azrael Hackshaw



4th Sunday in Lent

Today we are gathered in the traditional territories of several indigenous nations with gratitude. As settlers, we take on the responsibility of learning about historic and current relationships, and our desire to engage in building right relations. We are also mindful of broken covenant, and the need to commit ourselves to deep reconciliation and healing.

The Waterford United Church is a place where everyone is welcome regardless of their ability, age, class, ethnicity, gender, race, or sexual orientation.

Church Phone: 519-443-5261

Church Webpage: www.waterfordunitedchurch.org

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Church Bookings, Cori Angus 519-443-8212 or 519-802-2401



WELCOME AND THANK YOU

to Rev. Gary Patterson for leading in Worship today.

FREE SOUP SUPPER – Wednesday, March 13 at 5 p.m. All are welcome!

OUTREACH SOUP LUNCH will follow the service on next Sunday, March 17. Donations gratefully received. Please help support Outreach initiatives. Last month's Soup Lunch donations of \$125 went to support Waterford Public School's grade 4 swim program.

PASTORAL CARE – as we work toward a change in ministry, we are grateful that Rev. Allan Burr and Rev. Gary Patterson are available **for emergent pastoral care**. However, if you know of someone who needs a phone call or visit, please let us know by calling the office.

OUTDOOR FOOD PANTRY – a gentle reminder that the Outreach Committee invites you to help stock the pantry with your donations. Items requested are: instant packets of oatmeal, dried and canned soups, sardines, corned beef, baby formula, ensure. Items with pull tabs are preferred.

LENT AND EASTER SERVICES

4 th Sunday of Lent	March 10 - 10:30 a.m. led by Rev. Gary Patterson
5 th Sunday of Lent	March 17 - 10:30 a.m. led by LLWL Peggy Guiler
Palm Sunday	March 24 - 10:30 a.m. led by LLWL Mae Bedford
Maundy Thursday	March 28 – 6:00 p.m. evening Seder (traditional Passover) Meal
Good Friday	March 29 - 10:30 a.m. led by Chris Savory
Easter Sunday Morning	March 31 - 10:30 a.m. led by Cori Angus

FREE CONCERT – Friday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m. featuring **Organist Joe Calverley**. Light refreshments will follow.

BOOK SALES – books are available in the gymnasium for a donation. Several new children's books have been received. Pick up your Spring reading material today!!

FAITH FORMATION THOUGHTS

Debra Leedham

In an interpretation of Ephesians 2, we can understand the Church as a group of people gathered to appreciate publicly their salvation. As part of their appreciation, they have committed to doing good works. Problems arise when human beings attempt to define what God means by good works.



A Traditional Passover Meal (Seder Meal) will be prepared and presented by Renee and Michael Jarvis on Maundy Thursday evening, March 28 at 6:00 p.m. Attendance is limited so **please RSVP to Cori or Diane**.

The evening begins with the story of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who recall their people's suffering and persecution as they were going out of Egypt.

This traditional meal will include readings, partaking in drinking 4 sips of wine, telling stories, eating special foods, singing, and other Passover traditions. Food includes wine (juice), vegetables dipped in salt water, matzah (cracker-like bread), bitter herbs (horseradish and romaine dipped in charoset, a paste of nuts, apples, pears and wine)

This meal will be followed with more familiar dishes to round out the Seder meal.