

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

Worship Service

June 16, 2024

Father's Day Sunday

WELCOME

SILENCE:

As we sit with our eyes closed and, in the silence, let us sense the Spirit of God moving among us, around us, between us, embracing each of us with love, gentleness and longing.

INTROIT: This is God's Wondrous World VU #296

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: As we gather together on this day, at this time, in this place

All: may we recognize and affirm:

One: the pieces of possibility,

All: the bits of good, we bring,

One: allowing our individual gifts

All: to weave a patchwork of celebration and justice.

Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.

(Christ candle is lit)

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

Calling God, you have gathered us into this community.

A place has been made for each of us. Let what we say and do here be real for us and honest to your creativity, and prepare us for the life of the world.

we ask this in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray: Our Father.....

OPENING HYMN: Great Is Thy Faithfulness VU #288

YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART TIME

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: God of the Bible MVU #28

SILENCE AS WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S LIVING WORD FOR US THIS DAY

One: The delight of a well-known story fills our hearts as we listen for its familiar end.

All: May we hear in these stories, familiar and new, both wisdom and meaning for the days ahead. SILENCE

THE SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 4: 26 - 34

THE MEDITATION: "Using Our Hands"

HYMN: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace VU #684

PRAYERS

One: Jesus used his hands to heal; to lift up; to bless; and to show kindness and tenderness in desolate lives.

All: Forgive us when we keep our hands at our sides when we could be reaching out in love.

One: Jesus used his hands to bear the burdens of others and to feed the hungry.

All: Forgive us when we use our hands to take care of ourselves without any thought for those who are hungry or overwhelmed with hardship.

One: Jesus used his hands to welcome and include those who were considered outcasts in the society of the time.

All: Forgive us when we clench our fists and exclude people simply because they are different from us.

One: Almighty and ever-faithful God

All: Forgive us for our lack of compassion. Forgive us for our reluctance to reach out our hands to people in real need. Help us to accept people as you accept them, as people made in your image and precious to you.

One: Please look at your hands. As you do so, thank God for all the good things that your hands have done over the years – the things you have made, the words you have written, the objects you have cleaned, the games you have played...

SILENCE

Now thank God for all the other hands that have done things for you over the years – parents, husbands or wives, children, grandchildren, friends, neighbours...

SILENCE

Now thank God for the kindnesses you have received from strangers: people you never knew who helped you – maybe someone who gave you a hand in the street, maybe someone who sorted out a problem for you by telephone.

SILENCE

Think about people you know who need Jesus' eyes, hands, feet or voice this week –Who will be Jesus' eyes, hands, feet or voice for them?

SILENCE

Think about people you don't know who need Jesus' eyes, hands, feet or voice this week – the sick, the distressed, the bereaved, the rejected, the unloved, those who do not love themselves.

They all need to see and to feel Jesus' love.

Who will be Jesus' eyes, hands, feet or voice for them?

SILENCE

Almighty and ever-faithful God – Open our hands and our hearts to love as Jesus loved and to care as Jesus cared. Strengthen us to include in our prayers and in our fellowship those who feel excluded because of such things as their race, their religion, their sexuality, their gender, their age, their handicap – whatever it is that creates barriers between people. Help us to accept people as you accept them, as people made in your image and precious to you. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen.

OFFERING:

DOXOLOGY: Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands (both verses) VU #570

OFFERING PRAYER:

Lord, this money is not payment for services rendered. These aren't our dues necessary for us to belong to this church. We know you made us with a purpose, and so now we give ... on purpose, freely offering to you the best of who we are. Please continue to work out your purpose in us. Make us your hands, outstretched, on purpose. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: For the Healing of the Nations

VU #678

CLOSING BLESSING:

We go now, as the Spirit of life has called us:

- to use our hands to bring grace
- to use our hands to bring truth
- to use our hands to bring peace
- to use our hands to bring forgiveness
- to use our hands to bring love
- to use our hands to bring healing

And may God who has carved your name in the palm of God's own hand go with you. Amen

(The Christ Candle is extinguished)

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

June 16, 2024

Worship Leader: Rev. Mary Jo Patterson

Music: Azrael Hackshaw



Mark 4: 26 – 34

“It is like a mustard seed which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

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.



Spring Announcements

**WELCOME AND THANK YOU to Rev. Mary Jo Patterson
for leading today's Worship**

PASTORAL CARE – We ask that you contact the office if you know of someone who needs a phone call or visit.

"ENGAGING OUR STORY, AN INVITATION TO DEEPER UNDERSTANDING"

To start the process of our search for Interim Ministry, the Official Board would like to hold a congregational conversation on Tuesday, June 25 at 7:00 p.m. All members of the congregation are encouraged to attend this important gathering and be a part of the future of Waterford United.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Sunday, June 23	LLWL Peggy Guiler
Sunday, June 30	Rev. Mary Jo Patterson
Sunday, July 7	LLWL Heather King
Sunday, July 14	Rev. Tessica Hackshaw

OUTREACH "SOUP" LUNCH – Outreach will be serving a **salad lunch** to kick off the summer on Sunday, June 23 following the worship service.

JUNE'S CONCERT featuring Maestro Angus Sinclair on keyboards and vocalist Autumn Debassige will be held on Friday, June 21 at 7:30 p.m.

THE ANNUAL STRAWBERRY SOCIAL will follow the concert. Please mark your calendar!!

My Daily Minute

Submitted by Debra Leedham

"Let the mighty strength of the Lord make you strong" ~ Ephesians 6:10
Where do you need strength? Listen to the verse. Hear it. Take it in.
Sit with it a bit. Let God's strength make you strong.



June marks the United Church's 100th anniversary—an opportunity to honour our past and look to the future!

The theme for the Centennial is Deep, Bold, Daring. One of the first "united" churches in the world, from its formation the United Church has been rooted in:

Deep Spirituality

The words of Jesus' prayer that the disciples be one

Bold Discipleship

The belief that what unites us is stronger than our differences

Daring Justice

The desire to live out the gospel call to love and justice in Canada and around the world

Church Phone: 519-443-5261

Church Webpage: www.waterfordunitedchurch.org

Office Administrator, Diane Holden wucsecretary@bellnet.ca

Treasurer, Kimberly Holden wuctreasurer@bellnet.ca

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