

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

July 21, 2024

Rev. Tessica Hackshaw

GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN: Fresh as the Morning

MVU #28

ANNOUNCEMENTS and CELEBRATIONS

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE:

God who cradles and provide for us, show mercy towards us and light our path, that we see the light of the world who is Jesus, and follow into the ways of Justice, peace and success.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: How precious is human life!

Fathers: How precious, human love!

One: With life comes death, the sweet release.

All: With love comes pain, the sweet remembrance.

One: There is no life that has no death coursing through its veins;

All: There is no love that has no pain running through its heart.

HYMN: This is God's Wondrous World

VU #296

PRAYER:

Awakener of dreams and Revealer of visions, reveal yourself to our hibernating spirits and awaken us from our slumber and sleep. Long have we snuggled in secret places, shut off from any new sign of spring. Long have we slumbered through the winters of the soul, wrapped in an apathy that seeks only to be forgotten; frozen in an indifference that seeks only to be sheltered.

Our days feel like the eternal winter that chills our nerves and hardens our hearts. It is as though our memory of spring soon fades, and we cease expecting its approach. We no longer await the thaw of the earth, the warmth of the sun, or the bud of the flower, for there is nothing for which to hope. Sometimes we feel like we have become those who walk by sight, not by faith; and because the sight of deepest winter is not pleasing to our eyes, we soon do not walk at all.

O Lord, arouse in our dormant hearts a vision of springtime, when old has passed away and new has come; when the bitter cold has fled before the sun, and the whipping wind has died before a breeze, and the forgotten flower has opened in morning dew. For while the world sleeps, the silent

Sower sows the seeds, and no frost nips their blossoms. These are the mysterious seeds of the kingdom, yielding the flower of faith and blossom of righteousness.

Awaken us, O God, to this sweet scent that plays at our nostril. This rich, upturned earth awaits its planting; plant your seeds and we shall tend them. Scatter your seeds, and we shall baptize them. Tuck them into good soil, and we shall pluck the weeds. Multiply them, and we shall harvest. The bounty of that harvest shall be our joy, your joy, and the plant shall be our hope. For as the seasons of the field change, so too the seasons of the heart; and where once there was winter, now there is spring.

Change the season of our heart from doom, death, and hopelessness, O God, to new life that produce your bounty in hope, joy and peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN: Precious Lord, Take My Hand

VU #670

YOUTH TIME

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READINGS

read by Cori Angus

1 Samuel 15: 34 – 16: 13

Psalms 20 (Responsive Reading)

VU #742

Refrain: *Not a word shall fail of the promise God has made.*

One: May God answer you in the day of trouble, and the name of God defend you.

All: **May God send you help from the sanctuary, and give you support from the holy mountain.**

One: May God remember all your offerings, and accept your burnt sacrifices.

All: **May God grant you your heart's desire, and give success to all your plans.**

One: May we rejoice in your victory and triumph in the name of our God.

All: **May God fulfil your every wish. (R)**

One: Now I know, O God, that you help your anointed,

All: **and will answer from your holy heaven with the victorious might of your right hand.**

One: Some put their trust in chariots, and some in horses;

All: **but we will trust in the name of our God.**

One: They will totter and fall;

All: but we shall rise and stand upright.
One: God, save those who rule,
All: and answer us when we call. (R)

Mark 4: 26 – 34

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING and GIVE THANKS

Offering Prayer

One: You have chosen us as givers, O God, and those who work with gifts of the faith community. Bless us in this work!

All: **May the generosity of our gifts of money be matched by our willingness to give our time and talents to Christ's present-day work.**

One: Within the church and beyond its walls there is much to do.

All: **We are committed to this faithful work; we will not be discouraged!**

One: God will go with you! Amen.

HYMN: All the Way My Savior Leads Me

VU #635

BENEDICTION:

One: No longer afraid, we go forth with joy!

All: **The love of God will motivate and direct us.**

One: Filled with hope, we go forth with praise on our lips!

All: **The example of Jesus Christ will show us the way.**

One: Held in the love of God, we go forth to bring change for good!

All: **We will be inspired to work with God's Holy Spirit. Amen**

CHORAL BLESSING: Go now in Peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid God will go with you each hour of everyday

Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true Know He will guide you in all you do

Go now in Love and show you believe Reach out to others, so all the world can see

God will be there, watching from above Go now in peace, in faith and in love.

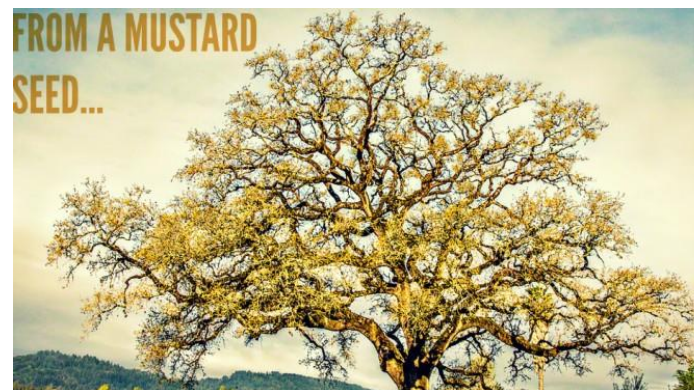
Amen, Amen, Amen

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

July 21, 2024

Worship Leader: Rev. Tessica Hackshaw

Music: Azrael Hackshaw



Mark 4: 26 - 34

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

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Summer Announcements

WELCOME AND THANK YOU to Rev. Tessica Hackshaw 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.

TRANSITION TEAM – As part of the process in the search for **Intentional Interim Ministry**, we are pleased to report that the Official Board has approved the nomination and empowerment of the Intentional Interim Ministry Team that will consist of the following people: Debra Leedham, Wendy Strachan, Elaine Woloshyn, Greg Strachan, Alma Scovil, and Pastor Ted Smith (Horseshoe Falls Liaison).

UPCOMING SERVICES

Sunday, July 28	Rev. Tessica Hackshaw
Sunday, August 4	LLWL Heather King
Sunday, August 11	Rev. Randy Mackenzie
Sunday, August 18	Rev. Mary Jo Patterson



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