

Waterford United Church

September 29, 2024

The Rev. Cathy Dilts

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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.

WE GATHER

GREETING:

One: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ;
the love of God; and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

ALL: *and also with you.*

GATHERING SONG: Healer of Our Every Ill VU #619

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

ALL: *We light this candle as a sign of our hope for peace and healing in this, God's world. May the light of Christ's love shine bright to give light wherever there is darkness, and Christ's peace be a comfort to all who hurt. To God be the glory! Thanks be to God!*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: When we seek peace for the soul;

ALL: *look to the Lord.*

One: For strength when we grow weary;

ALL: *look to the Lord.*

One: For hope in times of trouble;

ALL: *look to the Lord.*

One: Who gives to all his Word of Life;
and renews the life within our souls.

ALL: *Because His love is unfailing, and His mercy is sure;
we look to the Lord, who is our light and our salvation.*

OPENING PRAYER:

ALL: *O that I might see the world through God-filled eyes; seeing God's image in every person, and the face of Christ in every face. Then could I see suffering as opportunity to love, and difference as chance to grow. Then would I see in every end a new beginning, and watch with hope as life unfolds. O that I might see, the world through eyes welled up with love, and know the joy of Christ, my Saviour, whose love for me flows from above. Amen.*

OPENING HYMN: Be Thou My Vision VU #642

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

ALL: *Holy One, You are the Light of the World and nothing can ever put it out. For those times we have turned away from your light because we were afraid, or ashamed, or too preoccupied with the cares of our lives, forgive us. Open our hearts and our eyes to the truth you bring; of a love that will ever seek us out and find us and that will never let us go, a love revealed on a cross and the free gift of resurrection life. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

ASSURANCE OF GRACE: (John 3: 16)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

HYMN: Jesus Loves Me VU #365

WE LISTEN AND PROCLAIM

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

GOSPEL READING: Luke 13: 10 - 17

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 123 VU #847

MINISTRY OF MUSIC : Come Thou Fount

REFLECTION: *Which Way You Looking?*

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

WE RESPOND

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Sung Dedication: We Praise You, O God (vs. 1) VU #218

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;

In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;

We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

Offertory Prayer

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE DEPART

CLOSING HYMN: Great Is Thy Faithfulness VU #288

BENEDICTION:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and communion in the Holy Spirit fill you with joy and lead you onward, now and evermore.

CHORAL CLOSE: 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

POSTLUDE

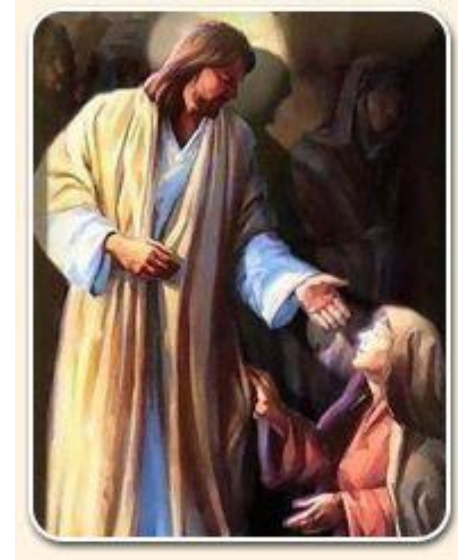
RECESSIONAL

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

September 29, 2024

Worship Leader: Rev. Cathy Dilts

Music: Chris Savory



LUKE 13: 10 - 17

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

Office Administrator, Diane Holden wucsecretary@bellnet.ca

Treasurer, Kimberly Holden wuctreasurer@bellnet.ca

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU TO
REV. CATHY DILTS
for leading today's Worship**

NEW MINISTRY – we are excited to announce the appointment of our new Intentional Interim Minister. The appointment has been approved by the Official Board and we are waiting on final approval from Horseshoe Falls Regional Council. Further details will be announced once all approvals have been completed.

NEXT SOUP SUPPER – will be held one week late on Wednesday, October 16 at 5:00 p.m.

BOOK CLUB - We will have a short meeting after church on Sunday, October 6 to discuss organization for the upcoming year. If you wish, you will also have a chance to talk about a book you read over the summer. New members welcome!



YEARS OF GROWTH --

Today we are continuing our series of stories from the history of the United Church, from its beginning in 1925 to the present. In June, we told about the United Church's formation in 1925. In July, it was about the preparation of a new hymn book acceptable to all, and in August we talked about the church's involvement in World War II. This month, we will look at the tremendous growth of the United Church in the 1950s and 1960s.

Canada entered the fifties and a different phase. Traditionally it had been rural in aspect, but now its cities were bursting at the seams, a situation that began during World War II and accelerated at the return of veterans. Suburbs sprouted up and were soon filled with young families. The baby boom, the additions of Newfoundland as a province and the steady tide of immigrants added to the returned veterans. The population of Canada grew from a little over 12 million in 1945 to almost 14 million six years later.

Most suburbanites were young, with growing families. They wanted the best for their families. Even to those who had formerly taken little interest in religion, the church stood for the best. Surveys revealed that the United Church commanded more support than any other Protestant denomination.

Locally, during the 1940s 1950s and 1960s, Waterford United Church was experiencing growth as well. By the late 1940s, there was a shortage of space for the Sunday School. In March 1950, the Board of Trustees passed motions that suitable classrooms be arranged and that the Property Committee consider the basement as the location of these classrooms. The decision was made to excavate the space underneath the church. The digging was done by the men of the church. They borrowed a conveyor belt and ran it out through a basement window.

By 1952, it was decided that the classrooms dug under the church were not suitable. The Trustees approved construction of a new Christian Education wing, with an auditorium, classrooms and office space be added to the rear of the church.

I believe the United Church experienced its greatest growth in the early 1960s.

We realize that we will not be covering the entire history of the United Church of Canada, but we hope that we will be choosing topics that interest you.