

**HYMN OF CELEBRATION:** My Soul Cries Out

MVU #120

**PRESENTATION OF SYMBOLS**

**A BIBLE**

Take this Bible as a symbol of the Word of God, and be with us as one who teaches and proclaims the Word.

*People:* Amen.

**BREAD AND WINE**

Take this Bread and Wine, and be with us as one who cares for those who hunger and thirst.

*People:* Amen.

**WATER, TOWEL, AND BASIN**

Take these common elements, and be with us as one who serves others as Jesus did. *People:* Amen.

**FLAMES/FIRE**

Take this image, and be with us as one who ministers among us, guided by the Holy Spirit, God's power, direction and energy. *People:* Amen.

**SUNFLOWER SEEDS**

Take these Seeds, and be with us as one who grows among us, turned always towards God.

*People:* Amen.

**BUTTERFLY**

Take this image, and be with us as one who ministers among us in the sure and certain hope of God's transforming grace and Christ's redeeming love. *People:* Amen.

**SANDALS**

Take these Sandals, and be with us as one who recognizes that the ministry of this this time and place is holy ground. *People:* Amen.

*Presider:* Let all these be signs of the ministry that is and that will be in this community of faith.

*People:* Amen.

**RESPONSE TO COVENANT**

Friends, we have made a covenant among Horseshoe Falls Regional Council, Waterford United Church, the Transition Team, and Rev. Lena. Let us rejoice in the covenant we have made!

**BLESSING and SENDING FORTH**

**CLOSING HYMN:** Sent Out in Jesus' Name

MVU #212



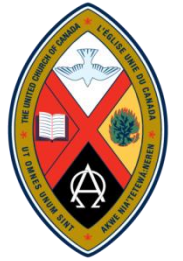
**ACT OF COVENANTING IN A TIME OF INTENTIONAL INTERIM MINISTRY**

**WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH**

DECEMBER 15, 2024 AT 1:30 PM

Presider: Rev. Ted Smith

Music: Heather Chwastiak



**PRELUDE**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**GATHERING HYMN:** God of the Bible

MVU #28

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES**

A candle burns,  
**the sign of our faith.**

God of the Baptizing One, come to us again this Advent.

**May we have the faith that renews our lives.**

**May we live in the light of your promises.**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN:** A Candle is Burning (verse 3)

VU #6

**PRAYER OF FAITH: A NEW CREED**

**We are not alone; we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,**

**who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,**

**to reconcile and make new,**

**who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation,**

**to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,**

**to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**



### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mark 10:13 – 15 (Common English Bible translation)  
Matthew 5:17 – 20 (The Message translation)

Peter Mitchell

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC: “It Is Well with My Soul”

Heather Chwastiak

### MESSAGE: “Curiosity and Kingdom Perspectives”

Rev. Ted Smith

### HYMN: I Heard the Voice of Jesus

VU #626

### STATEMENT OF THIS NEW MINISTRY

We are gathered here in the presence of God to celebrate the ministry in this place and to covenant together for the service of God here.

The Reverend Lena Medeiros has been ordained to a Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care and designated as an Intentional Interim Minister by the Office of Vocation of the United Church of Canada. She is serving here in response to the request of the governing body of Waterford United Church for an Intentional Interim Minister in response to a yearning to discover who they are, who is God calling them to be, and who is their neighbour, as well as a longing to seek spiritual and organizational renewal, to rediscover their identity, and to revitalize their mission.

Today we mark the relationship among Waterford United Church, its Transition Team, Rev. Lena, and Horseshoe Falls Regional Council. Let us ask for God’s grace as we covenant together:

**Gracious God, by our baptism you have called us to Christ’s ministry.**

**Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us as we commit ourselves to worship and work together in Christ’s name. Amen.**

### PROMISES OF THE INTENTION INTERIM MINISTER

Rev. Lena, do you, in the presence of this community of faith, take on the new trust and responsibility of ministering with Waterford United Church?

**Rev. Lena:** I do.

Do you promise to serve these people with faithfulness, patience and love during this time of transition?

**Rev. Lena:** I do.

Will you accept the guidance of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council and, together with its other members, be responsible for the health of Waterford United Church Community of Faith?

**Rev. Lena:** I will.

### PROMISES OF THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

As able, would the staff of Waterford United Church please stand. As staff members, will you work with and support Rev. Lena in the work of this intentional interim time? **Staff:** We will.

As able, would the congregational members and friends of Waterford United Church please stand. Will you join Rev. Lena in committing yourselves to worship, work, study and prayerful discernment of your ministry and mission? **People:** We will.

Will you receive her ministry among you with openness, thoughtfulness and grace?

**People:** We will.

### PROMISES OF REGIONAL COUNCIL, WIDER CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Will you, as members of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council and members of the wider community, join with Rev. Lena and this community of faith in the ministry that is both theirs and ours?

**Regional Council and Wider Community Members:** We will.

### COVENANTING OF THE TRANSITION TEAM

Would the members of the Transition Team come forward: Alma Scovil, Debra Leedham, Elaine Woloshyn, Greg Strachan, Wendy Strachan, and Rev. Ted Smith.

Friends, we celebrate with joy and gratitude that you have been called by God and chosen to serve Waterford United Church on the Transition Team for this intentional interim ministry. We recognize your special gifts for this task and challenge you to work with and among the people of this congregation, and to offer your best to God. Let us make a covenant before God and one another:

Will you continue to live out your faith and will you carry out your responsibilities on the Transition Team with faithfulness, integrity and compassion?

**Transition Team:** I will, God being my helper.

People of Waterford United Church, will you respect and honour the leadership of the Transition Team as they work with you for the renewal of this congregation?

**People:** We will, with God’s help.

Will you support these people and their work with your prayers, encouragement and input?

**People:** We will, with God’s help.

### PRAYER

Loving God, send your Holy Spirit upon Rev. Lena, upon Waterford United Church, upon this Transition Team, upon Horseshoe Falls Regional Council and upon all of us that we may keep the promises we have made today. Help each of us to fulfil our various responsibilities. May our leadership help this community of faith to reflect your love and grace and to serve you in this community. Amen.