

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH
December 8, 2024
2nd Sunday of Advent - PEACE
Rev. Lena Medeiros

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs. 1, 2, 6) VU #1

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES Marilyn Antkiw

A candle burns,
the sign of your Word.
God of the prophets, come to us again this Advent.
May your word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN: A candle Is Burning (vs. 2) VU #6

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

SPIRIT SIGHTINGS: PEACE

Blessed be Christ the Prince of Peace
who breaks down the walls that divide.

The peace of God be always with you.

Praise to Christ who unites us in peace.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

HYMN: All the Way My Saviour Leads Me VU #635

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Hope of the World, by your Word,
**illuminate our hearts that we may hear your call to love
and serve the world. Amen.**

SCRIPTURES

MALACHI 3: 1 – 4

Marilyn Antkiw

SONG OF ZECHARIAH (VU #900)

Refrain: God shall fulfil the promise and bring the people peace.

Blessed be the God of Israel,

who has come to the people and set them free,

who has raised up for us a mighty saviour,

born of the house of the servant David.

Through the holy prophets of old God promised to save us from our
enemies,

From the hands of all who hate us,

To show the mercy promised to our ancestors,

**To remember the holy covenant, the oath God swore to our ancestors
Abraham and Sarah,**

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to serve God without fear, holy and righteous in God's presence,
all the days of our life (R)**

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go
before the Lord to prepare the way,

to give the people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break
upon us,

**To shine on those who sit in darkness, in the shadow of death, and to
guide our feet into the way of peace. (R)**

LUKE 3: 1 – 6

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

REFLECTION: "Are you ready for Christmas?"

HYMN: On Jordan's Bank VU #20

INVITATION TO PRAYER: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying VU #400

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER VU #959

WHY WHITE GIFTS

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

SUNG DEDICATION: What Can I Do? MVU #191
*What can I do? What can I bring? What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer. I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.*

SENDING FORTH

Go out into the world to prepare the way of God.
We go into the world to speak God's word of hope, and work for justice and peace.

CLOSING HYMN: O for a World VU #697

BLESSING

CHORAL CLOSE: "Peace" Shines as a Solitary Star MVU #220
*Peace shines as the solitary star. Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights
And illumine the pathway home.*



WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH December 8, 2024

Worship Leader: Rev. Lena Medeiros
Music: Chris Savory



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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
Rev. Lena Medeiros: Phone/Text: 416-272-8134 / email: rev.lena.ucc@gmail.com
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



WHITE GIFT SUNDAY – Please leave your gifts on the trolley at the back of the sanctuary. We welcome your gifts of food, gifts, or gift cards to help support the ministry. This year we have created our own list of recipients from within our community. Distribution is set for Dec. 20 from 3 to 8 p.m.

INVITATION TO COVENANT - On **Sunday December 15 at 1:30 pm** all people are invited and encouraged to gather for the Covenanting Service joining the Faith Community of Waterford United Church, Rev. Lena Medeiros, the Transition Team, Horseshoe Falls Regional Council and God in a covenantal relationship as we embark together through this time of Intentional Interim Ministry. Intentional Interim Ministry (often referred to simply as interim ministry) is an opportunity for a community of faith to take an intentional time out to seek spiritual and organizational renewal, to rediscover its identity, and to revitalize its mission. Interim ministry is also of benefit to any community of faith that wishes to manage change intentionally for a stronger, healthier ministry and future.

There will be no service in the morning of December 15

This is a very important step toward our future.

Let us come together in Love’s name.

Guest Minister: Rev. Ted Smith

Guest Musician: Heather Chwastiak

THE BOOK CLUB will meet after church today to discuss “The Maid.” Please come ready to suggest another book for our next meeting.

THE MITTEN TREE is up and ready for your contributions of mittens, hats, scarfs, socks, etc. They will be donated to those in need this winter.

Outreach is hosting a **SOUP SUPPER (LOAVES OF BREAD)** ON Wednesday, December 11 at 5 p.m. All are welcome!

ALL COMMITTEES AND TEAMS please submit a **WRITTEN REPORT** for the Annual Report 2024 to Secretary Diane at wucsecretary@bellnet.ca

**There are several community events posted on the bulletin board.
Take a look!**

FREE CONCERTS – the amount of \$1,210.00 has been deposited to our general fund from freewill donations given primarily at our recent Brantford Community Symphony Christmas Concert and from previous concerts held in the fall.

ELDERS HAVE SET A PATH FORWARD FOR THE INDIGENOUS CHURCH

The National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering (NISG) concluded, after convening from November 29 to December 2 in Winnipeg, MB. The gathering brought together Indigenous leaders, Elders, and community members for a time of discussion, reflection, and prayer. Read the full statement from Elders who attended here: <https://united-church.ca/news/elders-have-set-path-forward-indigenous-church>.

GIFTS WITH VISION

For Christmas gifts that never get returned, go to: <https://giftswithvision.ca/>

REV. LENA'S UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Rev. Lena will be on vacation on December 29 and on a study break from December 30 to January 5. For pastoral emergencies during Rev. Lena's vacation and study break, please contact the church office.

Recent OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES have been posted on the bulletin board for your information. Please take a few a minutes to read them.



ADVENT CHRISTMAS SERVICES and EVENTS

Wednesday, December 11	Outreach Soup Supper 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 15	Covenanting Service at 1:30 p.m. NO morning service
Sunday, December 22	Choir Cantata and 4th Advent Service
Tuesday, December 24	Christmas Eve service and Communion 5:00 p.m.