

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH
December 22, 2024 ~ 4th Sunday of Advent - Love
Choir Canata
Rev. Lena Medeiros

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: Joy Shall Come VU #23

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

A candle burns,
the sign of your love.
God of Mary, come to us again this Advent.
May the light of your love be born anew in us.

ADVENT CANDLE HYMN: A Candle is Burning (vs 4) VU #6

*A candle is burning, a candle of love,
A candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.*

CHOIR CANTATA: "THE ANGELS OF CHRISTMAS" reader Andrea Borsy

Text: "In the Beginning with God"
Music: Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

Text: "The Garden"
Music: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Text: "God's Angels Watch Over"
Music: Hark, the Glad Sound!

Text: "Gabriel Appears to Mary"
Music: My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord

Text: "Jesus Is Born in Bethlehem"
Music: Joy to the World!

Text: "Angels Appear to the Shepherds"
Music: "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

Text: "God's Angels Watch Over Jesus and The World"
Music: Songs of the Angels

Text: "A Final Prayer and Blessing"
Music: Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

MEDITATION

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

SUNG DEDICATION: In the Bleak Midwinter (vs. 4) VU #55

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN: Go Tell It on the Mountain VU #43

BLESSING

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



COVENANTING SERVICE, DECEMBER 15

Thank you to everyone who made the covenanting service possible!

These are some of the words that were spoken during the service: curiosity, promises, leap, faith, support, joy. Here are some other words that speak of Waterford's intentional interim ministry time.



WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH December 22, 2024

Worship Leader: Rev. Lena Medeiros
Music: Chris Savory and Azrael Hackshaw



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ LOVE

The Waterford United Church is a place where everyone is welcome regardless of their ability, age, class, ethnicity, gender, race, or sexual orientation.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE and COMMUNION will be held this Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m.

DONATION ENVELOPES for 2025 have finally arrived! Please pick up your envelopes at the back of the sanctuary.

THE MITTEN TREE is up and continues to accept your contributions of mittens, hats, scarfs, socks, etc. They will be donated to those in need this winter. Some have already gone to local public schools.

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

PROFIT FROM THE TURKEY DINNER is \$2,530.54! Many thanks to all who contributed in any way, and special thanks to our farm friends who donated vegetables.



THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Today we are continuing our series of stories from the history of the United Church, from its beginning 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. In September, we looked at the years at the tremendous growth of the United Church in the 1950s and 1960s. and in October on anniversary Sunday we looked at the very early years when the Waterford Methodist (now United) church was founded. This month, we would like to focus on the Sunday School.

From its earliest beginnings, the Methodist denomination stressed the importance of Christian education. Most churches had Sunday Schools and Bible study groups, activities for teens. There was even a Methodist sponsored university (in Ontario, Victoria College now part of University of Toronto). At union in 1925, the new United Church of Canada inherited an active system of Christian education from the uniting denominations. At that time, the major area of work with children was the Sunday School. It was a strong and growing movement across Canada. In the Methodist Church, Sunday School was divided into four age categories: Cradle Roll, Beginners, Primary and Junior. Many changes occurred between 1925 and 1949. Among them were the publication of a new series of Canadian lessons, and a unified program for juniors including a new song book, Junior Congregation and mid-week programs (such as Explorers).

In the old Waterford United Church, (destroyed by fire in 2008), the large room beneath the sanctuary was used for the Sunday School for many years. A full worship assembly would be held and then a grid of curtains was pulled across to divide the areas into smaller rooms. Later this space would be divided into permanent classrooms. Curriculum varies over the years. The United Church publishing House supplied excellent lessons and weekly take-home papers (such as 'Onward!'). Awards were many: attendance bars, diplomas attendance banners to the classes to stimulate perfect attendance. Sunday School enrolment at Waterford United Church was highest from the late 1950s through the 1970s. By 2002 there was an enrolment of 50 students taught by 12 teachers.

One of the big events of the year was the Sunday School concert or pageant. In earlier years, there was a concert put on by members from most classes from primary to adult, put on a skit, a recitation, and the evening would end with a visit from Santa Claus. More recently the presentation would focus entirely on telling the story of the birth of Christ.

Sources: Waterford United Church: A History - by various writers, published by Waterford United Church, 2002