

**WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH**  
**February 23, 2025 – Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Rev. Lena Medeiros**

**PRELUDE**  
**WELCOME**

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**GATHERING SONG:** This Is the Day VU #412

**GATHERING PRAYER**

Wondrous God: you touch our lives with healing and with justice;  
**new life is your gift.**  
We praise you for the Good News that is ours through Jesus Christ.  
**May this time of worship nourish us**  
**with your promise of meaning and purpose.**  
**May we be empowered**  
**to carry your goodness into the coming week.**  
We pray in Jesus' name, our Source and Saviour. Amen.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, your call to discipleship is demanding.  
You call us to reorder our lives by the kingdom you are bringing in Jesus Christ.  
**Yet we still pass by the ones you especially notice:**  
**people who are poor and hungry;**  
**people who weep.**  
We have not stood with those who are hated, bullied, and excluded.  
**Comfortable with the way things are,**  
**we are too complacent, even complicit with injustice and prejudice.**  
Forgive us, O God,  
**and turn us back to your gospel.**  
We pray this now, for our sake, and for the sake of your world; through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

**HYMN:** In Christ There Is No East or West

VU #606

**SPIRIT SIGHTINGS**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

O God, let your Word now flow into us  
**that we might flourish—**  
**bearing gospel fruit for a hungry world.**  
In the name of Jesus, the Living Word, we pray. Amen.

**SCRIPTURES**

**SCRIPTURE READING 1:** Jeremiah 17: 5 – 10

**SCRIPTURE READING 2:** Psalm 1

VU #724

***Refrain: Blessed are those who follow the law of God.***

Blessed are those who do not follow the counsel of the wicked, or linger in the way of sinners, or sit down among those who mock  
**But their delight is in the law of God, and on that law they meditate day and night.**

They are like trees planted beside streams of water, yielding their fruit in due season.

**Their leaves do not wither, and whatever they produce shall prosper. (R)**

As for the wicked, it is not so with them,

**But they are like the chaff, driven away by the wind.**

Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand when judgement comes, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

**For God watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. (R)**

**SCRIPTURE READING 3:** Luke 6: 17 – 26

**Reader:** May God bless to our understanding these readings from the Holy Scriptures.

**All: Amen.**

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

**REFLECTION:** "Colour Theory"

**HYMN:** Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

VU #375

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**SUNG DEDICATION:** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow VU #541

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise all creatures high and low;  
Give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.*

**SENDING FORTH**

**CLOSING HYMN:** Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah VU #651

**BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL CLOSE:** Go Now in Peace Don Besig / Nancy Price

*Go now in peace, never be afraid,  
God will go with you each hour of every day,  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,  
Know God 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**



**WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH**

**February 23, 2025**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Lena Medeiros**

**Music: Azrael Hackshaw**



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**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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Church Webpage: [www.waterfordunitedchurch.org](http://www.waterfordunitedchurch.org)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### REV. LENA'S NEXT WEEK SCHEDULE:

February 25 and 26 ~ working at the church



**PRAYERS** – Please keep Muriel Stetler and her family in your prayers as they mourn the sudden passing of **Muriel's grandson, Jason Thompson**.

We are also saddened to learn of the passing of **John Procnier** last Monday. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers, especially his sister, Anne and brother, Bill. A Memorial Service will be held sometime later in the Spring.

### CONGREGATION MEETING, TODAY, FEBRUARY 23

There will be a congregation meeting today at 12:30. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary following the soup luncheon. The purpose of the meeting is for the Transition Team to present their 2025 project plan and to clarify and update Waterford's governance structure.

**THE OUTREACH SOUP LUNCH** will be held **TODAY**. Come to enjoy fellowship along with a hot meal to support Outreach initiatives.

**A FREE CONCERT "Low Notes, High Hopes, Sax Quartet and Friends"** will be held on Friday, February 28 at 7:30 p.m. Come enjoy an instrumental evening in the beautiful acoustics of the church sanctuary. Light refreshments follow.

**BOOK CLUB** – will meet after church on Sunday, March 2 to discuss "Cutting for Stone." Please come with a request for our next book.

**OUTREACH MEETING** – March 3 at 10 a.m. (**note time change**) Anybody wishing to attend is welcome! More hands make light work!

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** this year celebrates the Cook Islands and will be held at Waterford United Church on March 7, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome!

**HONOURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH:** February is Black History (or African Heritage) Month, officially recognized in Canada since 1995 – a time to honour the contributions and struggles those of African descent in the UCC and in the world.

### FROM HORSESHOE FALLS: PROVINCIAL ELECTION, FEBRUARY 27

With all that is going on across the country and around the world, there are concerns that many people may not engage with this election. For Christians, participation in democratic elections is one way to act on our faith. For more information, go to the UCC's website on Faith and Politics:

<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/get-involved/faith-and-politics>.



### ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 8

Open House 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary to observe the day

### LENT 1

Sunday, March 9 service at 10:30 a.m.  
Communion

### PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 13 service at 10:30 a.m.  
Soup Lunch will follow

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 17

Following choir practice, the choir will clear the altar in preparation for Good Friday. All congregants are invited to attend to help prepare the sanctuary.

### GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 18 service at 10:30 a.m.

Prayers and music will tell the Easter story

### EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, April 20 Sunrise Service in the Golden Pond parking lot at the north end of St. James Street at 7:00 a.m.

Breakfast will follow at the church

### EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 20 at 10:30 a.m.  
Communion