

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, March 30, 2025

4th Sunday in Lent

Rev. Gary Patterson

The Ministry of the Congregation

GATHERING

LENTEN INTROIT (choir)

Blessed is He that cometh in the name, in the name of the Lord!

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN: O God How We Have Wandered VU #112

OPENING PRAYER

How incredible is your love, O God! We have been made new in your love and reconciled to you and to each other in peace and joy. Be with us this day as we hear your words of comfort and hope. Guide our lives that we may serve you more fully all of our days. Amen.

LENT CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

One: The events of Lent and our own personal reflections constantly remind us that no matter where we are or what has happened, God is here and will help us if we ask.

All: **Today, we hear about a son who was lost and a father who finds him.**

One: This happens when the son finds the humility to admit his mistakes and ask his father for help.

All: **How much more our Mother/Father God will help us if we honestly admit our mistakes and accept God's unconditional forgiveness.**

(Extinguish the fourth candle.)

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURES:

1st SCRIPTURE: Psalm 32 VU #759

Refrain: Be glad in God you righteous. Rejoice, O saints, rejoice.

Blessed are those whose offences are forgiven, whose sin has been put away.

Blessed are those to whom God imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. (R)

When I kept silence, my body wasted away, while I groaned all the day long.

For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my strength dried up as in a summer drought.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I did not hide.

I said: "I will confess my sins to God"; and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all the faithful pray to you in time of trouble;

When great floodwater rises, it shall not come near them.

You are a hiding place for me, you will preserve me from trouble;

You will surround me with shouts of deliverance. (R)

I will teach you, and guide you in the way you should go.

I will keep you under my eye and instruct you.

Be not like a horse or mule, without understanding,

Whose course must be checked with bit and bridle.

Many pains are in store for the wicked,

But whoever trusts in God, is surrounded by steadfast love. (R)

2nd SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5: 16 – 21

3rd SCRIPTURE: Luke 15: 1 – 3, 11b - 32

MUSIC MINISTRY: There Is A Green Hill Far Away VU #152

MESSAGE: Welcome Home

HYMN: O Christ in Thee My Soul Has Found VU #630

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING

Through the gifts of our possessions and our presence, we let those who are far from home know that we are their brothers and sisters. Through our gifts, we welcome them to our home, to God's home. We are the ambassadors for Jesus, our brother and savior, spreading the news of a home of love and hope through our gifts.

Offertory: Giver of the Perfect Gift (vs. 3) VU #116

Who can save us, Lord, but thou? Let thy mercy show thy power; lo, we plead thy promise now, now, in this accepted hour.

Prayer of Dedication

Bless these gifts, Generous God,
that they may be used to find your children—
children who wander in hunger, children who long to come home.
Through our gifts, may all who wander set off for home,
and may we celebrate and rejoice in their homecoming. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*sung*) VU #960

WE ARE SENT FORTH AS GOD'S PEOPLE

HYMN: We Have This Ministry VU #510

BENEDICTION :

Forgiven and Beloved Ones of God, go now in peace, sharing with others the Good News of God's love. Help those in need. Give and receive from each other the joy of peace. Amen.

SUNG BLESSING: O Jesus, I Have Promised (vs. 3) VU #120

*O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
Now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.*

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

March 30, 2025

Worship Leader: Rev. Gary Patterson

Music: Azrael Hackshaw



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.

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



THANK YOU to Rev. Gary Patterson for leading in Worship today and to Azrael Hackshaw for his gift of music

THE WUC COUNCIL will meet Tuesday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m. All Committee Chairs or a representative are encouraged to attend.

OUTREACH SOUP SUPPER (Loaves of Bread) will be held on Wednesday, April 9 at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome!

The next OUTREACH SOUP LUNCH has been moved to Palm Sunday, April 13 following our worship service. Come and enjoy food and fellowship and to support our outreach initiatives.

We have received notice that as appointed by Horseshoe Falls Region, **REV. HEATHER LEFFLER** has agreed to offer **PASTORAL CARE** to members of WUC who feel they need it specifically in relation to the review process. Please contact her at hleffler@rogers.com or via cell 519-573-9642.

FOR ALL OTHER PASTORAL CARE needs, contact the office for an appointment.

LOST OR HIDING - a book called "The Spoon Stealer" was making the rounds of readers at church. If it is perhaps hiding on your bookshelf, would you please bring it back to Chris. She's thinking about reading it again!



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT Sunday, April 6 at 10:30 a.m. led by LLWL Heather King

PALM SUNDAY Sunday, April 13 service at 10:30 a.m. led by LLWL Heather King. Soup Lunch will follow.

GOOD FRIDAY Friday, April 18 service at 10:30 a.m. Prayers and music will tell the Easter story. Led by Chris Savory.

EASTER SUNRISE Sunday, April 20 Sunrise Service in the Golden Pond parking lot at the north end of St. James Street at 7 a.m. led by Wayne Kennington. Breakfast at the church.

EASTER SUNDAY Sunday, April 20 at 10:30 a.m. led by Rev. Joe Calverley

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Horseshoe Falls has ordered a Review of Waterford United Church, pursuant to section J.4 of *The Manual [2024]*. United Church of Canada trained Reviewer, the Rev. Carol Hancock of Richmond Hill, ON has been appointed to conduct the Review. Carol describes herself as "mostly retired" but continues to enjoy work in service of our United Church.

This is an invitation to all who have had direct experience with Waterford United Church to share their comments related to their experience of the state of the congregation. These comments may be shared in writing and/or in a personal interview. Personal interviews can be conducted by telephone or Zoom which can be scheduled to suit contributors. While most appointments are scheduled for twenty minutes, longer appointments can be arranged if a couple, group or committee wishes to be interviewed together.

People who speak with Carol are also welcome to contribute written materials. **Please note: *everyone who meets with Carol and/or contributes written material will be named as a contributor to the Review and may be quoted within the Report that Carol will write.***

If writing is preferred to speaking with Carol, written contributions may be sent by e-mail [c.l.hancock537@gmail.com] or posted to Carol's home address: #320, 10101 Yonge St., Richmond Hill, ON L4C 0V6. The deadline for all contributions to have been received is April 4th. To make an appointment for an interview, please contact Carol Hancock by email or call her at 647-525-9103.

Carol will prepare a written Report, summarizing all that she has learned and making recommendations to the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council. The Report on the state of the congregation will be delivered to Horseshoe Falls Regional Council and to the Waterford United Church community of faith through the Chair of the Church Council, Rick Woloshyn. The Horseshoe Falls Regional Council will then arrange for an opportunity for Waterford United Church leaders to meet with its Executive to discuss the Report and its recommendations before the Council makes decisions.