

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, April 6, 2025

5th Sunday in Lent

LLWL Heather King

LENTEN INTROIT (choir)

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

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

LENT CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

One: Lest we think that Lent is only a sombre time, let us remember that it is also a rich and abundant time.

Two: **Just as the desert is not a barren place but, in fact, a very fertile yet largely unknown place,**

One: Lent provides opportunities for us to see and experience incredible abundance and extravagance.

Two: **Too often, we miss these moments because they appear alongside difficulties and sadness.**
(Extinguish the fifth candle.)

GATHERING HYMN: For the Beauty of the Earth VU #226

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Spring is about to break forth!

All: **In all the land, new life is happening!**

One: Feel the wonder and power of God's creative energy

All: **Feel the awe and joy of God's love for us.**

One: Let us worship God with a full sense of joy and expectation.

All: **Let us open our hearts, our spirits, our souls, to God's love. AMEN.**

OPENING PRAYER: A Lenten Prayer VU #110

God of love, as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us, so may we give ourselves to you, living according to your holy will. Keep our feet firmly in the way where Christ leads us; help our lips speak the truth that Christ teaches us; fill our bodies with the life that is Christ within us. In his holy name we pray. Amen.

YOUNG AT HEART

HYMN: O Jesus I have Promised

VU #120

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (together)

May the God whom we know through Jesus the Christ be present among and within us this day, as we hear the gospel, sing the hymns and reflect on the Word. Amen.

SCRIPTURES:

read by Diane Holden

1st SCRIPTURE : Psalm 126

VU # 850

Refrain:

We praise the One who gave the growth, with voices full and strong.

When God brought Zion's captives home, it seemed to us like a dream.

But then our mouths were full of laughter, and our tongues uttered shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations : 'God has done great things for them. '

Truly God has done great things for us, and therefore we rejoice. (R)

Restore our fortunes O God, as streams refresh the Negev.

Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying seed for sowing,

shall come home with songs of joy, bringing in their sheaves (R)

2nd SCRIPTURE: John 12: 1 – 8

MUSIC MINISTRY: As the Deer Pants for the Water VU #766

MESSAGE: Mary's Gift

HYMN: My Faith Looks Up to Thee

VU #663

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING: At the dinner party for Jesus in Bethany, Mary anointed Christ with expensive perfume, pouring out her love and devotion. Jesus accepted Mary's gift gladly and graciously. Trust that Christ will never reject our gifts, offered with love and devotion, so let us present our offering with glad and generous hearts.

Offertory: Giver of the Perfect Gift (vs. 1) VU #116

Giver of the perfect gift, only hope of human race, Hear the prayer our hearts uplift, gathered at thy throne of grace.

Prayer of Dedication: (together) Gracious God, even as Mary poured out her love for Jesus, he was preparing to pour out his life on the cross for us. We are grateful for such love. Accept the gifts we bring and anoint them with your Spirit so that they will flow into the world, refreshing others with your mercy and love.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN
THE LORD'S PRAYER**

WE ARE SENT FORTH AS GOD'S PEOPLE

HYMN: Just as I Am

VU #508

BENEDICTION:

SUNG BLESSING: Go Now In Peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid

God will go with you each hour of everyday

Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true

Know He 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.

LENTON DEVOTIONAL

Debra Leedman

The season of Lent is more than just waiting for Easter. The early church placed Lent leading up to Easter as a time for Christians to reflect on the sacrifice of ministry. One of the sacrifices for English speakers to make is to sing songs from other cultures in their original languages. An example could be number 104 in More Voices United, "Mungu Ni mwema" which is Swahili for know that God is good. Singing in another language is a sign of justice. As we sing, we pray too.

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

April 6, 2025

Worship Leader: LLWL Heather King

Music: Chris Savory



5th Sunday in Lent

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 LLWL Heather King
for leading in Worship today.

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.

HEARTNSOUL, a local women's pop choir, is presenting a fundraising concert in support of South Coast Community Caring for Cancer this afternoon, April 6 from 3 – 5 p.m. at St. James United Church, 150 Colborne St., Simcoe. Donations are welcome. See the bulletin board.

HALDIMAND-NORFOLK HOSPICE FUNDRAISER – Blooms for a Cause hanging basket sale. Order plants by April 30 by calling 519-410-0881. Details are posted on the bulletin board.



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.

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



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