

**WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH**  
**Sunday, May 18, 2025**  
**Rev. Mary Jo Patterson**

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETING:**

In the Spirit of God who shares divinity with us,  
**In the Spirit of God who shares humanity with us,**  
In the Spirit of God who unsettles and inspires us...  
**Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.**

**LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE**

**SILENCE**

As we sit with our eyes closed and, in the silence, let us sense the Spirit of God moving among us, around us, between us, and embracing each of us with love, gentleness and longing.

**OPENING HYMN:** Come Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love VU #574

**OPENING PRAYER**

Spirit of Life, we gather, grateful for the companionship of hearts and minds seeking to speak the truth in love. We gather, grateful for our heritage, for the women and men before us whose prophetic words and deeds make possible our dreams and our insight. As people who have promised faithfulness through bad times as well as good, we ask for comfort, strength and guidance to keep us on that path of faithfulness as we face the challenges of the future. And we gather grateful for the gift of life itself, mindful that to respect life means both to celebrate what life is and to insist on what it can become. In Jesus' name, we pray Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**YOUNG AT HEART**

**SILENCE AS WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S LIVING WORD FOR US THIS DAY.**

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Psalm 148

VU page 871

**GOSPEL READING:** John 13: 31 - 35

When Judas had gone, Jesus said: 'Now has the Promised One been glorified, and in this One, God has been glorified. 'If God has been found glorified in me, I will in turn be glorified in God's own glory and very soon. 'My friends, I shall not be with you much longer. You will look for me, and, as I told the Jews, where I am going, you cannot come. 'I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. 'By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.

**THE MEDITATION:** "Trying Not to Hinder God's Love"

**REFLECTIVE HYMN:** Make Me a Channel of Your Peace VU #684

**OFFERING:**

**OFFERING PRAYER:**

**Holy God, today we have been remembering with gratitude the many ways you touch and bless our lives. Your holiness inspires us to be more holy; your love causes us to be more loving; your life in us brings to birth dreams and visions for a better and more just world. We offer these gifts and our lives in thankfulness for all you have done and are doing in our lives. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen**

**LORD'S PRAYER and PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERNS**

**CLOSING HYMN:** Will You Come and Follow Me VU #567

**CLOSING BLESSING:**

Go in peace, love and care for one another in the name of Christ; and may the blessing of God, our parent, Jesus our brother and the Holy Spirit our comforter, go with you all:

**May God be within us and behind us, before us and beside us, beneath us and above us.**

**May God be with us to win us, to comfort and restore us both now and forever more. Amen.**

(The Christ Candle is extinguished)

**POSTLUDE**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU to**  
**Rev. Mary Jo Patterson**  
**for leading in Worship today**



**We are now in receipt of the Carol Hancock Review Report and the resulting recommendations from Horse Shoe Falls Regional Council.** These reports will be described to the congregation by a Regional Representative who will chair the **Annual Congregation meeting on Sunday, June 22.** As the review report is a lengthy document it will be made available to peruse in the office after the June 22 meeting.

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](mailto:hleffler@rogers.com) or via cell 519-573-9642. **FOR ALL OTHER PASTORAL CARE** needs, contact the office for an appointment.

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA CELEBRATES 100 YEARS!** A special service and lunch is being planned for Sunday, June 8 when churches across Canada will be celebrating. Put the date on your calendar!!

**What are your special memories over the years of a United Church?** You are invited to write a few sentences to be read by you or someone else at the 100th anniversary service on June 8. Please e-mail your ideas to [wucsecretary@bellnet.ca](mailto:wucsecretary@bellnet.ca), phone 519-443-5261 or speak to Diane or Alma by May 25.

**THE OUTREACH SOUP LUNCH is scheduled** for next Sunday, May 25 after our worship service. Plan to stay to enjoy lunch and fellowship and to support Outreach initiatives.

**THREE SIMCOE FAMILIES IN DISTRESS:** Three refugee families, 19 people, living in Simcoe have limited support and need many items like beds and mattresses, bedding and towels, washing machine, carpets, vacuum, curtains, tables, chairs, dishes, etc. If you can donate any of these items, please contact Alma at 519-443-7297 or Leanne Arnal at [norfolkcommunityinaction123@gmail.com](mailto:norfolkcommunityinaction123@gmail.com).

## WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

**May 18, 2025**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Mary Jo Patterson**  
**Music: Chris Savory**



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*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.**

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