

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, May 4, 2025

3rd Sunday of Easter

LLWL Heather King

The theme of our service today is Care for Creation.

Hymns, prayers and scriptures have been chosen to reflect this theme as suggested by the United Church of Canada.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:

We light this candle as a sign of Christ at work in us. May its light brighten our spirits, and may the light of God shining through us, brighten the world.

GATHERING HYMN: All Things Bright and Beautiful VU #291
(refrain, vs. 1,2,3, refrain, vs. 4,5, refrain)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: God is revealed to us in many ways

All: in the gurgling of a brook; in the swaying of a majestic tree, in the comfort of a warm summer breeze, in the rugged beauty of a northern lake.

One: We are alive to the truth of God revealed to us through nature

All: God is with us; we are not alone. We live, work and share in God's world. Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF ADORATION: *(together)*

Gracious and Loving God, as we gather, we are thankful for your Creation: for light and darkness; for air, wind, and sky; for earth and sea; for seeds, harvests, and plant life; for sunlight, moonlight, and starlight; for every living creature, swarming, flying, creeping, and grazing; and for our lives. In our actions, meditations, and prayers, may we honour and celebrate your very good Creation, as we seek wisdom on how to share our gratitude and love in good and healing ways. Amen.

—Written by Alydia Smith. From Alydia Smith, ed., *Act/Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis* (Toronto: United Church Publishing House, 2023), p. 127. Free to use with attribution.

YOUNG AT HEART: Acting, Learning, and Praying for Climate Justice

HYMN: All Creatures of Our God and King (vs. 1-3) VU #217

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(together)*

God of the ages, open our ears and our hearts. Open us to a new message in familiar words. Open us to new thinking and new actions. Amen

SCRIPTURES: read by Chris Savory
Genesis 1: 1 – 28 The Creation Story (The Message)
John 20: 19 – 31 Jesus Appears to the Disciples (The Message)

MUSIC MINISTRY: With Every Breath

MESSAGE: Do not doubt....believe!

HYMN: This Is God's Wondrous World VU #296

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING INVITATION:

You are invited at this time to consider the multiple ways that you can give to the life, work, and ministry of this church and the wider church for the sake and love of creation.

Offertory: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow VU #541

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

Prayer of Dedication: *(together)*

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and our concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth. Amen

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN
THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE ARE SENT FORTH AS GOD'S PEOPLE

HYMN: We Plough the Earth and Scatter

VU #520

BENEDICTION:

Go and act, for the care of creation.
Go and learn, for the sake of creation.
Go and pray, for the love of creation.
And may the care of God enfold you,
the passion of the Risen Christ embolden you,
and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit empower you,
now and forever, Amen.

Written by Alydia Smith. From Alydia Smith, ed., Act/Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis (Toronto: United Church Publishing House, 2023), p. 125. Free to use with attribution

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.

Caring for God's Creation



WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

May 4, 2025

Worship Leader: LLWL Heather King

Music: Chris Savory



Third Sunday of Easter/Care for Creation Sunday

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU to LLWL Heather King
for leading in Worship today



BOOK CLUB will meet TODAY following the service in the parlour.

RICHARD, ELAINE AND ADAM INVITE YOU to join our family in celebrating the life of our daughter and mother, Tobi. We gather to remember this wonderful young woman on May 10, 1pm - 3pm at our home, 23 Yu Blvd. Waterford.

THE OUTREACH TEAM ARE HOSTING A SOUP SUPPER (Loaves of Bread) on Wednesday May 14 at 5 p.m. All are welcome.

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.

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!!

THE OUTREACH SOUP LUNCH is being rescheduled due to Mother's Day and Victoria Day to **Sunday, May 25** after our worship service. Mark your calendars for the changed date.

LYNN VALLEY VOICES present their Spring Fling concert at 3:00 p.m. TODAY Sunday, May 4 at First Baptist Church, Simcoe. Admission by donation. See flyer on bulletin board.



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