

## CLOSING HYMN: We Are Pilgrims

VU #59

### COMMISSIONING and BLESSING:

Go in peace, to love and care for others in Christ's name,

- May God, the Creator, renew our life

- May God the Saviour dwell within us,

- and may God the Spirit Guide animate all our thoughts and actions both now and in the world to come. Amen

(The Christ Candle is extinguished)

### POSTLUDE:



## WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, July 13, 2025

Rev. Mary Jo Patterson

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### GREETING

As we gather today in this sacred space, we light the flame.

**For the opportunity to be together as a community,**

to remember the past,

**to claim our future,**

to be alive in our present,

**we light the flame.**

(The candle is Lit)

#### 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.

**INTROIT:** We Are One (vs 1)

VU #402

#### OPENING PRAYER

God of grace and of glory, God of strength and of tenderness, God of peace and of joy - holy God, we ask you to hear our prayers this day and to direct our actions. May this time of worship touch us and bless you - we ask it in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray; O presence and pow'r within us, Being and Life of all, how we are filled, how we o'erflow with infinite love and gladness! We shall this day sow grace and peace, and show mercy to all, and gentle loving-kindness. And we shall be not so self-serving, but a constant source of giving. For yours is the essence, and the wholeness, and the fullness forever. Amen.

**OPENING HYMN:** Holy, Holy, Holy,

VU #315

#### AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Beckoning Christ,

you call us out of our comfortable ghetto of 'us' and 'them' to risk discipleship without walls.

You call us into a worldwide fellowship where God is worshipped above all others.

**You call us into a worldwide fellowship where prayer is offered day and night.**

**You call us into a worldwide fellowship where we can share what we are with others who love you.**

**You call us into a worldwide fellowship where each person has something to give to the whole.**

**You call us into a worldwide fellowship where compassion and respect shape missionary endeavour.**

**Keep on beckoning us out of our safe havens into your rich fellowship of challenge and reconciliation, faith and hope. - K Compston**

### **THE PEACE**

Let us then greet another as a sign of God's peace.

(You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours.)

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

**FIRST LESSON: Amos 7:7-17**

**GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 10: 25 - 37**

**MEDITATION: "Who is My Neighbour?"**

**RESPONSIVE SONG: When I Needed A Neighbour**

VU #600

### **SHARING GOD'S CONCERNS FOR THE WORLD**

Let us take a moment to remember before God the kinds of people we say aren't our neighbours; people we try to pass by on the other side of the road:

- \* people whose skin is not the same colour as ours**
- \* people whose bodies are broken or twisted by disease or injury**
- \* people whose politics differ from our own**
- \* people who have lived so long on charity that they have never learned of any other life**
- \* lone mothers who rely on welfare all their days.**
- \* the young man with AIDS**
- \* the young person in prison**
- \* the person just released from a mental hospital**
- \* the person who has hurt us**
- \* the person who is our servant, the one paid to look after us**

And let us confess together our reasons for avoiding them, for not loving them:

- \* our fear of moral contamination**
  - \* our inability to separate bad actions and poor choices from the people who must live with the consequences**
  - \* our fear that what we believe might be proved wrong**
  - \* our love of ease, security, possessions**
  - \* our traditions , our grudges, our pride, our selfishness, our lack of faith**
- Lord Jesus, we can't hide in the safe shadow of the law anymore. The light of your love shows us who our neighbours are, and it also shows up all the barriers we have raised; and all the excuses that we have rehearsed, for not loving as you love. Forgive us, and set us free.**

Loving God – we know that you are love – and that those who abide in love abide in you and you in them. We would abide in you, and have you abide in us. Help us see the specific and concrete things that we can do to show love to one another – and grant us the strength to do these things – the courage - and the will – for many forces seek to deter us from doing good, many forces attempt to destroy what you would build in us and through us.

**Gracious Spirit, search our hearts too this day and intercede for us; speak for us before the throne of heaven. Grant we pray the blessing we ask for those whom we name now before you in our hearts .....**

**Loving God – may we, and your whole church, prove to be neighbours to those around us. Help us to indeed love you with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, and to love all people as we love ourselves. Amen.**

### **OFFERING OUR GIFTS OF MONEY AND OUR SERVICE**

**Doxology:**

VU #544

**Offering Prayer:**

**God of Justice and Love, Your way commands our obedience. We can do nothing apart from the blessings You bestow. We offer our lives and these our gifts to You. We pray that the work of Your church may be enlarged, enriched and strengthened as it seeks to do your will and to show compassion, justice, and mercy in our world of need. Accept what we bring, and multiply its effectiveness, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



## SUMMER ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Prayers** - Please keep Carol Goff and her family in your prayers on the passing of her sister **Isabelle Turnbull**.

**A CERTIFICATE OF THANKSGIVING** has been received from Mission and Service of the United Church of Canada in recognition for Waterford's contribution in 2024 in the amount of \$15,407. Good work, Waterford United, and let's work hard to meet our 2025 objective of raising \$20,000 for Ministry and Service! The Certificate is displayed in the auditorium.

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.

**FREE CONCERT** – Friday, July 25 at 7:30 p.m. featuring **pianists Stuart and Eric Eigler**. Come and enjoy the beautiful acoustics of our sanctuary. Light refreshments follow.

**A NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR SENDING E-TRANSFERS** has been set up for the church and is [wucdonations@gmail.com](mailto:wucdonations@gmail.com). Please DO NOT send to Kim's usual e-mail for e-transfers. Her usual address is to be used for correspondence only.

### UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES:

Sunday, July 20	led by Rev. Randy McKenzie
Sunday, July 27	led by LLWL Mae Bedford
Sunday, August 3	Hymn Sing
Sunday, August 10	led by Rev. Gary Patterson
Sunday, August 17	led by LLWL Peggy Guiler
Sunday, August 24	led by LLWL Mae Bedford
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