

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

August 17, 2025

LLWL Peggy Guiler

PRELUDE WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHT THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: We gather with the great cloud of witnesses, those who walked by faith and ran with perseverance.

People: We fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Leader: Christ comes with holy fire, kindling our hearts with passion for God's truth.

People: We come ready to be refined, to read the signs of the times, and to follow boldly.

Leader: Let us lay aside every weight that holds us back, and press forward toward the joy set before us.

All: With faith as our guide and Christ as our strength, let us worship God!

OPENING PRAYER: (Unison)

Flame of God, You burn in the heart of the faithful, a fire that warms, a fire that refines. You whisper through the cloud of witnesses, calling us to take our place in the long race of faith. We come—
carrying our burdens, longing to lay them down.

We come—

watching the skies, yearning to read the signs of Your Kingdom's nearness.

Jesus, Pioneer of our salvation, lead us with steady steps and fearless hearts.

Holy Spirit, Breath of endurance, fan the embers of our devotion until they blaze with Your light. In this hour of worship, we listen, we watch, we open ourselves to You.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN: This is the Day

VU #412

SCRIPTURE READING:

Luke 12: 49 - 56 (The Message) **To Start a Fire**

"I've come to start a fire on this earth—how I wish it were blazing right now! I've come to change everything, turn everything right side up—how I long for it to be finished! Do you think I came to smooth things over and make everything nice? Not so. I've come to disrupt and confront! From now on, when you find five in a house, it will be—

"Three against two, and two against three,

Father against son, and son against father;

Mother against daughter, and daughter against mother;

Mother-in-law against bride, and bride against mother-in-law."

Then he turned to the crowd: "When you see clouds coming in from the west, you say, 'Storm's coming'—and you're right. And when the wind comes out of the south, you say, 'This'll be a hot one'—and you're right.

Frauds! You know how to tell a change in the weather, so don't tell me you can't tell a change in the season, the God-season we're in right now.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC – Azrael Hackshaw

MESSAGE: Fire is Burning

SONG: As a Fire Is Meant for Burning VU #578

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Offertory: Praise God VU #541

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

SONG: Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love VU #593

BENEDICTION:

We go now, surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses, running with perseverance the race set before us. We lay aside every weight, and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

We go as bearers of God's holy fire—a flame that warms the weary, a flame that refines the heart, a flame that lights the way to justice and peace.

And may the blessing of God—Creator, Christ, and Spirit—go with us and remain with us, now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: May the Grace of Christ (vs. 1) VU #419

May the grace of Christ our Saviour, and our Maker's boundless love, with the Holy Spirit's favour, rest upon us from above.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU to LLWL Peggy Guiler and Pianist Azrael Hackshaw for leading today's service.

PRAYERS – please keep Laurie Shebec and Lynn Snively and their family in your hearts and prayers as they mourn the passing of their father, Star Golding.

The United Church of Canada has joyously installed the Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath as its 45th Moderator at Knox United Church in Calgary at the 45th General Council (August 7–11). Rev. Heath is a long-time minister who has served Wall Street United Church in Brockville, Ontario since 2007. The installation ceremony included prayers in English, French, and Stoney Nakoda. Rev. Heath received several symbolic gifts and delivered a heartfelt reflection, encouraging the church to embrace its diversity and "bring out all of the flavours, all of the goodness." As the spiritual leader of the United Church, she will now serve a three-year term.

Congratulations to the Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath, the 45th Moderator of The United Church of Canada!

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

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES:

Sunday, August 24	led by LLWL Mae Bedford
Sunday, August 31	led by LLWL Mae Bedford
Sunday, September 7	led by LLWL Heather King
Sunday, September 14	led by LLWL Heather King
Sunday, September 21	to be announced
Sunday, September 28	Rev. Gary Patterson

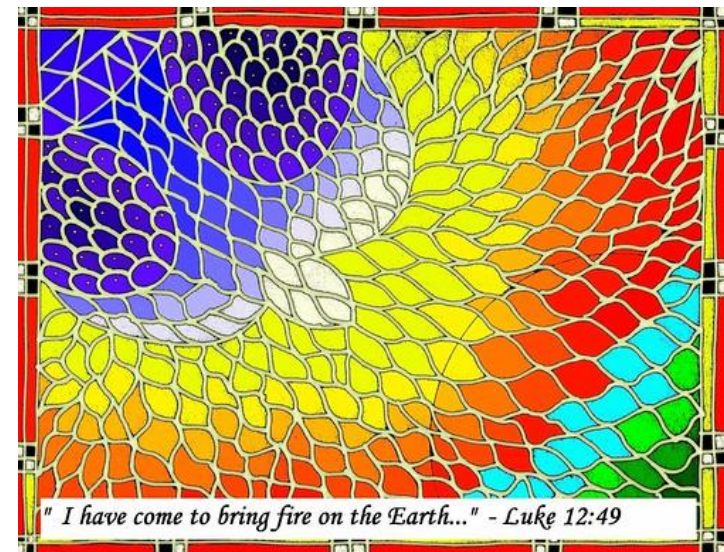


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August 17, 2025

WORSHIP LEADER: LLWL Peggy Guiler

MUSIC: Azrael Hackshaw



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 E-transfer Address wucdonations@gmail.com

Church Bookings, Cori Angus 519-802-2401