

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, September 28, 2025
Rev. Gary Patterson

GATHERING
WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

SMUDGING CEREMONY

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: When we are surrounded on every side, wondering which way is up and which way is down...

All: **Help us, God, for the glory of your name.**

One: When we question which way to go and how to follow God's path for us.

All: **Help us, God, for the glory of your name.**

One: When we find our rest in God and long for others to know the sweet peace of God's embrace...

All: **Help us, God, for the glory of your name.**

One: Today, as we gather for worship, may we come ready to listen and discern God's help that meets us right where we are.

All: **Help us, God, to receive your help and to extend your help to our neighbors, all for the glory of your name.**

OPENING PRAYER:

Loving and Gracious God—Holy one of Israel—tender one to all who call upon you with repentant and believing hearts: bless us, we pray, with your presence this day. Teach the little ones who have gathered to learn your ways, inspire those who seek your wisdom, energize those who are exhausted, comfort those who grieve, and strengthen those who are weak. Indeed, O God, fill all of our hearts with your praise and lead us in holiness and righteousness in this hour and in the hours to come. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: Come, O Fount of Every Blessing VU #559

SCRIPTURE: Luke 15: 11 – 32

MUSIC MINISTRY: As the Deer Pants VU #766

MESSAGE: Let's Party

DEDICATION HYMN: We Have This Ministry VU #510

OFFERING

Offertory: We Give You But Your Own VU #542

We give you but your own, whatever the gift may be;

All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

Prayer of Dedication: Gracious God, we bring our gifts to you today, knowing that we are called to be faithful stewards of all you have given to us. Help us use our resources wisely, serve others with open hearts, and seek what is good for your sake. Teach us that where our treasure is, that is where our hearts will be, too. Amen

PRAYERS FOR ORANGE SHIRT DAY

All: Powerful Christ, we are grateful that you came to us as a child, who grew out of a community that nurtured, supported, and taught you the way of your ancestors. You have asked us to do the same: to treat every child as we would treat you, to love every person as you have loved us. We are grateful that your power is rooted in love, not force; your strength is displayed through community, not might. You have taught us to work toward a better world where all of creation thrives, and where every child matters.

One: On this Orange Shirt Day, we remember Phyllis Webstad as a child, and the stolen childhood of all the children forcibly raised by church-run institutions, known as residential schools. We lament how these institutions stole from children the opportunity to grow in a safe and loving environment, stole from Elders the opportunity to share their teachings and wisdom with younger generations; and stole from communities the opportunity to live intergenerationally.

All: **We mourn the children who never made it home, the communities that were destroyed, the broken hearts, the stories never shared, and the shattered relationships.**

One: We ask that you provide comfort to all who are seeking healing and who daily wrestle with the ongoing harmful legacy of these colonial institutions, strength to all who name how colonial powers have

harmed us as peoples and as a nation; often at great personal cost, and courage to all who are working toward reconciliation. Christ Child, as you grew, you reminded us to always welcome and care for children. We remember your children today.

All: We lament and acknowledge the sinful ways that colonial powers tried to eradicate Indigenous cultures within Canada, breaking Indigenous families, removing children from their homes while destroying communities.

One: And we pray for healing, so that we who live together in this country can also work together to build a better future where all children are cherished, beloved, and given what they need to thrive. So that we may treat all children as we would treat you, our Beloved.

All: May it be so. Amen.

THE LORDS PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: Be Thou My Vision VU #642

COMMISSION: Go now, in the blessing of God who covers you, protects you, delivers you, and helps you that you might reflect God's glory as you love and serve others. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU to Rev. Gary Patterson for leading Worship today.

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

PRAYER CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, September 30 at 10:00 a.m. We will include discussion of ideas for Pastoral Care.

M & P MEETING - Monday, October 6 at 2:00 p.m.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES:

Sunday, October 5 led by Rev. Mary Jo Patterson – WW Communion
Sunday, October 12 led by the Worship/Faith Committee

THE WORSHIP/FAITH COMMITTEE INVITES VOLUNTEERS to assist with the **October 12 Thanksgiving service** by offering to read scripture and lead in prayers. Please contact a member of the Committee if you can help!

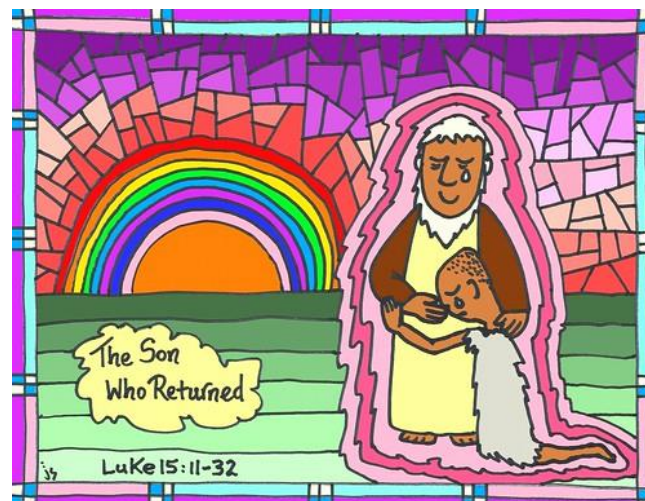
FREE THANKSGIVING TAKE OUT DINNER – Monday, October 13, 2 – 2:30 pm.
Pre order by October 9 by calling Lana Plank at 226-802-1328.
See bulletin board for details.

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

September 28, 2025

Worship Leader: Rev. Gary Patterson

Music: Chris Savory



Luke 15: 11 – 32

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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