

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH
November 2, 2025 - ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY
Rev. Mary Jo Patterson

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENCE: *Centring silence has its roots in the earliest of monastic traditions of the 'desert Fathers (abbas)/Mothers (ammās)' and the Christian mystic tradition... Relaxing into 'quietness' creates the space for deep listening and draws you into yourself.*

Amid all the noise in our lives, we take this moment to sit in silence: to give thanks for another day; to give thanks for the gift of life. *(Silence)*

GATHERING SONG: We Are One VU# 402
(Christ Candle is Lit)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.

All: **They shall mount up with wings as eagles;**

One: They shall run and not be weary;

All: **They shall walk and not faint.**

One: In the company of all God's saints and pilgrims, come and worship.

All: **We come with prayer and praise to find our strength renewed!**

OPENING HYMN: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling VU #333

OPENING PRAYER: Ancient of days, God of our everyday lives, we praise you for your guidance and care in every generation, and for the example of those who have gone before us, who taught us your name and brought us to faith. In the great mystery of your love, we know these saints gather to praise and adore you for your wisdom that instructs, your grace that redeems, your Spirit who guides us, and for the comfort and hope we claim in the knowledge that neither death nor life can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Celebrate God's Love words printed

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING: God of the prophets and poets, the seers and storytellers of scripture, thank you for the ancient visions of your truth that still guide us. Send us your Spirit this day to open our minds and hearts to the word you have for us in our times, in the name of Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

- Isaiah 1: 10 – 18
- Luke 19: 1 – 10

REFLECTION – “The Great Reversal?”

HYMN: Will You Come and Follow Me

VU #567

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: God who calls throughout the ages, we give thanks that you have spoken to your people in every generation, calling them into the light, showing them the paths of justice, guiding them out of bondage into freedom. In every age, you have called leaders to guide your people with courage and insight, speaking through them to offer comfort and challenge. We give you thanks for your Holy Spirit, who offers the gift of faith to us, and for the ways that those who came before us have handed that faith on to us. As we give thanks for all that we have received, remind us that we are but a small part of your creation, its history, life and love. May such a reminder keep us humble in our mission, even as you call us to take up our place in the ongoing story of your love, with courage and creativity.

Hold a few seconds of silence.

Hear our prayers, O God, for your church in this place and around the world. Sustain and support the work of the Gospel. Where the church is in physical danger, protect it with your Spirit. Where the church is facing division, unify it through your love. Where the church lacks the courage to stand up for justice, embolden it with examples of those saints who have gone before us. Where the church lacks energy or vision, renew its hope in the presence of Christ, who is with us always.

Hold a few seconds of silence.

God of the past, the present, and what is still to come we thank you today for all those saints who have shown us how to love each other, and for those who still touch people in trouble with tenderness, caring for the sick, cheering the lonely, helping the poor. In this quiet moment, we remember those around us who need a saint to reach out to them in their need this day:

Hold a few seconds of silence

Give each of us the courage and compassion to be your saints alive today, touching the world in Jesus' name, as we pray in the words that he taught us ...

Our Father.... Amen

OFFERING INVITATION

When we gather as God's Church, we celebrate the gifts of so many others, for so many centuries, offered in Jesus' name. Now is our opportunity to join our gifts to theirs, so that God will be praised and Jesus' love will be spread in this generation and in those to come.

Song of Dedication: We Give Thee but Thine Own VU #543

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O God, from thee.

Prayer of Dedication:

Generous God, you are faithful and fruitful in every generation. Bless our gifts and make them fruitful beyond our imagining in the work of your kingdom. Keep us faithful in this generation so we can offer the inheritance we have received in Christ to the generation that comes after us. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: For All the Saints VU #705

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION – Micah 6: 8

One: Take up your calling in Christ Jesus and go into the world to serve and celebrate in his name. Be strong and of good courage, for Christ walks with you.

All: **And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and communion in the Holy Spirit be with us, now and evermore. Amen.**

(The Christ Candle is extinguished)

POSTLUDE

CHORAL ENDING: God Be With You (vs. 1) VU #422

God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd's care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.



WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

November 2, 2025

Worship Leader: Rev. Mary Jo Patterson

Music: Chris Savory



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, Ted Robinson wuctreasurer@bellnet.ca

Church E-transfer Address wucdonations@gmail.com

Church Bookings, Cori Angus 519-802-2401



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU to
Rev. Mary Jo Patterson for leading today's Worship Service

PRAYERS – Please keep the families of Ken Holder and Bill Dunkley in your hearts and prayers as they mourn their passing this week.

COUNCIL will meet on Tuesday, November 4 at 4:00 p.m. at the church. Since Council meetings are open to the entire congregation to observe, ZOOM has been made available as well. Please contact Rick or Marilyn for information.

WHITE GIFT SUNDAY will be observed on the first Sunday of Advent, November 30. This will give time to prepare the Christmas Hampers with your donations. Grocery gift cards and cash along with gift donations are welcome!

AS PART OF OUR PASTORAL CARE DISCUSSIONS, a white board has been placed in the auditorium. If you know of someone who is celebrating a birthday, etc. or who is ill, please add the information to the board.

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

COFFEE HOUR – help is needed to organize coffee hour for November 30 and December 7. Please sign up!!

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES:

Sunday, November 9 led by LLWL Harold Walton – Remembrance Sunday
Sunday, November 16 led by LLWL Mae Bedford
Sunday, November 23 led by Rev. Mary Jo Patterson
Sunday, November 30 led by LLWL Mae Bedford – Advent 1, White Gift

TURKEY SUPPER - the Trustees regret to tell you that they will NOT be hosting their annual supper this year. After many years we are taking a hiatus - but we plan to be back in 2026. Thank you all for your hard work and support over the years, it has been very much appreciated! See you next year.

FROSTY FAIR BAZAAR at St. James United Church in Simcoe on November 8 from 8:30 am to noon. See bulletin board for details.

CELEBRATE GOD'S LOVE

Celebrate God's love, let it fill your heart each day.
Let it give the strength you need to help you on your way.
Celebrate God's love, let it make you want to sing.
Lift your voice and share the joy that it can bring.
Greet each day with a smile on your face.
Walk in the light of the Lord's redeeming grace.
Find great joy in everything you do
As you celebrate God's love for you.

Celebrate God's love, let it guide the way you live.
Let it dwell within your soul and help your heart forgive.
Celebrate God's love, let it set your spirit free.
Share the peace it brings with everyone you see.
Sing with praise, let the world hear your song.
Show you believe, let them see your faith is strong.
Find great joy in everything you do
As you celebrate God's love,
Celebrate God's love for you.

