

## WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, November 16, 2025

Mae Bedford, LLWL

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LIGHT THE CHRIST CANDLE

**GATHERING SONG:** Jesus Loves Me      VU #365

### CALL TO WORSHIP

**One:** With joy in our hearts and awe in our spirits, let us worship.

**All:** **God whispers messages of love, acceptance, wisdom, and welcome.**

**One:** The Holy One reaches out to us with melodious sounds, gorgeous sights, delectable smells, and luxurious textures. We are encircled with delights that leave our senses full of awe.

**All:** **We hear God's invitation to enter deeply into this worship experience. We are ready!**

### OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN:** For the Beauty of the Earth      VU #226  
(tune VU #81)

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Words of Assurance:**

**We are not alone. When we feel broken, lost, or alone, the risen Christ lifts us to new possibilities. When we feel unworthy, inadequate, or worthless, the risen Christ befriends us and loves us for who we are and for who we are becoming. We are not alone, for in Christ we are loved into wholeness. Thanks be to God!**

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:** Song of Peace      printed

**PSALM 98**      VU page 818

**Refrain 2:** *All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*

**One:** Sing to God a new song.

**All:** **for God has done marvelous things.**

**One:** Your right hand and your holy arm have brought victory.

**All:** **You have made known your salvation, and revealed before the nations your saving power.**

**One:** You have remembered your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;

**All:** **all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. (R)**

**One:** Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

**All:** **break into joyous praise, sing psalms.**

**One:** Sing psalms to God with the harp,

**All:** **with the harp and melodious voice.**

**One:** With trumpets, and the sound of the horn

**All:** **make a joyful noise before our sovereign God. (R)**

**One:** Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,

**All:** **the world, and its inhabitants.**

**One:** Let the rivers clap their hands,

**All:** **the hills sing together for joy before God.**

**One:** You come to judge the earth, O God,

**All:** **to judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity. (R)**

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The humble you guide in justice and the humble you teach your way. We give thanks for these lessons in scripture, O God. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE

Matthew 11: 25 - 30 Jesus' prayer of thanksgiving

### MESSAGE: Burdens

**HYMN** Christ Has No Body Now But Yours      MVU #171

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

**Offertory:** What can I do?      MVU #191

*What can I do? What can I bring? What can I say? What can I sing? I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer. I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.*

### Dedication of Offering:

**Offering Prayer:** *God of abundant life and generosity beyond counting, grant that our hands and our hearts might proclaim Good News in times of challenge and adversity. We are seeking a vision of restoration and renewal that touches the life pulse for all of God's people. Amen.*

**HYMN:** God, Make Us Servants of Your Peace

VU #676

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**  
**LORD'S PRAYER**

**CLOSING HYMN:** He Leadeth Me

VU #657

**BENEDICTION**

And now, surrounded by the wonderful love of God, which will not let us go, which holds us, enfolds us, forgives us, empowers us, encourages us, and gives us hope, let us go forth with confidence and joy to live the lives to which God calls us.

**PARTING SONG:** Wherever You May Go

MVU #216

*Refrain: Wherever you may go, I will follow,  
And your people shall be my people too.  
Wherever you may go, I will follow,  
For I would be faithful, loyal and true.*

Say the word and I will stay, I will never go away,  
We will travel side by side and God's love will be our guide (R)

From beginning to the end I will always be your friend,  
When you need me, I'll be there, you can trust my faithful care. (R)

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**A SONG OF PEACE**

This is my song O God of all the nations,  
A song of peace for lands afar, and mine;  
This is my home, the country where my heart is,  
This is my hope, my dream, my shrine;  
But other hearts in other lands are beating  
With hopes and dreams the same as mine;

My country's skies are blue,  
And sunlight beams on pine,  
But other lands have light,  
And skies are blue, are sometimes blue as mine.  
Oh, hear my song, O God,  
A song of peace, for their land, and mine.

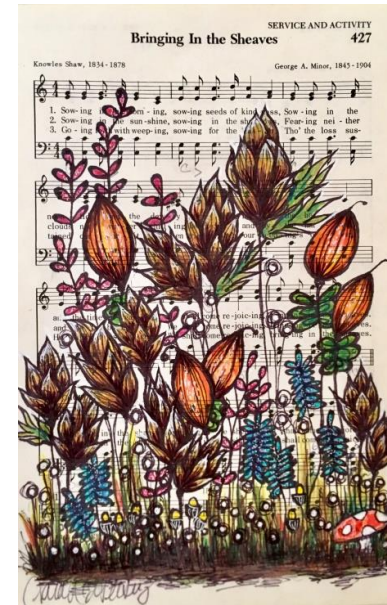


**WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH**

**November 16, 2025**

**Worship Leader: LLWL Mae Bedford**

**Music: Chris Savory**



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*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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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU to LLWL Mae Bedford for leading today's Worship Service**

### **WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH IS PLEASED TO WELCOME NEW MINISTRY**

**REV. GARY PATTERSON** will begin on December 1, 2025 for short-term half-time ministry. He will provide pastoral care as required.

**REV. HAE YOUNG KIM** will begin a 2-year full time contract on March 1, 2026. Rev. Kim is skilled in pastoral counselling, and wants to meet us where we are, to listen, and work with us to move into the future offering his gifts and skills in pastoral care to our community.

**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.

**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!

### **UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES:**

Sunday, November 23 led by Rev. Mary Jo Patterson  
Sunday, November 30 led by LLWL Mae Bedford – Advent 1, White Gift  
Sunday, December 7 led by Rev. Mary Jo Patterson – Advent 2  
Sunday, December 14 led by LLWL Harold Walton – Advent 3  
Sunday, December 21 led by Rev. Gary Patterson – Advent 4

**FREE CHRISTMAS CONCERT – THE BRANTFORD COMMUNITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** on Friday, November 28 at 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments follow. Come start the Advent/Christmas season by enjoying the beautiful acoustics of our church sanctuary.

**Low Notes High Hopes Saxophone Quartet** at St. James United Church Simcoe, Saturday, December 13 at 2 pm.

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