

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

Christ the King Sunday

November 23, 2025

Rev. Mary Jo Patterson

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

My friends, on this Reign of Christ Sunday, I welcome and invite you to worship as we gather in the presence of God. From the first day of Advent, so long ago, we have come full circle to the celebration of the Reign of Christ, also known as Christ the King Sunday. We have witnessed the wonderful birth, the incredible healing moments, and the teachings that have sustained people throughout the centuries. We cried in sorrow at the Crucifixion and rejoiced with absolute joy at the sunrise of Easter when Jesus conquered our greatest fear, death. We celebrated the great good news of the disciples as they risked everything to proclaim the good news to all people finally. Now on this Sunday, we invite Jesus to enter our hearts anew and prepare us for the new Christian year ahead. With respect and gratitude for the original custodians of this land, we gather together this day to affirm in hope and faith that we can create a safe, dignified, sacred space of belonging for all who live on Turtle Island.

SILENCE:

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)

INTROIT: Eternal Christ, You Rule

VU #212

LIGHT THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Say among the nations, The Lord reigns.

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!

God comes to judge the earth.

God will judge the world with righteousness and the people with truth.

Come, let us worship God in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessing and honour, glory and power be to our God now and always.

OPENING HYMN: Rejoice the Lord Is King

VU #213

OPENING PRAYER:

God of majesty and mercy, Three in One and One in Three, we give you thanks and praise for your commitment to your creation. In Christ, you have turned the world upside down, revealing your strength through weakness, and your power through compassion. In the cross of Christ, you taught us that no hopeless situation or frightening possibility is beyond your reach. We praise you for your love at work around us and within us, always able to do more than we can ask or even imagine. Receive our love and our loyalty this day, our Sovereign and our Saviour. Amen.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: For Where Love, Is, There Is God words printed

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING:

Holy God, you speak words of challenge and words of comfort through the scriptures. Send your Spirit to open our understanding to the word we need to hear this day, for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

(Silence)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Jeremiah 23: 1 – 6
- Luke 1: 68 – 79

REFLECTION – “What If?”

HYMN: Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

VU #681

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Congregational response) ***Jesus, Prince of Peace, reign in us and among us.***

OFFERING:

Offering Invitation

Each week, we pray for the coming of God’s Kingdom. Though we do not know precisely what this will look like, we offer our gifts to God for the work of the Kingdom here and now.

Song of Dedication: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 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.

Prayer of Dedication:

Steadfast God, we enjoy your loving kindness day by day. We offer our gifts in gratitude for what we have received from your love. Bless our gifts and our lives so that your goodness will touch many lives in the name of Jesus Christ, our friend and saviour. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: Crown Him with Many Crowns

VU #211

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION-

We go now, thanking God for re-igniting the flame of hope within us, for filling our hearts with light and evicting the darkness, and for giving a new vision of God's glory.

Go now, as Light-bearers to a world in darkness,

Go now, as Hope-carriers to a world in despair;

Go now as Peace-makers to a world in distress;

Go now as Joy-givers to a world in sadness;

Go now as Love-deliverers to a world in brokenness.

We go in the name of Christ, in the love of God and in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

(The Christ Candle is extinguished)

CHORAL BLESSING – Go Now In Peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true

Know he will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe

Reach out to others, so all the world can see.

God will be there, watching from above

Go now in peace, in faith and in love.

Amen, Amen, Amen.



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Worship Leader: Rev. Mary Jo Patterson

Music: Chris Savory



Jeremiah 23: 1 - 6

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

REV. GARY PATTERSON will begin part-time ministry beginning December 1 which includes providing pastoral care. With his first Sunday service being December 21 and to help him learn our names, we ask that everyone wear name tags which are available at the back of the sanctuary.

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.

Are you interested in learning more about **PASTORAL CARE**? **On Monday, December 1 from 1 – 2 pm** join us to participate in a Zoom session in the church parlour, or from your home. Please register with Diane at the office, or talk to Peter or Alma.

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

OUTREACH – A big thank you to all who have been contributing to our **Little Food Pantry**. Your continued support is much appreciated. As a reminder, there is a donation bin in the auditorium.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES:

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
Wed., December 24	Christmas Eve Service prepared by Debra Leedham
Sunday, December 28	led by Rev. Lynn Workman

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.

HALDIMAND-NORFOLK HEALTH UNIT is offering training for the **FOOD HANDLER COURSE** in the new year. If you are interested in taking the course, please contact Marilyn Antkiw.

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

FOR WHERE LOVE IT, THERE IS GOD

Come as strangers to the altar, for where love is, there is God.
Come you poor, you weak, who falter, for where love is there is God.
Song and scripture wed together, bound by faith in sacred Word,
Sharing peace and consolation, for where love is, there is God.

Let us each love one another, for where love is, there is God.
And embrace as sister, brother, for where love is, there is God.
Heal our hurting, lift our spirits, cease our cold, contentious ways.
Spread the grace of love unending, for where love is, there is God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia praise the Lord.
Alleluia, Alleluia, for where love is, there is God.

