



WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH
Sunday November 30, 2025
Advent One – HOPE
Mae Bedford, LLWL



PRELUDE

CHOIR INTROIT: Soon and Very Soon We're Goin' to See the King

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - HOPE Janet Snow/Diane Holden

Reader One: When I look around, I see shadows of hunger. So many people in towns and cities and around the world will go to bed hungry tonight...

Reader Two: When I look around, I see shadows of injustice, the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer, everyone saying, "Buy, buy, buy!" - and someone somewhere will fall asleep under a bridge tonight...

Reader One: In the face of hunger, we light a candle of hope...

Reader Two: In the face of injustice, in the face of despair, we light a candle of hope... (*Light the first candle*)

Reader One: Let the light from this candle say to all that God's hope is coming on earth as it already is in heaven.

Reader Two: Friends, be not afraid, God's hope is at hand!

PRAY TOGETHER:

God of hope, on this first Sunday of Advent, fill us with hope for the world and the church, knowing that Jesus, the Christ child, brings the light of hope. Amen.

HYMN: A Candle is Burning (vs. 1) VU #6
A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright, a candle of hope in the winter's dark night. While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky, our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Promises are made and hope is the result.

All: **Advent is the glorious season of hope-filled expectations!**

One: Signs of anticipation and yearning surround us.

All: **We long for the Christ Child-the One who brings hope!**

HYMN: Hope Is a Star (vs. 1) VU# 7
Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright. When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: O Ancient Love VU #17

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

1 Thessalonians 3: 9 – 13

Luke 21: 25 – 36

MINISTRY OF MUSIC : All Earth is Waiting VU #5

MESSAGE: Going Forward in Hope

HYMN: Hope of the World VU #215

OFFERING and WHITE GIFT PRESENTATION:

Offertory Song: 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.

Offering Prayer:

God of many gifts, we thank you for your gifts of hope. May our giving be a sign of hope here in this community of faith and everywhere. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: May the God of Hope VU #424

BENEDICTION:

The word we have been given this day is Hope. May we carry hope on our journey throughout this week, the hope we have encountered and experienced in this place. May we offer the vision of hope to all we meet. May we share the blessing that we have received, this day and always. Amen

CHORAL BLESSING: Hope is a Star (vs. 1) VU #7

Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright. When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU to LLWL Mae Bedford
for leading today's Worship Service
and to Azrael Hackshaw for his music ministry.**

REV. GARY PATTERSON will begin part-time ministry beginning December 1 which includes providing pastoral care. His first Sunday service is December 21 and to help him learn our names, name tags 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.

TODAY IS WHITE GIFT SUNDAY to help fill the Christmas Hampers with your donations. Grocery gift cards, cash and gift donations are welcome and can be placed on the trolley at the back of the sanctuary.

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:

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| 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 - 5 p.m. |
| Sunday, December 28 | led by Rev. Lynn Workman |

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.

SUPPORT THE NORFOLK HALDIMAND HOSPICE by participating in their events. See the bulletin board for information.

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

November 30, 2025

Worship Leader: LLWL Mae Bedford

Music: Azrael Hackshaw



FIRST ADVENT – HOPE

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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