

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH
Advent Three – Joy Candle
December 14, 2025
LLWL Harold Walton

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHOIR INTROIT: Soon and Very Soon We're Goin' to See the King
Soon and very soon we're goin' to see the King
Soon and very soon we're goin' to see the King
Soon and very soon we're goin' to see the King.
We are waiting, we are waiting. We're goin' to see the King.

THE CANDLES OF ADVENT – JOY Rick and Elaine Woloshyn

Reader One: When I look around, I see shadows of sadness, unhoused people in shelters, people in prison, people who have become invisible and forgotten...

Reader Two: When I look around, I see shadows of grief and loss, people dreading the holidays because they've lost a loved one, because they're recently divorced, because they don't want to spend another Christmas alone... (*Light the pink candle*)

Reader One: In the face of sadness, we light a candle of joy...

Reader Two: In the face of grief, in the face of loss, we light a candle of joy...

Reader One: May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

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

Reader One: Brothers and sisters in Christ, be not afraid, God's joy is at hand!

HYMN: A Candle is Burning (vs. 3) VU #6
A candle is burning, a candle of joy. A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy. Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord, your God, is in your midst.

Let us sing with loud shout of praises!

God rejoices over you with gladness and renews you with love.

We will rejoice with all our hearts at what the Lord has done!

With joy, draw water from the well of salvation in this time of worship.

God is our salvation; we will trust and have no fear.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

OPENING HYMN: Joyful, Joyful We Adore You VU #232

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious Judge, we look around us and we are not proud of what we see. People criticize each other and listen only to those who agree with them. We grumble and think the past holds the solutions, forgetting its inequities and iniquities. We are impatient for things to improve but we do not want to change our ways. Forgive us for sharing in the ungrateful mood of our times, and renew in us the joy and gratitude we once knew for your gifts to us in Christ Jesus.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Of the Father's Love Begotten

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of justice and joy, we turn to your Word to hear your will and your wisdom for our times. Open our hearts and minds by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit so that we might hear what you are saying to the church through Christ, our Friend and Saviour.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Isaiah 35: 1 – 10
- Matthew 11: 2 – 11

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

For the Truth which holds our living, for the Truth that challenges and changes us, for the Truth that sets us free,

Thanks be to God! May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder, as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives.

MESSAGE

HYMN: Open My Eyes, That I May See

VU #371

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Offertory Hymn of Dedication: When we are Living (vs. 2) VU#581
Through all our living, we our fruits must give. Good works of service are for offering. When we are giving, or when receiving, we belong to God, we belong to God.

Prayer of Dedication:

God, our Judge and our Joy, receive our gifts as seeds of gratitude for your gift to us in Christ Jesus. Bless these seeds with growth so that joy will blossom for people depleted by challenges, and places overwhelmed by scarce resources. Be their justice and their joy and ours, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREPARATION FOR PRAYER O God Hear my Prayer (sung twice) VU #948

O God, hear my prayer, O God hear my prayer When I call answer me.

O God hear my prayer, O God hear my prayer, Come and listen to me.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God who makes all things new,

Renew our life together.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: Joy to the World

VU #59

COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION

CHORAL BLESSING: Hope is a Star (vs 3)

VU #7

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn telling the world that the saviour is born. 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.

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

December 14, 2025

Worship Leader: LLWL Harold Walton

Music: Chris Savory



THIRD ADVENT – JOY

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU to LLWL Harold Walton
for leading today's Worship Service**

REV. GARY PATTERSON has begun part-time ministry which includes providing pastoral care. He will lead the morning service on Sunday, December 21 and the Christmas Eve service (5 p.m.) To help him learn our names, name tags are available at the back of the sanctuary.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2026 are at the back of the sanctuary. Please remember to take yours! Thank you to those who continue to make donations through PAR.

GENEROUS GIFTS FROM WHITE GIFT SUNDAY and additional donations have contributed to Waterford United Church being able to provide Christmas Baskets for 15 local people: 9 adults, 3 teens and 3 children under the age of 10. Over the last few weeks gifts and food supplies have been gathered for the baskets to be packed and delivered during two days later this week. Thank-you to all who have donated and volunteered their time and efforts to help others in our community.

OUTREACH SOUP SUPPER will be held on Wednesday, December 17 at 5:00 p.m.

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.

MITTEN TREE – Up and ready for your donations!

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES:

Sunday, December 21	led by Rev. Gary Patterson – Advent 4
Wed., December 24	Christmas Eve Service - 5 p.m. led by Rev. Gary Patterson
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.

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

COLBORNE VILLAGE UNITED CHURCH is selling pies for Christmas on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings in the church office from 9 – noon (apple, cherry and elderberry).



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