

**WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**December 24, 2025**  
**Rev. Gary Patterson**

**WELCOME**

**CHOIR INTROIT:** Huron Carol

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**One:** The Word became flesh and lived among us,

**All:** **and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.**

**One:** Let us rejoice that the Light of the World shines from the manger and the cross.

**All:** **We will worship God this Christmas eve, with joyful hearts and songs of grateful praise.**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE** Carol Goff and Val Jolley

**Reader One:** Because the shadows of injustice and despair threaten to overwhelm us, we pray for hope...  
*(Light the first candle in the Advent wreath.)*

**Reader Two:** Because the shadows of war and the many swords have not yet been beaten into ploughshares, we pray for peace...  
*(Light the second candle in the Advent wreath.)*

**Reader One:** Because the shadows of grief and loss weigh so heavily, we pray for joy...  
*(Light the third candle in the Advent wreath.)*

**Reader Two:** Because the shadows of hatred are still so strong, and because people all over the world are suffering, we pray for love.  
*(Light the fourth candle in the Advent wreath.)*

**Reader One:** God has come to us as a child. Christ is present in our world. *(Light the Christ Candle in the Advent wreath)*

**Reader Two:** May the light and the fire from these candles burn away everything that is preventing the God of hope and peace and joy and love from being born among us...

**Reader One:** Brothers and sisters, be not afraid, even now - even now – the light of Christ is overwhelming the world!

**SONG:** A Candle is Burning

VU #6

**OPENING PRAYER:**

God of mystery and wonder,

**Creator, Christ and Spirit, on this holy night, the angels sing your praises with great joy. The shepherds welcome your saving love, born in a manger. Mary and Joseph ponder your promise, cradled in their arms. Glory to you, O God, for such gifts entrusted to us in Christ Jesus! And so we come to praise you, singing with the angels, amazed like the shepherds, cradling the Christ Child in our hearts once again.**

Glory to you, O God, Source of Light and Love for all people. Amen

**OPENING HYMN:** O Come, All Ye Faithful VU #60

**CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION**

We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us.

We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying both love and the need for love, and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth, always drawing us on to be born again, encouraging, exhorting, comforting, nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.

We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ. Hunted at birth and humiliated at death, Christ entered our fearful darkness so that we might enter his glorious light & share the life of his resurrection.

And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God, a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace and celebrate living together. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Amen.

**TIME WITH YOUNG AT HEART:** Children's Sing-a-Long and Story

- Jingle Bells
- Deck the Halls
- What a Special Night

## PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

God of light and life, open our hearts to hear your promise of new life in the familiar stories of Christmas. Surprise us with new insights and refresh us with deep wisdom. Enfold us in the light of your Holy Spirit as we attend to the baby in the manger. Amen.

## SCRIPTURES:

- Isaiah 9:2 – 7
- Luke 2: 1 - 4 (15 - 20)

**MUSIC MINISTRY:** For Unto Us a Child is Born (from the Messiah)

**MESSAGE:** A Not So Silent Night

**SONG:** O Little Town of Bethlehem

VU #64

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God's gift in the Christ Child arrived in a small town, a humble stable, to a couple no one invited in – and still that gift changes lives. Our gifts to God this Christmas share in that miracle.

**Offertory:** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow VU #541

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures high and low; give thanks to God in love made known: Creator, Word and Spirit, One.*

**Prayer of Dedication:**

**Generous and loving God, your gift to us in Christ Jesus still draws us to the manger and opens our hearts with wonder. Bless our gifts in his name, so that they may draw others to your love and the blessing we have found in the Holy One, born for us this night. Amen.**

## CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

(see insert)



**CLOSING SONG:** Silent Night Holy Night

VU #67

## BENEDICTION:

**To you is born this night a Saviour who is Christ the Lord.**

May the love of the Christ Child embrace you, and the joy of the Christ Child fill your heart. May the peace of the Christ Child give you rest, and the hope of the Christ Child guide you into the year ahead. **Amen.**

## WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

December 24, 2025

**Worship Leader:** Rev. Gary Patterson

**Music:** Chris Savory



## CHRISTMAS EVE

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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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## CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION



### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

This is the Table of the Lord. Come, like Mary, placing your trust in God to help you through whatever lies ahead. Come, like Joseph, relying not on the law or reputation, or anything other than the love of God. Come, like the angels, lifting your voice in praise of God, spreading peace to all the earth. Come, like the shepherds, called from work to the joy of worship. Come, like the Magi, from all corners of the globe, to greet the Christ child. This is the Table of the Lord. Come, all you who long to meet God here, for you are very welcome.

### THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And with you also.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right and our greatest duty and joy, Gracious God, Creator of heaven and earth, to praise you with heart, mind, soul and strength. You created light out of nothing and formed us in your image, calling us to love and serve you, and live in peace in the world you love. When we turned from you, you did not turn from us. You offered us a word of liberation through the prophets, guiding us back to follow your way. And so with choirs of angels and archangels, with shepherds and saints, prophets and disciples, with your people from every time and place, we join the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

We give you thanks, holy God, for sending your beloved Son Jesus into the world. Born in the night, he is the Light of the World. Born in the humility of a stable, he is filled with majesty. Though poor, he is rich in mercy and grace.

Though rejected by the world, he welcomes all to his side. Though dying on the cross, he brings new life. In rising from the grave, he promises to be with us always. And when he was raised to your glory, you sent your Holy Spirit to keep us united with him and one another. Remembering these wondrous things, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

Merciful God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered at this holy table, and on these gifts of bread and wine. May they be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus. Nourished by them, may we become the body of Christ at work in the world, made new and redeemed by his blood. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory are yours now and forever.

As our Lord taught us, we now pray:

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### THE STORY OF THE TABLE

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it and said, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, he took the cup after supper, saying "This is the new covenant sealed in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do it in remembrance of me."

*(Breaking the bread)* This bread is the body of Christ, broken for you.

*(Lifting the cup)* This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the birth, death, and resurrection of our Lord, until he comes again.

(Communion will be by intinction, people come to the communion station take bread and dip it in the cup then return to their seat. All are welcome. We will serve those unable to come to the front.)

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal and ever present God, in gratitude for this meal in which you have given yourself to us, we give ourselves to you. Take us out this night to walk in your light, to follow the Prince of Peace, to lead lives filled with your love, feeding a hungry world, and sharing your Good News with those we meet for the sake of Jesus Christ, born in wonder for the sake of the world you love. Amen.