

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH
First Sunday after Christmas
December 28, 2025
Rev. Lyn Workman

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP WARM-UP

- "Got Tell it On the Mountain" (vs. 1&3) VU #43
- "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" (vs. 1&4) VU #44
- "What Child is This?" (vs. 1&3) VU #74

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Christmas will soon be packed away once more. Yet we feel the hope, peace, joy, and love of Advent as it continues to flow in our lives.

May the light of Christ continue to shine in the world and go into the shadowed corners, so that all may know God's light.

Light of New Life, shining around us and through us. Encompass the world. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP: (based on *Isaiah 63:7-9*)

One: Let us tell of God's unfailing love for us.
All: **We will sing praises for all that God has done.**
One: With mercy and constant love.
All: **God has richly blessed all people. Let us worship God together and sing praises for all that God has done.**

HYMN: "Joy to the World" VU #59

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

One: Loving God, we thank you for the joy of Christmas and the birth of your son, our Saviour, Jesus.
All: **We thank you for the promise of peace and hope he brings to the world, to our community, to our church, and to our own lives.**

One: We confess how easily we leave Jesus in his cradle, forgetting that he and Mary and Joseph soon became refugees, fleeing for their lives to Egypt.
One: We confess that we live our own comfortable lives, forgetting the refugees of our time, and all those who suffer hunger, pain, and oppression.
All: **Forgive us, God, and help us remember what we are celebrating: your presence among us, your gifts of love to us, and your call to service.** (*Meditative Silence*)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

As we approach the beginning of a new year, we ask that these words of scripture will reveal to us your light, love, and salvation, all that we need for the year to come. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Isaiah 35:1-10
- Responsive Psalm: Psalm 148 (Voices United page 871)
- Matthew 2:13-23

MONOLOGUE: Do You Have Room?

HYMN: "He is Born, Little Child Divine" VU #50

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Sung Dedication: In the Bleak Midwinter (vs. 5) VU #55

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

Offertory Prayer of Dedication:

Take our offerings, Gracious God – what we offer here, what we offer with our time and energy – and make them holy. May such light shine from us and from these gifts that all may know of the peace of your kingdom. Amen.

HYMN: "Joy is Now in Every Place"

VU #45

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

One: As Mary gave birth to Jesus, the Prince of peace,
All: **so let us give birth to peace in our lives.**
One: As Mary and Joseph cared for the baby Jesus,
All: **so let us care for each other.**
One: As God strengthened Jesus and Mary and Joseph on their journey,
All: **so let us strengthen each other and all those in need.**
One: And may the blessings of this joyous season be with us all.
All: Amen.

CHORAL BLESSING: Sing Till Sundown

VU #78



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to Rev. Lyn Workman for leading today's worship and to Azrael Hackshaw for his music ministry.

Next Sunday, January 4 we welcome REV. KELLIE MCCOMB who starts her ministry with us for the next 2 years. We look forward to working with Kellie.

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.

MITTEN TREE – Up and ready for your donations!

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.

St. James United church Simcoe is having a **FREE CLOTHING GIVEAWAY** on January 9 and 10. Donations accepted December 29 and 30 and January 5 from 9 - 12 at the church office. All Welcome.

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Worship Leader: Rev. Lyn Workman

Music: Azrael Hackshaw



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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