

**WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH**  
**Advent Two – Peace Candle**  
**December 7, 2024**  
**Rev. Mary Jo Patterson**

**PRELUDE:** Wexford Carol

**WELCOME**  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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)*

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**One:** The light shines in the darkness,

**All:** **We come to worship, seeking the peace of Christ.**

**One:** Shine into our lives and your world this Advent.

**All:** **Renew in us Jesus' call to be peacemakers this day.**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING** Ted and Tina Robinson

**Reader One:** Last week, we lit the candle of Hope.

**Reader Two:** We light it again as we continue to wait for God's Hope.

**Reader One:** When I look around, I see shadows of violence in our homes,  
communities, and countries. Because there is still so much  
unrest in our world, we light a candle of peace...

**Reader Two:** Because hatred is still so strong, because so many swords  
have not yet been beaten into ploughshares, we light a candle  
of peace... *(Light the peace candle)*

**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 peace is  
coming on earth as it already is in heaven.

**Reader One:** Friends, be not afraid, God's peace is at hand!

**ADVENT HYMN:** A Candle is Burning (vs. 1 and 2) Vu #6

**OPENING PRAYER:**

God of wisdom and understanding, of peace and promise, you are the giver of life, and you live in us. You have welcomed us as your children and called us to live out your image with hospitality toward each other. In Jesus Christ, you offer us living water to wash away our sin and sorrow, and call us back to paths of justice and righteousness. With the Holy Spirit, you baptize us for service and life in community, refreshing us each day with your presence and purpose. Glory and honour and praise be yours, Creator, Christ and Spirit, this day and every day, now and evermore.

**OPENING HYMN:** Come Thou Long Expected Jesus Vu #2 (tune VU #333)

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of peace and promise, we confess that we have taken your commitment to us for granted. We assume what we do is acceptable to you, yet we tend to judge others without compassion. We have been slow to welcome others, especially if their cultures or convictions differ from ours. You call us to repentance, but we resist acknowledging what needs to change in our hearts or our habits. Forgive our self-satisfied attitudes, and challenge us with your vision of a peaceable kingdom where all can be made new.

**Assurance of Pardon:**

Receive the Good News in peace. With great mercy, God forgives what we have confessed and offers us new life in Christ. Receive the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:** Waiting for a Miracle

**PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING:**

God of peace and possibility, 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 Prince of Peace. *(Silence)*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

- Isaiah 11:1-10
- Matthew 3:1-12

**REFLECTION – “Lately, I Have Been Wondering About Peace.”**

HYMN: Be Still My Soul

VU #652

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(Congregational response)* **God of peace with justice, make us better stewards of the gifts you give us.**

### OFFERING:

#### Offering Invitation:

***This Sunday, we celebrate the Advent of Peace, born for us in Jesus Christ. Think of your gifts as seeds of that peace which we can plant in the world God loves for Christ's sake.***

**Song of Dedication:** Praise God

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:

***God, our Peace and our Promise, receive our gifts as seeds of gratitude for your gift to us in Christ Jesus. Bless these seeds with growth so that peace will take root in people who face conflict and danger, and in places seeking to establish peace in the face of violence. Be their peace and their promise, through Christ our Lord.***

**CLOSING HYMN:** For Where Love Is

(tune VU #374)

***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.***

### COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION:

Go in peace this day, ready to bear fruit worthy of your commitment to Jesus Christ and his kingdom of justice and peace.

**And may the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.** *(The Candles are extinguished)*

**POSTLUDE:** Noel Bearnais (Sing Noel in Joyful Voice)

## WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

December 7, 2025

**Worship Leader: Rev. Mary Jo Patterson**

**Music: Chris Savory**



### SECOND ADVENT – PEACE

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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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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU to Rev. Mary Jo Patterson  
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.

**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!

**FREE CONCERT** – The Brantford Community Orchestra presents their Christmas Concert on Friday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m. Please come and bring a friend!!

**COUNCIL** meets Tuesday, December 9 at 4 p.m. at the home of Debra Leedham. All Chairs are encouraged to attend.

### UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES:

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.  
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.

**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.



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