

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

Lent 5 - March 22, 2026

Rev. Kellie McComb

Music: Chris Savory

WE GATHER

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHT THE CHRIST CANDLE

SING: Where Two or Three are Gathered (3X) MVU 14
Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there, I am there.

CALL TO WORSHIP

What in our lives do we dream about for tomorrow, void of sorrow?

Time spent regretting decisions of our yesterdays, mistakes we made?

Sometimes we get what we get,

life disappoints us and yet,

God is still here and somehow, this faith is good enough.

Let us worship God this day!

CALLING ON GOD *Based on Psalm 126*

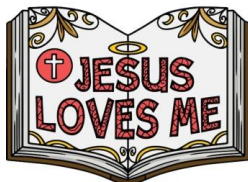
Leader: Let us pray together:

Holy One, Lover of Souls, we call out to you. You know our tears and sorrows, and you bear the seeds of grief with us. Open us this day to your comfort that nurtures these seeds into sheaves of joy—the simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.

HYMN: Spirit Open My Heart MVU #79

YOUNG AT HEART

HYMN: Jesus Loves Me VU #365



GOSPEL READING: John 12: 1-8

read by Brian Holden

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)

Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

A Word of God that is still speaking, **Thanks be to God.**

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: On Eagle's Wings words printed

MESSAGE: "We are fragile"

OFFERING

Doxology: Praise God VU #541

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Jesus Christ, our burdens know,
Praise Spirit through whom our hearts grow,
Praise Three-in-One, from here below.

Prayer after Offering

Generous God, in light of your extravagant blessings—no matter what the state of the world or our imperfect lives—we offer our gifts and ourselves, and know that you transform what we plant into the produce of love.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: I See a New Heaven VU #713

A Blessing for When You're in Grief

"Blessed are you, dear, dear one, doing this holy work of suffering what must be suffered. Of grieving what has been lost. Of knowing the unthinkable truth that must be known. This grief can make you feel on the other side of glass from the world around you, a force field of different realities separating you. Yet blessed are you in yours, for yours is the one most seen by God who breathes compassion upon you, even now. Who has walked this path, and who leans toward you, gathering you up into the arms of love. Rest now, dear one. You are not alone."

BENEDICTION

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, especially the grief-stricken parts, and Jesus, our companion along this crooked path called life, and the Holy Spirit, who loves to improvise in surprising ways, go with you, dwell among you, and give you joy. Amen.

CHORAL BLESSING: Go Now in Peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true
Know he will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe
Reach out to others, so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen.



Worship Notes:

All liturgy and leader parts Marcia McFee © www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough.

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"Good Enough" theme song by Marsha Charles, Marcia McFee, Chuck Bell. Used with permission of Worship Design Studio.

"A Blessing for When You are in Grief" from *Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Used with permission. Purchase the book at <https://katebowler.com/books/good-enough>.

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

March 22, 2026

Worship Leader: Rev. Kellie McComb

Music: Chris Savory



John 12: 1 – 8

Mary anointed Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair

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

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Bookkeeper: Kimberly Holden kimholden4@gmail.com

Church E-transfer Address wucdonations@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All are invited to a **LABYRINTH WALK** led by Rev. Kellie on Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. **Labyrinth Walking Meditation** is an ancient, active, and meditative practice that uses a single, non-branching path to guide participants into a state of quiet reflection, grounding, and, often, spiritual, emotional, or mental clarity.



Unlike a maze, which is designed for puzzles, a labyrinth has no dead ends and simply invites a slow, mindful, and intentional journey to the center and back out. Please bring slippers.

EASTER WEEK SERVICES:

Palm Sunday – March 29 – 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday – Labyrinth Walk – 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday – April 3 – 10:30 a.m.

Easter Sunrise Service – April 5 at Golden Pond parking lot – 7:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast – April 5 immediately following the Sunrise Service

Easter Service – April 5 – 10:30 a.m.

EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST – we are looking for volunteers to prepare and serve breakfast following the Sunrise Service on April 5 at 8:00 a.m. Please see a member of the Worship and Faith Committee if you can help out.

PRAYERS – Please keep Heather King and her family in your prayers as they mourn the passing of Heather's mother, Evelyn Schoff.

At the last WUC Council Meeting two WORKING GROUPS were struck:

WUC Policy Manual working group - Marilyn Antkiw, Rick Woloshyn and Diane Holden have graciously volunteered to update, revise the current manual.

Visioning working group - We are looking for 5-7 individuals who are interested in looking at WUC's direction/focus/vision for the next five years. Rev. Kellie will be a resource for this working group.

If anyone is interested in either working group, please let Rick or Marilyn know.

COFFEE HOUR – volunteers are needed to help with coffee hour after Worship each Sunday. Please see Carol Goff for information and “training”. Coffee is made for you and we just need people to bring/serve snacks and cleanup. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF WUC? Rev. Kellie is looking at Easter Sunday to welcome new members during the service. Let Marilyn, Rick or Kellie know if you are interested.

GARDEN ALERT - the Trustees are looking for volunteers to work on a clean-up day for the church yard and gardens. Probably mid-April, date TBA. Also we hope to have volunteers for summer and fall maintenance. See the bulletin board to sign up or speak to a trustee. Thanks!

GOD SIGHTINGS – “God Sightings” photographs are invited to include on our overheads for the “Young at Heart” time. Please include a brief description or meaning for your photo. Send to Cori at waterforducmedia@gmail.com

SCRIPTURE READERS: Volunteers needed to read scripture from time to time for Sunday Worship. Contact a Worship and Faith member or the office.

SEE BULLETIN BOARD for details on the following events:

Parkview Meadows – Spaghetti Dinner on March 26 at 6:30 p.m.

Lana Plank – Free Ham Dinner on Friday, April 3 at 2:00 p.m. (RSVP preferred)

St. James United Church – Heart N Soul Choir on Sunday, April 12 at 2:00 p.m.

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

And He will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of His hand.

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in His shadow for life, say to the Lord: “My refuge, my Rock in whom I trust!”

The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear: under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield.

You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day; though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come.

For to His angels He's given a command to guard you in all of your ways: upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

WORSHIP AND FAITH COMMITTEE THOUGHTS

The United Church Lenten devotional this year is taken from the book titled "Bless, Break, and Share". During the season of Lent [which is not just waiting for Easter], faithful people are invited to consider how we can be faithful. When we share our food, who is receiving a blessing, and who is breaking bread and sharing it? How often are we required to bless, break and share? Are we always being faithful when we bless, break and share? Some cultures follow the pattern established in Leviticus 19, and so our response considers how we relate to these laws of sharing.

FREE CONCERT

Friday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Waterford United Church Sanctuary

“MIXED BAG OF PIPERS”



**Come enjoy some bagpipe music
along with other musicians.**

Light refreshments follow.

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