

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER

**CLOSING HYMN:** God Be with You Till We Meet Again

VU #422

### A Blessing for Becoming Real

*"Blessed are you who do not despise your realness. It may hurt. You may not recognize yourself in the mirror. But this is what we hoped for, right? To live and love. To be loved. To have our experiences show on our faces and in our cells. It is the real life of Jesus in us, being made visible, as all our seams show."*

### BENEDICTION

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, especially the broken bits, 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:

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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 Becoming Real [excerpt]" 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

Lent 4 - March 15, 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.*

### Lent Theme: GOOD ENOUGH

*Leader:* Each week of this Lent season, we are focusing on ways that we can practice a counter-cultural theology that emphasizes the beauty and grace of the reality of life-right-now rather than waiting with increasing judgment to reach some vision of a perfected existence. Our ladder-climbing efforts sometimes end up taking us down a rung or two as things don't work out just right. And so let us continue to turn ladders into gardens, nurturing our souls and embracing our holy, "good enough," lives.

### "Good Enough"

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.**

### CALLING ON GOD *Based on Psalm 32*

*Leader:* Let us pray together:

**Holy One, God of Forgiveness, we call out to you and you surround us with deliverance. You love us infinitely more than we love ourselves or others. Open us this day to your counsel, helping us be more merciful, more grace-filled, so that we might rejoice in simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN:** Let Us Build a House

MVU #1

### YOUNG AT HEART

**HYMN:** Jesus Loves Me

VU #365

## Honest Questions, Compassionate Response

*Leader:* Today we will hear how the Prodigal Son lives high on the hog and then famine strikes in the land of his dream vacation. And so he heads home, tail between his legs, expecting that he has lost it all. To his surprise, his extravagant failure is met with extravagant love and grace. We can be pretty hard on ourselves when things don't go as planned. Guilt, shame, and fear of being seen as a failure can leave us wallowing in the pig pen. Our delusions of a perfectible life keep us disappointed in ourselves. Truth is, life is a big ole risk every single day and facing whatever each day holds is not only good enough, but worthy of love and grace. Do you find yourself being unrealistically hard on yourself? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

### **Silent Reflection**

*Leader:* Hear this compassionate word from the Second Letter to the Corinthians: "From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" Know that already, God is offering us freedom from the guilt and shame of our past failings and our present unrealistic expectations. We are invited to rejoice that each day is a new beginning, so that we might enjoy, and not dread, the life before us. And know, that despite our sometimes faltering steps, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now. **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.**

## PASSING THE PEACE

### WE PROCLAIM

**HYMN:** Amazing Grace

VU #266

### GOSPEL READING

read by Garrett Forrest

*Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32*

*Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable:*

*"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. "When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly*

*have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' "*

*"So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'*

*"But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.*

*"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!'*

*"Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "*

A Word of God that is still speaking,

**Thanks be to God.**

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:** Lenten Meditation

words printed

**SERMON:** "We often believe we are the problem."

### OFFERING INVITATION

#### Doxology

*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.**

#### **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.

**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.

**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](mailto: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.

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE** will meet Tuesday, March 17 at 1 p.m.

**COUNCIL** will meet on Tuesday, March 17 at 4:00 p.m.

**SEE BULLETIN BOARD for details on the following events:**

**Port Dover Community Sing-Along, Grace United Church** – March 17 at 7 p.m.

**Nations Uniting Sharing Centre** – Women’s Justice and Reconciliation Sharing Circle on March 18 at 10:00 a.m.

**Burford United Church** – Trivia Night on March 18 at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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#### **LENTEN MEDITATION**

Jesus Christ, my Saviour lived for me, and died.

Source of my salvation, yet was crucified.

Peace that knows no measure: This by faith I see.

Love that knows no ending: Jesus died for me.

Lord, we renew our commitment these forty nights and days.

And Lord, by your grace help us change our sinful ways.

Hear me now, Lord Jesus: I will never stray.

I will never wander. Hear me as I pray:

Free me now from darkness. Cleanse me now from sin.

Pardon my transgressions. Make me pure within.

Lord, we renew our commitment these forty nights and days.

And Lord, by your grace help us change our sinful ways.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

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#### **WORSHIP AND FAITH COMMITTEE THOUGHTS**

When the apostle Paul began his mission to establish churches in the new faith, he often used the themes of light and dark, because for early believers. Jesus was the bringer of light to the darkness in people's lives. This idea, arose from early scriptures that talked about people walking in darkness having seen a great light [such as from the prophet Isaiah]. Modern Christians appreciate and understand these themes as well. As we journey through the season of Lent, where the light of Jesus is walking through darkness, we relate to darkness in

our own lives, but not always about representing the light of Jesus as we journey. So Lent invites us to contemplate our position.