

**WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH**  
**Lent 6 - March 29, 2026**  
**Rev. Kellie McComb**  
**Music: Chris Savory**



## **WE GATHER**

### **WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **LIGHT 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.*

#### **Theme: GOOD ENOUGH**

*Leader:* We stand at the precipice of Lent and Holy Week. This day moves from shouting and praising to a time of crying and lament. The drama of the story of Jesus' last week reads like the book of our lives. Feeling hopeful one moment, we plummet the next as we deal with disappointment, danger, and grief. God's incarnation on earth was not immune from this roller-coaster we call life. One thing we know, when the going gets rough, the last thing on our minds is climbing the ladder of self-improvement. We just want to survive, to be comforted, to have our pain known and embraced. And so we turn from the isolation of perfection and turn toward deep love. It is never too late to nurture the garden of relationships, for we are all a group project.

#### **CALLING ON GOD** *Based on Psalm 118*

*Leader:* Let us pray together:

**Holy One, God of Goodness, we call out to you at the Gates of Righteousness, sometimes in praise, sometimes in distress—sometimes both at once. We long to be in your house in the presence of beloveds, binding the festal procession with branches. Open us this day to your love in and through the webs of our relationships—and in the simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN:** He Came Riding on a Donkey VU #124

## **YOUNG AT HEART – Understanding Resurrection**

### **PALM PARADE – all are invited to join in and wave your Palms**

**HYMN:** All Glory Laud and Honour VU #122

#### **Honest Questions, Compassionate Response**

*Leader:* Jesus orchestrated a low-budget parade into a city where he knew his days were numbered. "Get me a colt," he said. Not a steed. Not a float. A young, green donkey (not the color, that's horse-speak for not-ridden-alot-yet). And folks gathered and his friends started some liturgical shouting that ticked off the local priests. Life is hard and we all need friends and sometimes big, loud, praying that will not be messed with. We are created for interdependence. So all our hiding and pretending that we are "perfectly fine" all on our own just won't work. Get on the donkey when you need to and let people lay down their cloaks for you and make some noise for you. 'Cause you know you'll do it for them too when the chips are down. What keeps you from connectedness with others? Let us take a moment of silent reflection... *Silent Reflection*

*Leader:* Hear this compassionate word from the Letter to the Philippians: "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus..."

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from isolation as we are called into the kind of community Christ had in mind for all. We are invited to the audacity of interdependence so that we might recognize love in its giving and receiving. 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.**

#### **THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

#### **WE PROCLAIM**

**HYMN:** Spirit Open my Heart MVU #79

**Gospel Reading - Luke 19: 28 – 40**

read by Cori Angus

*After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'"*

*So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it."*

*Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road.*

*As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"*

*Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."*

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

**THOUGHTS ABOUT AN IMPERFECT LIFE AND FAITH**

"We are a group project."

**ANTHEM:** Palm Sunday Hymn

words printed

**SERMON:** Follow the Leader?

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Leader:* We are about to make a turn into Holy Week. As we do, we remember the suffering of that week is not simply located in the time and place of Jesus' time. Suffering continues. Oppression is not eradicated. There are lonely, scared, hungry, homeless and despairing loved ones that are part of the "group project" that is humanity. And so we enter a time of prayer that parades of protest will turn one day to parades of joy.....

**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.**

**CLOSING HYMN/SONG:** Hosanna, Loud Hosanna! VU #123

**A BLESSING FOR WHEN YOU FEEL LONELY**

"Blessed are we who cry out,

**'God, I need a friend to share the simple unaffected joys that come, the troubles unbidden, those too heavy to sustain...'**

Blessed are we, opening our hands in readiness,

**to risk intimacy, to receive the gift of friendship, and give it in return."**

**BENEDICTION**

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, especially the lonely 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.

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

**CHORAL BLESSING:** Take Up His Song

MVU #213

Take up his song of peace and go into the world. Take up his song of peace in every moment. In every moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives; lay them down, in peace, lay them down, and take up his song.

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 When You Feel Lonely" 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>.

## 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:

Maundy Thursday, April 2 – 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.

### 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.

**KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** – A thorough cleaning of the kitchen is set for Saturday, April 11 (and 18 if needed). Volunteers are invited to pitch in to clean cupboard, ovens and more. PLEASE! Details and signup sheets are posted 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!

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

**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.

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### PALM SUNDAY HYMN

From Bethany the Master comes down Mount Olives' slope;  
And all the world is singing a glad new song of hope.  
With joy cry out, ye stately palm trees along the rugged way!  
Ye vineyards, shout hosannas to greet this happy day.  
Hosanna, hosanna, the King of love in triumph rides through the city's gate;  
Rejected, scorned, yet victor, the Conqueror of hate.  
O waive your green palm branches, exalt his matchless worth!  
This King of love shall conquer the nations of the earth.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna!

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### WORSHIP AND FAITH COMMITTEE THOUGHTS

This is the beginning of holy week for Christians. It starts out with a parade and enthusiasm as Jesus is welcomed, but ends with dashed hopes, anger, disappointment, and grief as he is killed in fear. Modern day Christians know that this is not the end of the story, which inspired the song "Give me that old time religion, it's good enough for me." Christ's life was good enough for God's purposes, and Christians through the ages have observed the season of Lent to examine their own lives as good enough for God's purposes. Life is not as we think it is, because the faith Jesus brought causes us to question life, and find hope in a new way.

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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.**

Church Phone: 519-443-5261

Church Webpage: [www.waterfordunitedchurch.org](http://www.waterfordunitedchurch.org)

Minister: Rev. Kellie McComb [rev.kellie@gmail.com](mailto:rev.kellie@gmail.com)

Office Administrator, Diane Holden [wucsecretary@bellnet.ca](mailto:wucsecretary@bellnet.ca)

Treasurer, Ted Robinson [wuctreasurer@bellnet.ca](mailto:wuctreasurer@bellnet.ca)

Bookkeeper: Kimberly Holden [kimholden4@gmail.com](mailto:kimholden4@gmail.com)

Church E-transfer Address [wucdonations@gmail.com](mailto:wucdonations@gmail.com)