

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH
Lent 3 - March 8, 2026
Rev. Kellie McComb

WE GATHER



WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHT THE CHRIST CANDLE

LENT THEME: GOOD ENOUGH

Leader: As we continue our look at what it means to release oppressive expectations about perfection in our lives and in our faith, this week we turn to a harmful idea that the prescription for our fear of failure is to simply work harder. As the book *Good Enough* reminds us, "We might feel we are climbing an 'endless staircase' of achievement, for high grades or success...[in] caregiving, work, or social pressure." This Lent, we are taking some time to stop climbing ladders and staircases, to tend our souls slowly and lovingly, tilling the soil and fertilizer, 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.

OPENING PRAYER *Based on Psalm 63*

Leader: Let us pray together:

Holy One, Our Balm, Our Feast we lift our hands and call your name, in need of healing—thirsting and hungry. Your steadfast love is better than life. Open us this day to your nourishment in the songs of the land, in the beauty of the sky—in the simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.

HYMN: Like a Healing Stream MVU #144

YOUNG AT HEART

HYMN: Jesus Loves Me VU #365

HONEST QUESTIONS, COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE

Leader: In our Gospel scripture today, we will hear about the unproductive fig tree. Oh, the shame of being unproductive! Cut it down! Make room for a more dedicated and hard-working fig tree! Who among us is living up to our fullest

potential? The productivity experts these days can diagnose what's wrong and sell us the antidote in 3 amazing sessions for a low-low price that is guaranteed to turn our lives around. But the gardener offers an alternative medicine—nurture it slowly, letting it soak in the manure all around until it can get the good stuff out of it. Lying fallow and getting fertilized with laughter and tears at the crappy stuff of life can help heal what ails us. Is this not sometimes productive enough? What productivity expectations are holding you captive? Let us take a moment of silent reflection... **Silent Reflection**

Leader: Hear this compassionate word from Isaiah: "Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

Know that already, God is offering us love enough no matter how much we attain or achieve. We are invited to release oppressive expectations of ourselves and others so that we might recognize true worth afforded to all. 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.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

WE PROCLAIM

HYMN: God of the Sparrow

VU #229

GOSPEL READING – Luke 13: 1 - 9

read by Dawna Butler

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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

MUSIC MINISTRY: Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts words printed

SERMON: "Lots of Things Can Be Medicine."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Often our religious debates within Christianity have focused on what makes us “worthy” of salvation... is it faith alone or the work that we do to follow rules and answer God’s call? Many have wanted an easy answer, “just tell me what I have to do to enter the kin-dom of heaven!” This week we have affirmed that God’s love and grace come without price and making ourselves sick with overwork is not the answer to what ails us. And yet, God does call us to work together to alleviate the suffering of others. Why? Not so we can buy the golden ticket to eternal life, but so that all might know a heaven of help right here on earth.....(continue in prayer)

OFFERING - Doxology - Old 100th 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: “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go” VU #658

A Blessing for Slowing Down (Kate Bowler)

“...blessed are we who stop—okay, maybe not stop entirely, who are we kidding—but who slow down.

We who discover rest and new life and renewal when we step off the treadmill (or at least turn it down).

We who remember that the world keeps spinning without us. And thank God for that.

We who remember we are loved, loved, loved. Just being us.”

BENEDICTION

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, and you—without price, 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: God Be With You (vs. 2) VU 422

God be with you till we meet again, unseen wings protecting hide you, daily manna still provide you, God be with you till we meet again.

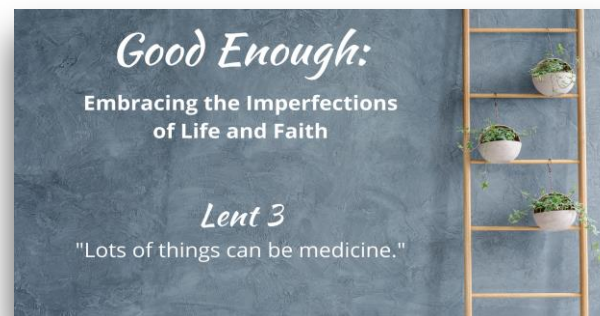
God is still here and somehow, this faith is good enough.

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

March 8, 2026

Worship Leader: Rev. Kellie McComb

Music: Chris Savory



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

Minister: Rev. Kellie McComb rev.kellie@gmail.com

Office Administrator, Diane Holden wucsecretary@bellnet.ca

Treasurer, Ted Robinson wuctreasurer@bellnet.ca

Bookkeeper: Kimberly Holden kimholden4@gmail.com

Church E-transfer Address wucdonations@gmail.com

Worship Notes:

All liturgy and leader parts Marcia McFee © www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough. Used and adapted with permission.

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

“A Blessing for Slowing Down [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>.

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 Val Jolley 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.

FREE SOUP SUPPER – Wednesday, March 11 from 5:00 p.m. All welcome!

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

SEE BULLETIN BOARD for details on the following events:

Rosewood Senior Living – St. Patrick’s and Birthday Celebration on March 11 at 2 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.

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.

JESUS, THOU JOY OF LOVING HEARTS

Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts!
Thou fount of life, thou light of men!
From the best bliss that earth imparts,
We turn unfilled to thee again.
Our restless spirits yearn for thee
Whene’er our changeful lot is cast,
Glad, when thy gracious smile we see,
Blest, when our faith can hold thee fast.
O Jesus, ever with us stay;
Make all our moments calm and bright;
Chase the dark night of sin away;
Shed o’er this world thy holy light!

WORSHIP AND FAITH COMMITTEE THOUGHTS

On this International Women's Day, the Lenten devotional invites us to consider that God has female qualities as well as masculine ones. One of today's lectionary readings is Exodus 17, where we read the story of Moses striking a rock and getting water for the thirsty people wandering in the desert. In many countries of the world, women are responsible for supplying the needs for their children. So as we read this story from Exodus, we are invited to think of God as a female who supplies our needs. The thought of God supplying needs for him was the inspiration that guided Jesus on his journey to the cross, and this same thought inspires us in our journeys.