

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

April 5, 2026 – EASTER

Rev. Kellie McComb

Music: Chris Savory

PRELUDE Easter Alleluia, Melchior Volpius, setting H. Willan

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We wondered as he broke bread and blessed the cup

We slept when he called us to be with him in the garden.

We stood silent as he was falsely accused.

We wept as he was crucified.

We went to the tomb early in the morning...

MUSIC MINISTRY: Christ is Risen *(from the Cantata “The Beautiful Christ”)*

SCRIPTURE READING. John 20: 1 – 10 read by Wayne Kennington

RELIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

We remember on this day that love is stronger than death. Today we celebrate the flame that God has rekindled. We light the Christ candle, aware that the power of the Resurrection has forever changed who we are.

(Light the Christ Candle)

Through the light of this candle, we proclaim Jesus Christ, the eternal light of the world. By lighting this candle, we are reminded that nothing, absolutely nothing, can separate us from the love of God.

Let us celebrate new life that we find in Christ! Hallelujah!

HYMN: Joy Comes with the Dawn VU #166

EASTER PRAYER

Today the world is made new! Today we hear the songs of birds and angels, praising God! Today we recognize the signs of life all around us. Life that cannot be held back or destroyed; life that resists all the powers of death; life that rises triumphant! If we did not sing, this day, all of Creation would still vibrate with life. The buds would burst, the streams would chatter, the

very stones would sing forth the glory of our God! Let us give all praise to the one who grants eternal life as a present possibility!

Let us sing praises to the one whose love is more powerful than all the powers of this world!

Praise to God, for death is conquered!

Praise to God, for love endures!

Praise to God, all the Earth!

Praise to God, all Creation!

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN: Morning Has Broken VU #409

NEW MEMBERS BY BAPTISM AND AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(see insert)*

MUSIC MINISTRY: Beautiful One *(from the Cantata “The Beautiful Christ”)*

REFLECTION of Mary

MUSIC MINISTRY: He is Exalted/Christ the Lord is Risen Today

OFFERING

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION *(see insert)*

HYMN: Thine Is the Glory (vs. 1 & 2) VU #173

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE: Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Lyra Davidica 1708, setting H. Willan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING:

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – Sunday, April 19 following the Worship Service. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

THE ANNUAL REPORT 2025 has been distributed via email and a few hard copies are at the back of the sanctuary if required. One per family please.

COVENANTING SERVICE for Rev. Kellie – Sunday, April 26 at 2:00 p.m. NOTE there is NO morning service that day.

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.

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 sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board.

The United Church of Canada has produced a short YouTube video with the Moderator's Easter message. Google "Moderator's Easter Message YouTube" to view.



WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

April 5, 2026

Worship Leader: Rev. Kellie McComb

Music: Chris Savory



EASTER SUNDAY

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

AN INVITATION TO COMMUNION

PASSING THE PEACE *(based on St. Patrick)*

Christ's peace be with you,
Christ's peace within you,
Christ's peace behind you,
Christ's peace before you,
Christ's peace beside you,
Christ's peace above you,
Christ's peace below you,
Christ's peace to comfort and restore you.
Christ's peace be with you as we share in this meal together.

HYMN: We Gather Here

VU #469

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Come to this table where the living Christ offers us bread broken for our journeying and wine poured out for our tears. Share together in this meal where loss finds comfort in promise and despair is transformed into hope. Whoever you are, whatever you bring, hear the risen Christ call your name; And accept God's invitation to new life.

Easter God, we bring you our praise and our thanks. You take the pain of our Good Fridays, the watching of suffering and the waiting for death, and transform our helplessness into fragile beginnings of hope. You take the bleakness of our Easter Saturdays, the weariness of defeat and desolation, And transform our despair into the will and courage to go on. You take the grieving of Easter Sunday morning, The fearful approach to the tomb, and transform our bewilderment into the breathless excitement of new life. And so, with Mary and the disciples, with all who have wept and been comforted, with all who have mourned and found hope, we sing your Easter praises:

So, God of loss and love, we give you thanks for these signs Of broken bread and poured out wine. May they speak to us of everyday made holy, of oppression turned to freedom and justice, of new life dancing in our veins. May we not cling to what is past, but answer joyfully to the calling of our names....To live your risen life into the world you have made new. Amen. Holy Mystery, God the Spirit, we call on you to transform these familiar things, as you continually transform the world around us.

Bless this bread and this cup,
the wheat and the grape,
the farmer and the harvest,
the seed and the sower.

So that in the sharing of these simple elements in community,
we may taste and see your goodness.

Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.
Amen

BREAKING THE BREAD, POURING THE CUP

The body of Christ,
the bread of life.
The lifeblood of Christ,
the cup of blessing.
The gifts of God for the people of God,
Thanks be to God!

The table is now ready. All who believe in the risen Christ are welcome to share in this meal.

SHARING THE MEAL

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy. We are now commissioned to:

**feed as we have been fed,
forgive as we have been forgiven,
love as we have been loved.**

Thanks be to God. Amen.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

I was born and grew up in Hamilton Ont. I attended Trinity United Church on Trinity Rd. I did get confirmed but did not attend as a teenager and young adult. I have a diploma from Humber College in Mississauga and certification as an English Hunter/Jumper coach. I spent several years teaching and attending horse shows on weekends among other jobs I did. Since retiring, I've taken a look at things that are important to me. God and Jesus have always been with me. Church is a way to settle my thoughts and focus. ~ **Val Jolley**

I was born May 10th, 1940 in Montreal, Quebec. I was christened in the Anglican Church. I moved to Waterford in July 1991. On Easter Sunday at the Sunrise Service at Golden Pond - I met Dear Sweet Nettie. She invited me to Sunday Service at the Church at 10:30 a.m. 2025. I have been so inspired by this wonderful Congregation - I continue to attend every Sunday!
THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING MY FRIEND !! ~ **Gale Salter**

We lived in Norfolk County, moved to Hamilton, then Burlington and back to Norfolk where we have lived for 49 years. I moved back to Waterford and have attended Waterford United Church for 15 years. I am pleased to be able to transfer my membership this Sunday. ~ **Nettie Ferrell**

Having grown up in Waterford and attending Sunday School here, I was promoted to the Senior Sunday School and presented with a bible which is dated June 26, 1966. After a time away and the passing of my mother, I made the decision to return to church. ~ **David Kerr**

SACRAMENT OF ADULT BAPTISM

Statement of Purpose

As we come to this font of living water, let us recall the meaning of baptism.

The sacrament of baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God.

By water and the Spirit, we are called, claimed, and commissioned: we are called God's own, we are claimed by Christ, united with Christ, united with one another and the Christian community of every time and place; we are commissioned to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice, and strengthened by the Holy Spirit for the work of the church in the world.

Presentation by Rick Woloshyn, Council Chair:

On behalf of the congregation of Waterford United Church, I present **David Kerr** for initiation into the body of Christ through Baptism and into membership of Waterford United Church.

I present **Nettie Ferrell, Gale Salter, and Val Jolley** into membership of Waterford United Church through profession of faith.

Profession of Faith

Do you believe in God, Source of love;
in Jesus Christ, love incarnate;
and in the Holy Spirit, love's power.
I do, by the grace of God.

Will you proclaim Jesus crucified and risen in your words and actions?
I will, God being my helper.

Do you believe that God is active in the world, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to direct and strengthen you?
I do, by the grace of God.
Will you join with your brothers and sisters in the mission and ministry of Christ's Church, living in love and justice?
I will, God being my helper.

· **Congregational Commitment** *(please stand as you are able.)*

Let us pledge our support and care.

**As a baptized and baptizing people,
we commit ourselves to support and uphold you
within the community of faith.**

May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism.

Amen.

· **Affirmation of Faith - A New Creed**

VU #918

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God;
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church;
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus,
crucified and risen
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

(people may be seated.)

- **Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water**

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give our thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

(Water is poured into the font.)

We give thanks, O God, for the gift of life, and within it, the gift of water.

At the beginning, your Spirit was at work,
brooding over the waters of creation's birth.

By water, comes the growth of the earth.

Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom.

In the waters of the Jordan your Child Jesus was baptized.

Pour, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon this water,
that this font may become your womb of new birth,
our fount of blessing and source of grace and love. Amen.

- **The Act of Baptism**

David Kerr, you are baptized,
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Marking with the Sign of the Cross

David, with the sign of the cross, you are Christ's forever. Amen.

Laying On of Hands

David, the power of the Holy Spirit work within you,
that being born of water and the Spirit,
you may be a faithful witness to Jesus Christ. Amen.

- **Presentation and Congregational Welcome**

David has been received into the Christian Church
and into the family of Waterford UC.

We are members of the body of Christ.

We are inheritors of God's promise.

In the name of Christ, we welcome you.