

**WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH**  
**Sunday, May 3, 2026**  
**Rev. Kellie McComb**  
**INTO THE LIGHT**

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PREPARING FOR NEW LIFE**

There are times in our lives when we must learn to see the world differently. Caterpillars have limited vision and are only able to sense changes in the intensity of light. When they become butterflies, they are gifted with a completely new eye structure that allows them to form images and take in a huge range of colors — even more than the human eye! Let us who have limited vision in this life be reassured by God's presence, even when we cannot know what lies ahead. Today, we open ourselves to the light of enduring hope.

**GATHERING SONG:**

Come Out! (2X)



**LIGHT THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**QUESTIONS FOR METAMORPHOSIS**

- One:** On the long road of our faith journey, we wonder...
- All:** ...what lies ahead along the path?
- One:** Through all our in-between stages of transformation, we wonder...
- All:** ...where am I going, and where am I growing?
- One:** As we search for direction in life, we wonder...
- All:** ...how can I trust when everything is so uncertain?
- One:** Moving into new paradigms and perspectives, we wonder...
- All:** ...what will be revealed when I open up to new possibilities?
- One:** Then the love of the Divine reminds us,
- All:** "You too are my child. You can emerge to renewed life. Again and again."  
Amen.

**HYMN:** Open My Eyes That I May See

VU #371

**YOUNG AT HEART**

**HYMN:** Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

VU #641

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Cori Angus

The story of faith is not one of arrival but of journey. The new butterfly's struggle to push out of its confines produces a fissure that cannot be undone. There is no going back, the journey to a new existence has commenced. The post-resurrection story of Jesus opening the hearts of his fellow travelers along the road to Emmaus invites us to be companions of the one who will open us into the light of a new day.

*From Luke 24: 28 – 49: As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."*

**THE WORD IN MUSIC**

Azrael Hackshaw

**MESSAGE:** Into the Light

**HYMN:** One More Step

VU #639

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Holy One, we come to you in prayer, asking for you to cast your light upon all that cries out for change in our lives and in our communities. Long ago on the road to Emmaus, Jesus opened the eyes of his traveling companions and gave them the gift of new sight. Shine your compassion into the cracks of our broken-open worlds, and help us be a beacon of peace and connection for others.**

We pray this day for....

**PRAYING WITH JESUS**

**Illuminating God, in whom is heaven, may your name be lifted in the chambers of our hearts. May the joy of transformation come, may your plans for us be unfurled here on earth as it is in the flight of heaven's glory. For the strength we need, feed us. For the forgiveness we desire, and need to give, invite us. Save us from the temptation of all that would keep us from you, and deliver us from those things that seek to harm. Unwrap your perfect kinship of love, power, and glory forever. Amen.**

**OFFERING**

**Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

**Offering Prayer**

**We bring these gifts and ourselves to the service of the church. God may we be your hands and feet in the world. Amen**

**HYMN:** Arise Your Light Has Come

VU #79

**SENDING FORTH**

Now go into your lives, trusting the light of hope even when the destination ahead is still unknown. And may the assurance of the God who created you, the Christ who is raising you, and the Spirit that will unleash you, be with you now and always. Blessed be. **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.

**WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH**

**May 1, 2026**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Kellie McComb**

**Music: Azrael Hackshaw**



*Be companions of the one  
who will open us into the light of a new day.*

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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.**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BOOK STUDY** – The Worship and Faith Committee is holding a book study “Everything Happens for a Reason” written by Kate Bowler to be led by Rev. Kellie on Thursday, May 7 at 1:00 p.m. The book is available for purchase through Amazon. If you need help accessing the book, please speak to Kellie.

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE** meets on Tuesday, May 5 at 1:00 p.m.

**KITCHEN CLEANING** – continued kitchen cleaning of cupboards and ovens will be held on Saturday, May 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Many helpers will make the tasks go quicker. Signup sheet is on the bulletin board. Contact Carol Goff at 519-802-6486.

**FREE SOUP SUPPER** – will be held on Wednesday, May 13 from 5:00 p.m.

**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.

**LITTLE PANTRY** – please remember to continue to support the Little Pantry with your non-perishable food items. A collection box is located in the auditorium.

### **AREA EVENTS (details on the bulletin board):**

**Nations United Cedar Foot Soak** using traditional natural medicines to support rest, relaxation, healing and reconnection. May 5 at 10 to 11 a.m.

**Churches Out Serving** worship and prayer event on Sunday, May 24 at 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

**Arcady presents Ruth**, a musical drama – St. James United Church, Simcoe on Saturday, June 27 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets required.



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