

WE RESPOND

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

Doxology: Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow VU #541
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known: Creator, Word and Spirit, One.*
Prayer of Dedication

WE VENTURE FORTH

CLOSING HYMN: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace VU #684
BENEDICTION

As you encounter others, especially those not in your immediate circles, may you be aware that these very moments are spiritual acts of expanding your horizon, traveling beyond your preconceptions, and embracing the infinite delight of this earth and its beings. And may the Creator continue your unfolding, the Christ accompany your deeper knowing, the Spirit enliven your growing, until one day we all gather in the Kin-dom of Love.

**Far from home, we know we're seeing, everywhere is full of meaning;
different folks expand our world and awe of all the creation and its beings.**

CHORAL BLESSING: May God's Sheltering Wings
May God's sheltering wings, his gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms, his cradling arms sustain you,
And hold you in his love, and hold you in his love.

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

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

June 14, 2026

Rev. Kellie McComb

Music: Chris Savory

Quest: The Encounter



WE GATHER

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP: GOD IS HERE

Entering the Journey: Threshold Moment

This week we find ourselves in "The Encounter" with things that feel "far from home."

**Far from home, we know we're seeing, everywhere is full of meaning;
different folks expand our world and awe of all the creation and its beings.**

Jesus often crossed paths with others not from his "tribe." He did not shy away. Actually, he most often sought out these opportunities. He met people in their daily lives and locales, such as the Samaritan woman at the well and her community, and engaged with them at the point of their deepest yearning. When we seek out and open to new encounters, new people, new relationships, we allow ourselves a spiritual rendezvous with humanity. And in this act, we discover more depth within us than we previously imagined. How can we shift our perception, redefining "strangers" as "friends we have not yet met?"

OPENING PRAYER

Sojourning God, your Spirit exists everywhere, on every path, inviting us to move with curiosity and compassion toward each other. Open us to the depth of our connections even when it seems difference is so profound.
Show us our shared humanity so that we will know what others love, see that we love the same, and share the burdens and the love. Nudge and guide us, we pray.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN: Will You Come and Follow Me

VU #567

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Weary travelers are part of so many stories of encounter and hospitality. Jesus was surely weary, stopping at a well in the heat of the day for a drink. In his encounter there, a woman gives him a drink. The scripture we will read about this says that Jews and Samaritans do not share things in common. But it seems they did share something in common in that moment. They shared a thirst for water, and ultimately the water of life that flowed between them from the Heart of the Divine. Let us remember our own thirst for the living water, especially when we are weary and afraid.

Let us pray:

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves, through what we have done and left undone. Forgive us when we forget your hospitality, and the call to extend it to others. Guide us as we seek to turn around toward greater love. Lead us to travel in your ways. Amen.

Know this:

The cup of grace is extended to us already and always. At our moments of isolation, Jesus offers invitation and relationship. He is our constant companion, inviting us to meet and companion one another, traveling together toward the Kin-dom of Love. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen!

BLESS YOURSELF AT THE FONT

PEACE

The peace of the risen Christ is with you!

And also with you!

WE PROCLAIM

GOD SIGHTINGS

SONG: At a Time Like This

At a time Like this, (clap, clap).

At a time Like this, (clap, clap).

At a time like this (clap).

Oh, I need the Lord to Help me!

(clap, stomp, tap, pat, Oh Yaha!)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading: Psalm 146 (NRSV)

read by Robynne O'Reilly

One: Praise the Lord!

All: **Praise the Lord, O my soul!**

One: I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

All: **I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

One: Do not put your trust in princes,

All: **in mortals, in whom there is no help.**

One: When their breath departs, they return to the earth;

All: **on that very day their plans perish.**

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

All: **whose hope is in the Lord their God,**

One: who made heaven and earth,

All: **the sea, and all that is in them;**

One: who keeps faith forever;

All: **who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.**

One: The Lord sets the prisoners free;

All: **the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**

One: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

All: **the Lord loves the righteous.**

One: The Lord watches over the strangers;

All: **he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**

One: The Lord will reign forever,

All: **your God, O Zion, for all generations.**

One: Praise the Lord!

HYMN: What a Friend We Have in Jesus

VU #664

SECOND READING: John 4: 7 – 40 (NRSV)

read by Garrett Forrest

(See insert)

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

MESSAGE: The Encounter

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: John 4: 7 – 40 (NRSV)

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps. 'I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.'"

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOOK STUDY – The Worship and Faith Committee is holding another book study "The Wisdom Jesus" written by Cynthia Bourgeault to be led by Rev. Kellie in the fall, date to be determined, so you have the summer to read the book which is available for purchase through Amazon. If you need help accessing the book, please speak to Kellie.

THE M & P COMMITTEE needs new members. Please see Marilyn if interested.

THE OFFICIAL BOARD will meet on Tuesday, June 16 at 4:00 p.m.

SOUP LUNCH following the service next Sunday, June 21. Please plan to stay for a meal and fellowship.

JASON MAYO, a popular teacher at Waterford District High School, will be guest speaker during worship on Sunday, June 28. June is pride month and Jason will be speaking on inclusion and diversity.