

May our living be our thanksgiving retelling the story in every moment of the night Jesus took bread and shared it took wine, and offered it saying, “eat, drink all of you.” In our thanksgiving may we live as the Body of Christ within the new covenant sealed for all for the freedom of our hearts. Be our guide and our light this day and always.

Jesus used the common food of the people to share at the table. Today we use bannock and strawberries, the common food of creation at this time of year in this area.

These strawberries were once growing in a field not too far from here before they were picked and cleaned for us to share. This bannock was made by loving hands of this community formed and baked for us to share. Blessed by the wind, rain, sun, stars, moon and earth these are the gifts of God for the people of God. This food is blessed and we are blessed as we become one in communion with you.

All are welcome at this table.

Bread for the journey.
Heart Berry for God’s love.



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

For the bread we have eaten, for the strawberries we have tasted, for the life we have received, we thank you God.

Grant that what we have done and have been given here, may so put its mark on us, that it may remain always in our hearts.

Grant that we may grow in Christian love and understanding, and that ours may be lives of faithful living, in Christ’s name. Amen.

HYMN: Called by Earth and Sky 135 MVU

BLESSING and SENDING FORTH

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.

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

June 21, 2026

Rev. Kellie McComb

Music: Azrael Hackshaw

COMMUNION – HONOURING CREATION



WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOUR DIRECTIONS

East: Renewal and New Beginnings

We turn to the East and greet the new day. The sunrise reminds us of new beginnings, hope, and renewal. The east represents the start of life and the awakening of nature in spring. May we be awakened by the renewal the East brings each day.

South: Growth and Warmth

We turn to the South which embodies the warmth of the sun and the growth of life. It reminds us of summer, fertility, and the nurturing aspects of nature. The south brings celebrations of abundance and community gatherings, emphasizing the importance of relationships and shared experiences.

West: Reflection and Introspection

We turn to the West the direction of the setting sun. The West reminds us of reflection, introspection, and the passage of time. It invites individuals to contemplate their lives and experiences, fostering personal growth through understanding and acceptance of one’s journey.

North: Wisdom and Guidance

We turn to the direction of the North where the cold of winter, wisdom, and guidance reside. The North is associated with elders and the lessons learned through time and experience. The North encourages individuals to seek knowledge and understanding, often guiding important decisions within the community.

HYMN: Morning Has Broken

VU #409

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come into this day blessed by the beauty of creation all around us. Blessed by the fragrant flowers, the cheerful sound of the birds and the signs of nature's abundance all around.

Creation reminds us to slow down and encounter the wonder of life. Step outside and take a deep breath and feel the clean fresh air blessing our lungs, blessing every cell with the gift of life.

Enjoy an early morning coffee with a friend. Sit by the lake and watch the ripples in the water. Listen to the sounds of creation. The Creator's way of welcoming us into each new day.

Enter this sacred space, wait for the Spirit to stir, feel Christ lift your burdens, and bask in the warmth of the Divine who loves each of us deeply.

We gather to rest in God's love.

Amen.

GATHERING PRAYER

O Great Spirit, the one whose voice I hear in the music of the little songbirds, whose light I see in the presence of the sun, and whose everlasting presence I feel as I glance at the vast prairie, I give thanks for this new day. Guide me throughout my journey so that I may walk a good path beside my brothers and sisters. May my eyes be open to clearly see another; My ears listen for voices unheard; My lips speak gentle words of truth and honesty; My heart be full of compassion; And my feet walk softly upon the earth. Thank you for your constant love. May this day be lived as a prayer to you until I once again sleep under the watchful moon and stars of the night. Amen.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: River in Judea

words printed

REFLECTION: The Good Samaritan and The Bear Clan

HYMN: Spirit, Open My Heart

MVU #79

OFFERING

(offering plate located at the back of the sanctuary)

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

HYMN: Lord, Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary

MVU #18

HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

WISDOM JESUS – COMMUNION

We come to the feast of life. This is the meal of thanksgiving. This is the nourishment of community. Jesus said, "Whoever drinks what flows from my mouth will become as I am, and I will become as you are, so that what is hidden may be manifest."

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Jesus – companion, wisdom teacher, bread-breaker, life-giver, grave-dancer, wine-sharer, stone-roller, gardener and lover of souls. We gather around this table and remember the story of our tradition and the teachings of your wisdom. After your death, the disciples were lost, confused, grieving and shocked. They travelled along the road to Emmaus, reflecting on the past and wondering about the future. When they gathered together in the upper room, you brought them to the stillness and peace in community where they could recognize you in the breaking of bread. In that moment of gathered community, the crumbs scattered like stardust, opening their eyes and hearts and bringing everyone into the present moment. It was here that you entered in. You, the welcome host of this table.

We like the disciples of long ago, invite you into our presence. Come. Be our guest and our host. May your love shine in our hearts. Help us to see you in the thin places of our lives and help us to dance our own resurrection of spirit. You call us to question and speak out for justice; you call us to offer care and compassion to the sick and lonely; you call us to sing for joy the new life we have been given; but first you call us to the stillness within where we know with certainty it is you that is calling.



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.

SOUP LUNCH following the service today, June 21. Please plan to stay to enjoy a meal and some fellowship.

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

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

RIVER IN JUDEA

Oftentimes I dream of music, of the river that freely flows.
And it sings a song sweeter than honey, one everybody knows.

Late at night I hear it singing then again when I wake at dawn.
And it fills me up with hope and good will, the will to go on, go on.

There is a river in Judea that I heard of long ago.
And it's a singing, ringing river that my soul cries out to know.

When I'm weary and downhearted, how I long for the song it sings,
For the calm within its gentle blue, the peace that it brings, it brings.

There is a river in Judea that I heard of long ago.
And it's a singing, ringing river that my soul cries out to know.

May the time not be too distant when we meet by the river shore.
'Til then dream of that wonderful day as we sing once more:

There is a river in Judea that I heard of long ago.
And it's a singing, ringing river that my soul cries out to know.
Hallelujah!