

WE RESPOND

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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

HYMN: We Are Pilgrims VU #595

BENEDICTION

As you step out of this door, and any other door, this week, may you be aware of your very movement as a spiritual act of expanding your horizon, travelling 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.

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 7, 2026

Rev. Kellie McComb

Quest: The Awakened Traveller



WE GATHER

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTERING THE JOURNEY: THRESHOLD MOMENT

Friends, we are about to embark on a journey in the next four weeks. It is a journey *about* journeying, about travelling as a spiritual act. Whether you travel far away or simply begin to see our local surroundings as if for the first time, “pilgrimage” has long been a spiritual practice, and “journey” a deeply-felt metaphor for our spiritual lives. “Quest” comes from the Latin root meaning “ask” and “seek.” This four week worship series will encourage us to open ourselves more fully to the curiosity and wonder, reflection and transformation that travelers—not merely tourists—experience when we choose to immerse ourselves in soul-widening adventures.

HYMN: Come Touch Our Hearts

MVU #12

Today we will hear the scripture from Exodus when the Hebrew people left Egypt on a very long journey. Leaving Egypt was not a pleasure excursion for them. But the story of their pilgrimage in the desert in the Book of Exodus reminds us that travelling, moving, leaving home, is part of our Judeo-Christian tradition. Each of us finds ourselves sometime in life needing to leave the familiar in order to grow and to thrive. Beginning a journey involves leaving “home”—whether that is a physical place in order to explore another part of the world, or changing a mindset that is keeping us from expanding our spiritual capacity. Our question for today is this: “What must we do to embark into the unknown?”

OPENING PRAYER

Sojourning God, your Spirit exists everywhere, on every path, inviting us to move with curiosity and compassion toward each other. Give us courage to leave the familiar, to venture out beyond our walls, taking leave so that we will see with wider vision, know with deeper appreciation, exist with expanded perception. Nudge and guide us, we pray. Amen.

HYMN: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

VU #651

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The water of this blue planet connects us all, no matter where we live on earth. Water is life. All beings need life-giving water. We know this water to also be a sign of our faith. It is the water that the Israelites crossed in order to move toward freedom. It is the water that we encounter in our baptism that moves us forward into discipleship with Christ. Let us pray:

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

Know this:

At the moment of despair and unknowing, Jesus appeared to the disciples on the road. He is our constant companion and invites us always to break open our lives and share, travelling 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!

PEACE

The peace of the risen Christ is with you!

And also with you!

WE PROCLAIM

YOUNG AT HEART GOD SIGHTINGS

ACTION SONG: At a Time Like This

At a time like this (3X) (clap, clap) (tap, tap) (stomp, stomp)

Oh, I need the Lord to help me!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading – Psalm 212 (NRSV)

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in

From this time on and forevermore.

Second Reading – Exodus 13: 17 – 21 (NRSV)

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer; for God thought, “If the people face war, they may change their minds and return to Egypt.” So God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of the land of Egypt prepared for battle. And Moses took with him the bones of Joseph who had required a solemn oath of the Israelites, saying, “God will surely take notice of you, and then you must carry my bones with you from here.” They set out from Succoth, and camped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light so that they might travel by day and night.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: A New Creed

words printed

Music by Geoffrey Snow, 2010

SERMON: “Leaving Home”



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.

FREE SOUP SUPPER – Wednesday, June 10 from 5:00 p.m.
All welcome!

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

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.

There are several **COMMUNITY EVENTS** coming up with details posted on the bulletin board. Please take a look!

A NEW CREED

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 and 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.

Source: The United Church of Canada 1968

Music by: Geoffrey Snow, 2010