

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH
September 20, 2026
Worship Leader: Rev. Kellie McComb
Music: Azrael Hackshaw
SACRED EARTH: SACRED WORK
"CREATION AS BLESSING"



GATHERING AND WELCOMING
ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is good!

All the time!

And all the time!

God is good!

MOMENT OF GRATITUDE: Tell your neighbor WHAT and WHO you are thankful for this morning!

PRAYING IN the Four Directions

Gathered here in the mystery of this hour, gathered here in one strong body, gathered here in the struggle and the power. Spirit draw near.

Leader: The transforming Spirit of God is with us in all things and witnessed throughout all creation in many languages and by many names. Our Judeo-Christian scriptures point to hundreds of ways people experienced God's incarnate presence. Let us honor Spirit with us as we open our hearts, minds and doors to God's Love coming in many ways. Let us face the East.

All: Spirit draw near

Leader: In the East, the rising sun and gentle breezes, we honor each new day and new beginnings made possible by the breath of the Creator.

All: May the air we breathe be purified and may our lives feel that breath of Spirit anew. May we receive the gifts of dawning insight and inspiration.

Leader: Let us turn and face the South.

All: Spirit draw near

Leader: In the South, place of the desert warmth, we honor the gift of fire and all forms of energy. As the sun in the sky makes life possible on earth, we know that God set that sun and its course, we are children cared for in many ways.

All: May we be open as children to receive and share the gifts of food, learning, and creativity. May we share our play and our work with energy and passion.

Leader: Let us turn and face the West.

All: Spirit draw near

Leader: In the West, in the setting sun and the many forms of water, we welcome the wellspring and flow of God's healing presence.

All: May water be pure and available to all, and may we be sustained and nurtured over the entire face of the earth. May we let go and be cleansed of all that keeps us from living as we were created to be.

Leader: Let us turn and face the North.

All: Spirit draw near

Leader: In the North, in the mountains and rooted plants, we welcome the wisdom of being present and manifest here on the earth.

All: We welcome those who came before us and the ways of living and spiritual wisdom they shared with us.

Leader: Let us turn and face the center as we light the Christ Candle.

All: Spirit draw near

Leader: May we walk good paths, living on the earth in Oneness as siblings, rejoicing in one another's blessings, supporting and caring in one another's sorrows.

All: Teach us to live as spirit in flesh like Jesus. Amen.

Leader: Gathered here in the mystery of this hour

All: Gathered here in one strong body, gathered here in the struggle and the power. Spirit draw near

And all God's people said, **"Amen!"**

PRAISING GOD

HYMN: Let Us Build a House

MVU #1

PRAYER:

Guiding God, You who never leave our side in all the paths of life, be with us as we traverse the pain and delight of loving and living so that we might be with others in the seasons of their lives. We praise you for setting in motion the cycles of creation and setting us among it. And all God's people say, **Amen.**

GOD SIGHTINGS

HYMN: Like a Rock

MVU #92

LISTENING FOR GOD

Singing Bowl

Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things. every single creature is full of God. If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature—even a caterpillar—I would never have to prepare a sermon. So full of God is every creature. Earth cannot escape heaven, flee it by going up, or flee it by going down, heaven still invades the earth, energizes it, makes it sacred. All hiding places reveal God. If you want to escape God, God just runs into your lap. For, God is at home. It is we who have gone out for a walk.
- Meister Eckhardt

Letting Go and Holding with Love

Leader: I invite you to make a fist with your hands and imagine in those clenched fists is all that you are holding tightly: fear, anxiety, worry, grief, loneliness, helplessness. It may be a specific circumstance that has you tied in knots at the moment.

Singing Bowl

Now I invite you to slowly open your fists and imagine a letting go into the loving embrace of the Spirit who transforms all things. As we let go and open up, we see that now our hands and hearts are more ready to hold, with love, the concerns of others and the pain of the world.

Breathe in the pain, breathe on out the love. May my heart be the place where this world is changed forever.

Singing Bowl

We remember and hold with love...Waterford UC, Waterford Community, Other places around the world that are on our hearts and minds.....We also remember and hold with love these things lifted aloud from this gathered body.....

I invite you to place your hands now on your heart. In this silence we lift up all those things difficult to put into words, but felt in the depths of our hearts.....

Singing Bowl

Breathe in the pain, breathe on out the love. May my heart be the place where this world is changed forever.

Leader: Each week we will explore a different poetic version of the prayer Jesus taught. This week we encounter a version from Hawaiian poet and artist, Kaleo Ching. He starts with the Hebrew words for Father and Mother—Abba, Imma. Let us pray together:

Abba Imma in heaven, holy be your name. Your reign come, your yearning be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day the bread we need. Forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors. Guide us through life's trials Shelter us all from evil. In your grace, your wisdom, and your love. Amen.

HYMN: For the Beauty of the Earth VU #226

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 30

Right side = regular print, Left side = bold print

I exalt you, Lord, because you pulled me up; **you didn't let my enemies celebrate over me.**

Lord, my God, I cried out to you for help, **and you healed me.**

Lord, you brought me up from the grave, **brought me back to life from among those going down to the pit.**

You who are faithful to the Lord, sing praises to him; **give thanks to his holy name!**

God's anger lasts for only a second, **but God's favor lasts a lifetime.**

Weeping may stay all night, **but by morning, joy!**

When I was comfortable, I said, **"I will never stumble."**

Because it pleased you, Lord, **you made me a strong mountain.**

But then you hid your presence. **I was terrified.**

I cried out to you, Lord. **I begged my Lord for mercy:**

"What is to be gained by my spilled blood, by my going down into the pit?

Does dust thank you? **Does it proclaim your faithfulness?**

Lord, listen and have mercy on me! **Lord, be my helper!"**

You changed my mourning into dancing. **You took off my funeral clothes and dressed me up in joy**

So that my whole being might sing praises to you and never stop. **Lord, my God, I will give thanks to you forever.**

This is a Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

All creation is a word of God.

All creation speaks volumes of God.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC Azrael Hackshaw

MESSAGE: The Paths of Life

HYMN: Praise to the Lord VU #220

MINUTE FOR MISSION

OFFERING

Offertory: For the Gift of Creation VU #538

For the gift of creation, the gift of your love, and gift of the Spirit by which we live, we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands. May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

Dedicating Prayer

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

CHORAL ENDING: You Shall Go Out with Joy VU #884

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace.

The mountains and the hills will break forth before you.

There'll be shouts of joy and the trees of the fields will clap, will clap their hands.

And the trees of the fields will clap their hands, the trees of the fields will clap their hands,

The trees of the fields will clap their hands, while you go out with joy.



MAGIC NICKEL will be reintroduced during the last Sunday of every month beginning September 27 in support of The Little Pantry. Start saving your change!

ORANGE SHIRT DAY – next Sunday, September 27, a Sunday to remember **Truth and Reconciliation**. Please wear something orange!

BOOK STUDY – “The Wisdom Jesus” book study will begin Thursday, October 1 from 2 to 2:30 p.m. in the Parlour.

FREE CONCERT – Featuring Pat and Mike “Bluegrass” music on Friday September 25 at 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will follow. All Welcome!

THE OFFICIAL BOARD meets on Tuesday, October 6 at 4:00 p.m. in person in the Parlour and via zoom.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS for God Sighting pictures is
waterforducnew@gmail.com

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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