ORDER OF SERVICE
March 31, 2019

PRELUDE
GREETING:
So, as a people of hope and wonder, as people of peace and joy, as disciples of Jesus, wandering his Way—let’s get ready to worship God!
To prepare ourselves, let us pray the Prayer of Three Deep Breaths.
Take a deep breath, and as you breathe out say, “Thank you Creator.”
Thank you, Creator.
Take a deep breath, and as you breathe out say, “Thank you, Jesus Christ.”
Thank you, Jesus Christ.
Take a deep breath, and as you breathe out say, “Thank you, Holy Spirit.”
Thank you, Holy Spirit.
Blessed are you, forever and ever, and the people said—
Amen!

GATHERING HYMN: My Lord, What a Morning.................................VU #708
CALL TO WORSHIP:
My Lord, what a morning it is!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
We come to you full of life and breath!
Breathe on me breath of God.
Let us worship God.

EXTINGUISHING THE LENTEN CANDLES —
Ash Wednesday, Lent 1, Lent 2, Lent 3
THE CHRIST CANDLE IS LIT

*OPENING HYMN: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty.....................VU #315

OPENING PRAYER:
We come together before you today to offer our gratitude, our gifts and our recognition of your glory.
We cast aside the troubles of this worldly life to approach you as joyful children of God.
In coming into your presence, we seek to rid ourselves of all the petty irritants of everyday life and seek the serenity your presence places in our souls.
We pray to be worthy. Amen.

WITNESS OF THE STEWARDS
For the stories we have shared, for the lives we have lived, for the love you have given,
Thank you God!
May the stories of our friends remind us, all, that we are on the Way, together.
Thank you, God.
Amen!

SUNG LORD’S PRAYER
MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Psalm 23 ......................................................... VU #748

GOOD NEWS: PRODIGAL

*REFLECTIVE SONG: Now Thank We All Our God.............................. VU #236

JOYS AND CELEBRATIONS, GRIEFS AND CONCERNS ARE SHARED

STEWARDSHIP SECOND TO REFLECT ON: What in our lives prevents us from being as generous as we can be?

*OFFERING: “Though I May Speak” ....................................................... VU #372
Though I may speak, with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain,
As sounding brass and hopeless gain.

*OFFERING PRAYER:
Every day is a day of thanksgiving, every choice an opportunity for us to sing praise to you, God of all. Because all these days, all of these moments, all of these possibilities, come from your live and our love—a blessing forever! Thank you, Creator. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.
*CLOSING HYMN: Deep in Our Hearts................................. MVU #154
Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
Telling Creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
Deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
Deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
Justice and peace in harmony.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
Deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
Deep in our hearts there is a common current,
Flowing to freedom like a stream.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
Deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
Deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
Justice and peace in harmony.

*BENEDICTION:
Let us go to the world as people of gratitude.
Let us go into the world as people of hope.
Let us go into the world as people of joyfulness.
Let us go into the world ready to share Christ’s love!
And let us go knowing this: we are never, ever alone.
The peace of Christ holds us,
The love of the Creator enfolds us,
And the wings of the Holy Spirit carry us,
Today and always. Amen

POSTLUDE

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH
March 31, 2019
Lent 4

Prodigal

Search Committee:
Andrea Borsy, Brian Holden, Kyla Kowalski, Debra Leedham,
Lisa Marr, Chris Savory, Peter Scovil, Janet Snow.

Acknowledgement of First Peoples
(An act towards reconciliation)
For thousands of years Indigenous people have walked
in this land, on their own country.
Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives.
We acknowledge the Mohawk, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Seneca and Tuscarora
(there are also some Delaware living in the territory) people and their stewardship
of this land throughout the ages.
Waterford United Church is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of
race, creed, age, cultural background or sexual orientation

*Please stand as you are able
ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ Sunday, March 31, 2019

A Warm Welcome to all friends and visitors who are worshipping with us today. Please sign the guest book at the back of the sanctuary.

Spirited Adventures: Sun., April 7 at noon – Bible Study book of Revelation

Stewardship Step Chart – Enclosed in this week’s bulletin is a “Step Chart” showing our congregation’s giving patterns in 2018. Where are you on the chart? Can you move up one step? Details about our Stewardship Program will be presented at today’s service.

Welcome Spring Murder Mystery Dinner – Saturday, April 27 at 5 p.m. We need to borrow some angel food tins. If you can loan one please see Debra. $10 [children under 12 free]. Proceeds to furnish our new library.

Next Sunday, April 7 – Fifth Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 43: 16 - 21 ~ Psalm 126
Philippians 3: 4b - 14 ~ John 12: 1 - 8

Worship Schedule for Lent / Easter:
Palm Sunday, April 14 10:30 a.m. Service of readings
Maundy Thursday, April 18 6:30 p.m. – with Agape Communion
Good Friday, April 19 10:30 a.m.
Easter Sunday Sunrise 7:00 a.m. beside Golden Pond followed by breakfast at the church
Easter Sunday Morning 10:30 a.m. with Communion

Ethel DeMeerleer would like to thank everyone who expressed their best wishes for her recovery by phone calls, sending cards or in other personal ways. It is very much appreciated.

The United Church of Canada invites you to respond to the crisis in Southern African caused by Cyclone Idai. There are several ways to donate to help Mission and Service partners provide relief to those affected – online, by calling 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2738, or by sending a cheque to: The United Church of Canada, Philanthropy Unit – Emergency Response, 3250 Bloor Street W., Suite 200, Toronto, Ontario M8X 2Y4 noting “Emergency Response-Cyclone Idai” on the face of your cheque. PLEASE donate directly and NOT through our church office. More information is posted on the bulletin board.

St. Paul’s United Church in Paris is presenting a comedy play entitled “Gatorville” on April 6 at 7:30 p.m. and April 7 at 2:00 p.m. See Carol Goff for tickets ($10) and/or carpooling for the matinee.

The Lynn Valley Voices present “World’s Greatest Choral Masterpieces” featuring best loved works by composers such as Bach, Mozart, Haydn, Handel, Faure, and Schubert. Two concert locations and dates - Sunday, April 7 at 3 pm at St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church, Simcoe or Sunday, April 14 at 3 pm at Grace United Church, Port Dover. Admission is by donation. See bulletin board for more information.

PRAYER FOR THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Loving God, we pray for the Search Committee that you will be with them as they begin the process of searching for our new minister.

We pray that they will have patience and that they will wait on your timing. We pray that they will have the mind of Christ and be able to come to consensus. We pray for wisdom for them to choose your choice of minister for Waterford United Church.

Gracious God, we pray for our next minister that you would increase their love for the preaching and teaching of your word. We pray that you would give them a love for WUC and the strength to leave their current position. We pray that they would begin new relationships at WUC in a healthy and loving way. We pray that you would bless the new minister’s family if they have one and help them all as they make the transition to WUC.

Faithful God, we pray for ourselves that you would give us patience as we journey through the search process. Help us to remember that the search process can go longer than expected. It is hard work for those doing the search process. Help us to remember to pray daily for trust in the Search Committee’s leadership.

Finally, we thank you God that you have wonderful plans for all of us here at WUC and we give you thanks for our new minister who will help us to continue your ministry into the next 200 years!

______________________________________________________________
Rev. Mary Jo Patterson 519-426-8837 (home) revmaryjowaterfordunited@gmail.com
Church Phone: 519-443-5261 - Church Webpage: waterforduc.org
Office Administrator, Diane Holden wucsecretary@bellnet.ca
Treasurer, Kimberly Holden wuctreasurer@bellnet.ca
Church Bookings, Cori Angus 519-443-8212 or 519-802-240