

Applewood United Church

An Affirming Community

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Earth Sunday

*(*please stand in body or in spirit)*

Bold words are for all to share

Music for Gathering

Territorial Acknowledgment and Announcements

We understand that the land on which we live, work and worship is situated upon traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron - Wyandot, the Haudenosaunee and later the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The territory is mutually covered by the "Dish with One Spoon" Wampum Belt agreement. In the spirit of reconciliation, we commit to building relationships with all created beings, those who were here before, those who have settled, and those who continue to settle on this land. We commit to partnering with our Indigenous neighbours in being stewards and caretakers of God's Creation. Today, this remains the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we seek to live as reconciled people through our respect for, and our learning and understanding of, our Indigenous siblings.

Centering Music: "Like a Rock" MV 92

*** Call to Worship and Opening Prayer:** *(responsive)*

One: Come join Creation's call to rejoice -

All: like the chorus of birds at dawn,

One: like the rush of waves to the shore,

All: like the booming of thunder and beating rain.

One: Come join Creation's call to care -

All: like the wolf's night howl to community,

One: like the soft buzzing of bees at the hive,

All: like the winds whisper through the trees.

One: Come as God's people to praise the Creator.

All: We come seeking connection with all that is.

One: Come and pray as one voice in this choir of creation.

All: Holy One, Holy Source of Life,

you are God of wing and paw,

you are Creator of all that creeps and crawls,

all that grows and spreads,

all that amazes us and nourishes us.

Remind us of our place as stewards and as relations to all you have created:

the smallest microbe to the highest mountain,

the widest ocean to the smallest seed.

Lead us to action that reflects our desire

**and our ability to care for this planet,
your gift to us and to all that exists here.
We pray in the name of Jesus, who walked
this good earth, was nourished by it as we are,
and whose resurrection we celebrate
in this Easter time. Amen**

*** Opening Hymn:** "It's a Song of Praise" MV 30

Prayer for Reflection and Revelation: "The Creation" *by Noah Buchholz*

Musical reflection: "I Believe"

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

Luke 24:13-35 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir: "Care for Creation"

Reflection: Burning hearts, breaking bread and being one with creation

***Hymn:** "Called by Earth and Sky" MV 135

Invitation to the Offering

Offering of Music: "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You"

***Hymn of Dedication:** "Behold, Behold!" MV 115

***Offering Prayer** (*together*)

All: **Creating God, may what we offer reflect
our gratitude for your gifts and our care for the earth.
May they bear fruit for the sake of your Creation. Amen**

Prayers of the People

Sung Response: "O Beautiful Gaia" MV 41 *chorus only*

The Lord's Prayer (sung) TLUS 70

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.

***Closing Hymn:** "All Things Bright and Beautiful" VU 291

***Shared Commissioning:**

All: As we experience each tree, each flower, each bird,
each bee, and each human,
let us feel our God reflected in creation.
As we look upon God's world,
let us share the love of Christ.
As we love one another, may your Spirit give us the
strength we need to care for each and every part of
creation. Amen.

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***Blessing**

***Sung Amen:** VU 974

Music for Scattering