

Applewood United Church
An Affirming Community
Sunday, August 16, 2026 10:30am
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
*(*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: “Lord Prepare Me to be A Sanctuary” MV 18

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

One: Energizing and transforming God,

All: You continuously pour your transforming love into our lives

One: The pulse of your presence fills our lives with love

All: Your love and ours is mixed and mingled into an energizing oneness

One: Your presence is the power we need to grow and to change

All: Remind us often that we cannot grow by our own efforts alone

One: Your gift of love enables us to commit ourselves to the unending process of spiritual transformation. Let us pray:

All: Re-creating and sustaining God, we open our hearts to your loving presence. We remember that it is your power working through us that creates growth in our spiritual lives. Guide us as we continue to worship you in spirit and in truth. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

*** Opening Hymn: “Spirit Open My Heart” MV 79**

Prayer for Reflection and Revelation:

All: Loving God, we gather here to welcome your Spirit into our hearts. As we seek your presence, we bring to you our prayers for guidance, for healing, for comfort, for courage. We confess that we are not always at peace with others or with ourselves. We lift up to you all that distresses us, all that blocks us from being our best selves, from being all you created us to be. We lift up to you the discord in our relationships, the violence in our world, the worry in our hearts. With your healing love, mend us. With your compassion, empower us. Help us to strengthen our connection to ourselves, to one another and to you. Let your spirit work through us that we may kindle peace in our hearts, in our relationships, in our community, and in the world. Knowing that we are loved no matter what, we acknowledge our gratitude for all we have. We pray for our hearts and minds to remain open to the leading of your Spirit. In Christ's name we pray. Amen. *adapted from Joyce Rupp*

***Hymn:** "Come and Find the Quiet Centre" VU 374

Scripture Readings:

Psalms 67 from Psalms for Praying by Nan C. Merrill
Matthew 15:10-28 (*Inclusive Bible*)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Musical Reflection: "As a Parent Holds a Child"

Reflection: Tradition

***Hymn:** "How Firm a Foundation" VU 660

How firm a foundation, you servants of God,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can be said than to you has been said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

'Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.

'When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

'When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.

'The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not - I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
I'll never - no, never - no, never forsake!'

Invitation to the Offering

With hearts of gratitude for all the blessings we receive, our offerings will now be given.

Offering of Music: "I Never Walk Alone, I Have a Saviour"

***Hymn of Dedication:** "For the Gift of Creation" VU 538

***Prayer of Dedication:** *(together)*

All: Spirit of Life, we join together with hearts full of gratitude and eyes open to see the places your abundance shows up in our lives. Bless these offerings and those given outside this time of worship. May our contributions both here and in every part of our lives—how we share our time, our skills and our money—work towards a world of justice and belonging. We pray that it be so. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Loving God, we pray today for our wounded and beautiful world. We give thanks that we live in peace and can go about freely in our lives. We pray for healing and courage for all those caught in the terror of war and conflict. Through the power of our prayers and your love, soften the hearts of those in positions of power, that compassion may lead their decision making, and bring about a peaceful and just resolution to conflict.

Loving God, we pray for our own small corner of the world. We pray for those near and dear to us. We pray for healing and courage to those in distress, those who are suffering, those who are alone, those who are ill. Through the power of our prayers and your love, console their wounded hearts and bring comfort and healing to all those we hold close.

Finally loving God, we pray for ourselves. May your unconditional compassion guide us to accept ourselves as we are, even as we keep trying to be our best selves. Help us to remember that what comes out of our mouths proceeds from our heart. Forgive us when we fail to embody the values we espouse. Guide us to walk in your way of compassion, mercy, and justice. In Christ's name we pray AMEN:

Now let us pray together an interpretation of the Lords Prayer by Rev. Jim Cotter:

The Lord's Prayer: *(a paraphrase by Jim Cotter)* VU 916

Eternal Spirit

Earth-maker, life-giver, pain-bearer,
Source of all that is and all that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God in whom is heaven:
May the hallowing of your name
echo through the universe!
May your heavenly will be done
by all creatures great and small!
And may your commonwealth
of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth!
With the bread we need this day, feed us.
For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.
By your grace and mercy,
strengthen us through times of temptation,
and spare us from trials too great to endure.
Free us from bigotry and evil, for service and truth.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love. Amen.

***Closing Hymn:** "Deep in Our Hearts" MV 154

***Commissioning/Benediction:**

May God, the source of all Love
And Jesus, Love incarnate
And the spirit, love's power
Go with you now and forever more.

***Sung Amen:** "Great Amen" MV 208

Amen, Amen,
Amen, Amen!

Music for Scattering