

Applewood United Church
An Affirming Community
Sunday, August 24, 2025

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: "Holy Sacred Spirit" MV 15

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer:

One: Come, people of God, and join in worship -

All: we come into beloved community.

One: Come, people of faith, and celebrate in worship -

All: we come rejoicing with our hearts and voices.

One: Come, beloved ones, and find a place here -

All: we come just as we are, sure of God's welcome.

One: Come, everyone, and worship God.

All: We are ready, we are open, we are here.

One: Let's pray together to the one who has gathered us here:

All: Loving and Knowing God,
today some of us come to this space bent with worry,
some of us come without really knowing what to say.
We come with our brokenness,
yearning for healing.
We come with our uncertainties,
hoping for assurance.
Be with us in these moments, God.
Send your Spirit to lift us
as we sing and pray and listen.
Send your grace to empower us to action.

**Send your Beloved One into our midst
to bring healing and hope,
as we pray in his name. Amen**

Opening Hymn: "This Is the Day" VU 412

Prayer for Reflection and Revelation:

"Standing Upright" by Ann Jepson

Musical response: "Bathe Me in Your Light" MV 82 verse 1

Scripture Readings:

Jeremiah 1:4-10 *The Inclusive Bible*

Luke 13:10-17 *The Inclusive Bible*

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Musical Reflection: "Love is the Touch"

Reflection: A new perspective

Hymn: "I Have Called You by Your Name" MV 161

Invitation to the Offering

Offering of Music: "Come and Rest in the Arms of God"

Hymn of Dedication: "Know That God Is Good" MV 104

Offering Prayer *(together)*

*Today's Offering Prayer is from the collection "Prayers for All Seasons."
Used with permission.*

**All: Surprising, delighting God,
you give us so much, and we return a portion.
Bless our gifts.
Send them out to delight and bless your world;
to heal and renew;**

to lift up and celebrate.

With thanksgiving for all that you make possible.

Amen

Prayers of the People

from Celebrate God's Presence UPCH, used with permission

God, whose glory the heavens are telling,
we praise you for light leaping across northern skies
and for the joys of blade upon ice, ski upon snow,
fire in the hearth, and friends for celebration.
We praise you also for your continuing presence
in a world where wealth has so much say,
and the wicked prosper,

and relationships go sour,
and hearts and dreams are broken.
In laughter and tears alike we praise you.

We pray for the peace of the world, O God,
and for the peace that only you can give—
not only the absence of conflict and battle,
but also the fullness of life that is prosperity for all,
goodwill among neighbours,
and welcome for every outsider.
Hear us now as we name the situations and nations
for which we seek your Shalom:
our own country, Canada . . .
families buffeted by the storm of economic despair . . .
war-torn countries . . .
our families, our friends, ourselves
We gather these and all our prayers,
those spoken aloud and those too deep for words,
in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*) VU 960

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: "I Danced in the Morning" VU 352

Commissioning/Benediction

Sung Amen VU 974

Music for Scattering