

**Applewood United Church**  
**An Affirming Community**  
**Sunday, August 31, 2025**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
*(\* please stand in body or in spirit)*  
***Bold words are for all to share***

**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:** “Gather Us In” MV 7

**Call to Worship and Opening Prayer:**

One: We are invited to the banquet of worship today.

**All: We come to taste the rich diversity of community.**

One: We are asked to attend this holy gathering,

**All: where we receive an extravagant welcome.**

One: Our host is the Divine God,

**All: our seat mate is Jesus himself,**

One: our place at the table is secured by the Spirit.

**All: We come ready to be filled with God’s goodness.**

One: Let’s pray together to our Loving Host:

**All: Holy God of generous welcome,**

**you invite us to a life of abundant hope,**

**filled with opportunities to serve and be served.**

**Help us to open our eyes to the richness that  
surrounds us in this world,**

**help us also to see where scarcity calls us to action. Remind us that all humanity is  
offered a place at**

**your table of love and respect,**

and lead us to make space for those whom  
the world often forgets.  
We pray as your gathered ones,  
with trust, with hope,  
with the name of your Beloved One in our hearts.  
Amen

**Opening Hymn:** "Come, Let Us Sing" VU 222

**Prayer for Reflection and Revelation:** "A Working Creed" *by Cally Booker*

**Musical response:** "Come Touch our Hearts" MV 12 verses 1&2

**Scripture Readings:**

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Musical Reflection:**

**Reflection:** Places of honour

**Hymn:** Christ Has No Body Now but Yours" MV 171

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offering of Music**

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

**Offering Prayer (*together*)**

**Prayers of the People**

*Today our prayers focus on Labour Day, and those across our country and around the world  
whose work sustains and supports us.*

God of our work God of our rest,

thank you for work that is meaningful,  
for careers that can be fulfilling,  
for vocations that serve the needs of others.

In your kin-dom of love and grace, there is always work to do,  
and we are grateful that you continue to call us to your tasks  
of creating a just and compassionate society.

On this bright summer morning, we remember and pray for  
those whose work takes them deep underground,  
away from the light of day as they pull resources from the earth.  
We remember those who work inside buildings away from the light and brightness of the day.  
We pray for those who work through the night – first responders, medical professionals and  
hospital staff, cleaners and caretakers, the ones who keep our lights on and electricity flowing,  
and clean water flowing from our taps.

We remember those who work outside in the harsh elements of our world, whether the bitter  
cold or the sweltering heat of extremes. We pray for those who build and those who create, for  
those who maintain our roads and highways, our pipelines and our lines of communication.

Compassionate God, we pray for workers who are not paid fairly, for those who must work in  
dangerous conditions without the protection they deserve, for those who labour and still do  
not make enough money to provide food and shelter for themselves or their families.

We pray for those unable to find work, or unable to work at all through illness of body or mind.  
We pray for retired folk living in poverty after a lifetime of work.

Remind us, God, that we have the power and responsibility to honour, respect and support all  
those whose labours support our own wellbeing, or provide us with comfort, or entertain us, or  
protect us in some way. Give us the insight and the compassion we need to continue to work  
for the just and equitable treatment of all who work for our benefit.

May we continue to work to build your kin-dom as we pray in the name and with the words of  
your great Worker, Jesus Christ.

**The Lord's Prayer** (*sung*) VU 959

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as 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 power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.**

**Closing Hymn: “May the God of Hope Go with Us” VU 424**

**Commissioning/Benediction**

**Sung Amen VU 967**

**Music for Scattering**