

Applewood United Church
An Affirming Community
Sunday, August 9, 2026
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
*(*please stand in body or in spirit)*
Bold words are for all to share

Music for Gathering: “Jesus is My Hope” (Sawyer)
“Voix Seraphique” (Williams)

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: “Dance with the Spirit” MV 156

*** Call to Worship and Opening Prayer:**

One: Clouds are on the horizon.

All: They look white and soft, bringing the promise of light shade and sunrays.

One: Clouds are on the horizon.

All: They look grey and ominous, bringing the curse of lightning and thunder.

One They signify change, change that is to come, change that we have seen, change that we witness even now.

All: They loom and lurk. They dance in the light and shadow,

One: God is with us...

All: ...when skies turn grey, bringing heavy rain and snow.

One: God is with us...

All: ...when sun shines through, and cool winds blow.

One: God never leaves us...

All: ...and we are always with God.

One: Let us join our hearts in prayer...

All: Thank you, creator God, for being with us in the presence of ever changing, ever wispy, ever rumbling clouds in our lives. They come or leave wherever we go, but you do not. We are here to worship you, to praise you, to acknowledge the wonder of your creation, and we know you are always with us. Thank you, holy mystery, for the rain and the sunshine, and the time and spaces in between. Thank you for the clouds and the sunshine in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn:** "Morning Has Broken" VU 409

Prayer for Reflection and Revelation:

One: Dear God, we see your creation, its generosity and abundance.

All: We see so many in need of your compassion, your love, your care.

One: We are called to help our neighbour...

All: ...but sometimes we hesitate at that call. We sometimes feel that we are trapped by scarcity, that there is only enough for some,

One: only enough for one,

All: only enough for me; and if someone else has it, then I will have nothing.

One: God's love and care is for all on this earth, all who look up to see the stars, who count the clouds, who feel the breeze.

All: We are sorry, God, for when we are not generous with others as you have been to us with your love.

One: Let us join in silent prayer, opening our hearts to God.

(silence)

One: There is a new moment in each time, where we can join our hearts with others and praise our God through selfless love given to our neighbours.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

One: (Words of Assurance): Good News, Good News. We are given gifts selflessly by God. God, in turn, knows that we can never reciprocate giving in that same way, but asks us to try, to remember, to love, to lift up, and to hold out a compassionate hand, recognize the sacrifice of any who do offer God's gift of love to others. We know that we must ever strive forward and leave behind concerns of scarcity as we face the generosity of God's love. We are a forgiven people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Musical Response:** "River Running in You and Me" MV 163 verse 1

Scripture Readings:

Romans 10:5-15 (*Reader – Sharon Konyen*)

Matthew 14:22-33 (*Reader – Sharon Konyen*)

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir: “As We Come Together” (*Pethel*)

Reflection: Clouds are all Horizons

***Hymn:** “Will You Come and Follow Me” VU 567

Invitation to the Offering

It is a gift to share our time and talent with others in the community, both here locally and in the larger world. Each of us is called to share: our hearts, our hopes, our dreams and our lives with our God and with our neighbours. The offering will now be received.

Offering of Music: “Allegretto” (*Beethoven, arr. Blake*)

***Hymn of Dedication:** “What Can I Do?” MV 191

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

One: Let us pray...

All: **Holy God, please receive these gifts that they may be shared to bring your love to the world around us. Continue to teach us to be generous with our resources, as you have been so generous with the love you have given us. Please let us be the neighbour who offers our hand in the spirit of compassion, even in the midst of storms and turbulence. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

One: Let us pray...

All: **Thank you, Creator, Redeemer and the Holy Spirit for being with us when the storms feel they are overwhelming us. In those moments, with faith, we know we are not alone, that you, in trinity and unity, are with us, and will extend a hand to lift us from the waves. We thank you for reaching out to us through our neighbours, so that we may know your love not just in giving, but also in receiving.**

One: We think now on the loving care that you express to each of us. In the world that we humans have created, filled with expectations of standards and hierarchies, we take this time to pray for those with challenges of being dissociative, where multiple people share one body. We ask that you make your love known to our siblings who struggle everyday as plural people within a culture that treasures singular independence. We

ask that these souls, who have endured horrific trauma during their early childhood, are able to find hope within your world, Holy Mystery, and receive the support that lets them live into your peace. We ask they share in the joy to all the community or system that they have as a person with their alters and headmates, that they are welcomed into external communities like ours, and can feel a belonging there. May the warmth of your embrace keep them safe within themselves and teach all of us that they are within themselves a wholeness and a many-ness at that same time. As further dissociations, dormancies and fusions are experienced, please let these systems know that the evolution of their community is a continuation of the growth that all of creation lives into as part of your universe. Remove from all of us the need to judge and stigmatize those whose lives include dissociation, so that we may live into the world of justice and equality that you have created and continue to create. Teach us how to live within your creation so that we support our siblings who struggle to fit our seemingly immovable human made establishments. Help us, by loving your justice and kindness, to create the space for their plural existence, too.

Help us all to find the courage to reach out to each other with the love and hope you have provided as gifts to bring heaven to earth. And now we share in the words that Jesus had taught us,

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

**All: Eternal Spirit,
 Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
 Source of all that is and that shall be.
 Father and Mother of us all,
 Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created things!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.**

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

***Commissioning/Benediction:**

Let us leave here knowing that God is with us always, whether basking in sunshine or drenched in rain from cloudy skies. No storm will separate us from God, and we will always know God's love, through the touch of hand that is our neighbour's. It is in our hands that God's love is enacted. Let us go out into the world, knowing that God the creator, Christ the redeemer and the Holy Spirit our truth guide, goes with us all. Always and Amen.

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

Amen, Amen,
Amen, Amen!

Music for Scattering: "Sing to the Lord" (*Smith*)