

Applewood United Church
an Affirming Congregation
Sunday, March 1, 2026
Second Sunday of Lent with Communion
*(*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: "For Everyone Born" TLUS 23 Verse 1 and 2x Chorus

Call to Worship: Romans 4:1-5,13-17

* Opening Hymn: "As the Sun with Longer Journey" VU 111

Prayer for Reflection and Revelation:

One: Glorious God, Your Thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are your ways our ways.
You look at the ugliest soul and see, still unstirred, their redemption

All: We scan the finest of our neighbours anxious to find the flaw

One: You view time in the context of eternity and so find a place for waiting, for yearning,
Even for suffering, even for dying.

All: We demand instant results; and look for tomorrow before savouring today

One: You know that only one who suffers can ultimately save, that is why you walk the way
of the cross

**All: We fear that vulnerability which defies our power; that is why we allow for
crucifixion**

One: Your thoughts are not our thoughts,

All: Neither are your ways our ways.

One: And yet we know that your way brings the kingdom

While, left to our devices, our ways become chaos
But we are here, not to have our worst confirmed but to have our best liberated. So,
we pray

**All: Nourish us with better food than we could ever purchase:
Your word, Your love, Your inspiration,
Your bread for our life's journey
Amen.**

Scripture readings:

Genesis 12:1-4 (*Inclusive Bible - Christina Miller*)

Psalm 121 VU 844 with refrain (*Christina Miller*)

John 3:1-17 (*NRSVUE - Rev. Alison*)

One: For the word of God in Scripture
For the word of God among us
For the word of God within us

All: Thanks be to God

Music: "O God, We Worship You"

Reflection: "In our darkness"

*Music Response: "Taize Chant" sung through 4-6x

All: Our darkness is never darkness in your sight: the deepest night is clear as the daylight.

Invitation to the Offering

Offering of Music: "Cross and Circle" (*William S. Kervin/Lim S. Hong*)

* Hymn of Dedication: "Jesus Christ is Waiting" VU 117 Vs 3

* Offering Prayer: (*together*)

**All: God, transform our gifts, and those given through PAR and online, into acts of justice
and blessing for the world you have called us to serve. Amen.**

Choir: "The Whisper" (*Susan B. Boersma/Craig Courtney*)

Sacrament of Communion

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Thanks and praise be to you, O God, for you create life out of the dust, and sustain us even in the desert. We thank you that in the face of every temptation and trial, every principality and power, you are present to direct and guide to renew and revive. We praise you for sending us Jesus, your Suffering Servant, to walk before us the way of the cross, to turn us to you and to one another. Therefore, we join your long procession of pilgrims praising you along the way.

All: (sung) MV 203

One: Mighty and tender God, in Jesus of Nazareth we recognize the fullness of your grace: light, life, and love, revealed in the words that confront and comfort us, in the teachings that challenge and change us, in compassion that heals and frees us. And now we gather at this table to remember and to be filled with such longing for your realm, that we may rise together to turn our worship into witness and to follow in your way.

We remember that when Jesus ate with his friends, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember me". Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends saying: "Drink. This cup that is poured out for you is the promise of God, made in my blood. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace, remembering Christ's life and death, proclaiming his resurrection, waiting in hope for his coming again. Grant that, in praise and thanksgiving, we may so offer ourselves to you that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: (sung) MV 204

One: Send, O God, your Holy spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who share in this loaf and cup may be the body of Christ's light, life, and love in the world. In this hope and as your people, we praise you.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

All: MV 205

The Lord's prayer (sung)

One: The body of Christ given for you
 The blood of Christ poured out for you
 The gifts of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God

Breaking the Bread and Filling the Cup

(please come forward to receive the elements – you may wish to respond to the words “Jesus Christ the True Vine” and “Jesus Christ the Bread of Life” with the words “amen” or “thanks be to God” If you are worshiping with us on ZOOM, now would be the time to consume your bread and juice.

Prayer after Communion

All: For the bread we have eaten, for the wine we have tasted, for the life we have received, we thank you God. Grant that what we have done and have been given here may so put its mark on us that it may remain always in our hearts. Grant that we may grow in Christian love and understanding and that ours may be lives of faithful action, in Christ’s name. Amen.

* Closing Hymn: "I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table" TLUS 28

* Commissioning/Benediction

* Sung Amen: "Great Amen" TLUS 18

Music for Scattering