

**Applewood United Church
an Affirming Congregation
Sunday, March 8, 2026
Third Sunday of Lent**
*(*please stand in body or in spirit)*
Bold words are for all to share

Music for Gathering: "Amazing Grace"

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, Listen to Your Children Praying" VU 400

Call to Worship:

(Romans 5:1-11)

Though bad things happen,
heartened by the breath of God,
we journey in hope.
Jeff Shrowder

*** Opening Hymn:** "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" VU 602

Prayer for Reflection and Revelation

Scripture readings:

Exodus 7:1-7 (*Inclusive Bible - Sophie Cook*)

Psalm 95 VU 814 Part One (1-7) with refrain (*Sophie Cook*)

John 4:5-42 (*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

Choir: "Kyrie"

Reflection: "Water and Truth"

***Hymn:** "Neighbour, I Am Your Neighbour"
TLUS 164

Invitation to the Offering

We live in a world who thirsts—for justice, for compassion, for love. We are invited to share our gifts with faith that they will serve as living water: quenching thirst, nurturing growth, healing the world. Let us offer our gifts for the work of this congregation, and nationally and globally through Mission and Service.

Offering of Music: "My Shepherd Will Supply"

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

*** Prayer of Dedication**

Like the water from the rock that Moses struck in the wilderness, O God, let these gifts spill out and nourish your people. May our generosity be a blessing to both friends and strangers—to all who may be struggling in their own wilderness. We offer ourselves and these gifts with faithful hearts, sustained with your abiding love. Amen

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer: *(spoken)*

*** Closing Hymn:** "O for a World" VU 697

*** Commissioning/Benediction**

We praise you, eternal God,
through Christ your Word made flesh,
and in the power of your life-giving Spirit,
now and forever

*** Sung Amen:** VU 967

Music for Scattering