

Applewood United Church
An Affirming Community
Sunday, May 17, 2026
Last Sunday of Easter
*(*please stand in body or in spirit)*
Bold words are for all to share

Music for Gathering: "Sonata in D Major" (*Samuel Arnold*)

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: "Come and Fill Our Hearts" MV 16

*** Call to Worship and Opening Prayer:** (*responsive*)

One: As we gather for worship, we look for God's presence

All: in scripture, in prayer, in our hearts.

One: As we share our worship, we seek out Jesus' company

All: in our hymns, in our listening, in our hearts.

One: As we express our faith together, we welcome the Spirit

All: in our voices, in our minds, in our hearts.

One: As we gather, share and celebrate,
let us lift our voices as one:

**All: Loving and Holy God,
sometimes we look for you in the wrong places,
staring at the sky expecting you to suddenly appear
and fix everything that is wrong in our lives.
Sometimes we look for you to affirm our
self-centered choices or behaviour.
Sometimes we don't look for you at all.**

**At all times, you are patiently with us,
speaking in the voices of those who declare justice,
in the actions of those who demand righteousness,
in the beating of our own hearts.
Be with us as we worship today,
remind us that we are meant to know and see you,
just as we are meant to know and see Jesus
who is with you, and with us all, in love.
Amen.**

*** Opening Hymn:** "Come, Children, Join to Sing" VU 345

Prayer for Reflection and Revelation: "Goodbye" – a monologue from a disciple, following
Jesus' Ascension. *By Jo Love*

***Musical Response:** "Over My Head" MV 88 Chorus, verse 1, Chorus

Scripture Readings:

Acts 1:6–14 *The Inclusive Bible*

John 17:1-11 *The Inclusive Bible*

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir and Congregation: "Christ Has No Body" MV 171

Reflection: Changing our gaze

***Hymn:** "Like a River of Tears" MV 98

Invitation to the Offering

Offering of Music: "Interlude" (*Martha Mier*)

*** Offering Prayer** (*together*)

All: **Generous God, we bring you the love in our hearts,
the creativity of spirits and minds,
the dedication of our years and days,
the compassion shared with our hands**

**and the passion of justice shared in our actions
as your church in the world.
Bless all that we bring, all that offer, all that we do.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (choir only): "Our Father" *by Philip Kern*

* **Closing Hymn:** "I See a New Heaven" VU 713

* **Commissioning/Benediction**

* **Sung Amen:** "Grand Amen" TLUS 15

Music for Scattering