

Applewood United Church
An Affirming Community
Sunday, September 20, 2026
Creation Time Two
*(*please stand in body or in spirit)*
Bold words are for all to share

Music for Gathering: “Lord of the Dance” *(Sydney Carter, Arr. J. Raney)*

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: “This Is the Day” VU 412 Verses 1 & 3

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

One: Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;

All: make known among the nations what he has done.

One: Sing to him, sing praise to him;

All: tell of all his wonderful acts.

One: Glory in his holy name;

All: let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

One: Look to the Lord and his strength;

All: seek his face always.

(Psalm 105: 1-4 NIV)

One: Let us pray:

All: Creator God, we thank you and we praise you for the beauty of the natural world that surrounds us. We will celebrate the changing of the seasons this week, and with the autumn will come comfortable temperatures and a beautiful landscape of colours. These are gifts, and we ask that you help us to recognize the blessings in this awesome season and all that it will entail. We pray in your holy name. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn:** “It’s a Song of Praise to the Maker” MV 30

Prayer for Reflection and Revelation:

All: Gracious God,
you give us water when we are thirsty. You forgive us when
we complain. You help us when we are at our wits’ end,
always faithful, always by our side. You send help we
haven’t thought to ask for, when fear or anxiety distracts
us. You send us helpers so that we may endure when we
are too preoccupied to notice. You show that you have not
forgotten us even when we complain about our lot. You are
always faithful, always by our side. For this we give thanks
in Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Written by Elizabeth Henderson. Gathering Pentecost 2 2026,
page 32. Used with permission.*

***Musical Response:** “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” VU 220 Verse 1

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;

O my soul, praise him, at all times your health
and salvation.

Come, all who hear:

brothers and sisters draw near,
joining in glad adoration.

Scripture readings: *(The Inclusive Bible)*

Exodus 16: 2-15

Matthew 20: 1-16

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Choir: “Morning Has Broken” *(Trad. Gaelic, Arr. M. Mulrooney)*

Reflection

***Hymn:** “All Who Are Thirsty” MV 4

Invitation to the Offering

Offering of Music: “Peace Chant” *(Jerry Estes)*

***Hymn of Dedication:** "Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands" VU 537

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

**All: Generous God, you have given us so much and for that we
are forever grateful. Please accept our gifts and use them
to help meet the needs of your people both near and far.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn:** "How Firm a Foundation" VU 660

How firm a foundation, you servants of God,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can be said than to you has been said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

'Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.

'When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

'When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.

'The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not - I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
I'll never - no, never - no, never forsake!'

***Commissioning/Benediction**

***Sung Blessing:** “God Be with You till We Meet Again” VU 422 Verses 1 & 3

God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

Music for Scattering