

Applewood United Church
An Affirming Community
Sunday, September 21, 2025
Third Sunday of Creation Time
(please stand in body or in spirit)*
Bold words are for all to share

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: “Where Two or Three are Gathered” MV 14

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

One: The land holds us.

All: Sky breathes in us.

One: Trees stand around us alike ancestors.

All: Birds sing to us like friends.

One: Rivers flow with tears of joy.

All: Living beings feed us and walk with us.

One: In the end the earth receives us.

**All: Creation is God’s love poured out;
we receive it with joy,
care for it with gratitude,
and in unity with all Creation we worship God.**

One: Let’s pray together:

**All: Creator God, today we stand knee-deep
in the rich soil of your beloved community.
You strengthen our roots and nourish our spirits.
Help us to learn to tend to one another,**

**and to all your creation, so that there can be
growth and flourishing of your justice and peace
in all the world – for people, for creatures, for
everything that grows, for the sky and waters
and for the very soil on which we stand.
Plant in us the strength and courage we need to
follow the One you sent. Amen**

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* Opening Hymn: “This Is God’s Wondrous World” VU 296

Prayer for Reflection and Revelation: An Affirmation

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Scripture readings:

Isaiah 55: 8 – 13 *The Inclusive Bible*

Luke 8:4-8 *The Inclusive Bible*

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Choir: “Let All Creation Glorify the Lord”

Reflection: Rooted

Hymn: “Soil of God, You and I” MV 174

A Time for Creation

Offering of Music: "Care for Creation"

* **Hymn of Dedication:** “For the Gift of Creation” VU 581

**For the gift of Creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.**

May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

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* Offering Prayer (*together*)

**All: Accept these gifts from our hands and hearts, God.
 May they provide hope,
 may they reflect our gratitude,
 may they help to bring change to our world,
 in Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer - A Paraphrase (*said*)

**Our Mother, our Father, giver of life,
Holiness of Presence;
may our hearts always bow to you.
Your Realm break forth,
your delight blossom among us,
making this earth your heaven.
Give us each moment our life, our breath.
Free us from being judged,
as we free others from our judgments.
Guide us safely past our desires and attachments,
and rescue us from the power of evil.
For the world is yours;
the only real power is yours;
Creation's splendor is yours,
in this present moment
and in eternity. Amen.**

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* Closing Hymn: "You Shall Go Out With Joy" VU 884

* Commissioning/Benediction

* Choral Benediction: "May You Be Held" TLUS 105

Music for Scattering