

Applewood United Church
an Affirming Congregation
Sunday, September 28, 2025
Orange Shirt Sunday/Blessing of the Animals
(* please stand in body or in spirit)
Bold words are for all to share

Music for Gathering

Territorial Acknowledgement and Announcements

Centering Music: "Come and Fill Our Hearts" MV 16

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

One: All humankind, all creatures, are one vast family,

All: this planet earth, our home.

One: We sleep beneath one roof,

All: the starry sky tossed into being by God's Word.

One: We warm ourselves before one hearth,
the blazing sun, lit at Creator God's command.

**All: Upon one soil we stand,
and breathe one air,
and drink one water,
and walk or creep or bound through the night
beneath one luminescent moon.**

One: The children of one God are we,
siblings sharing molecules and DNA,

All: members in one planet wide family of God.

One: With gratitude and wonder, let us worship God!

All: With humble hearts we pray to God -

from the Iona Community:

One: This we know: the earth does not belong to us,

All: we belong to the earth.

One: This we know: all things are connected,

All: like the blood that unites one family.

One: This we know: we did not weave the web of life,

All: we are merely a strand in it.

One: This we know: whatever we do to the web of life,

All: we do to ourselves.

One: Let us give thanks for the gift of creation,
**All: let us give thanks that all things
hold together in Christ. Amen**

*** Opening Hymn: "All Creatures of Our God and King" VU 217**

Blessing of the Pets

Musical Response: "On This Good Earth" TLUS 2

Act of Blessing – photographs and live animals

One: Bless, O God, this creature,
and fill our hearts with thanksgiving for its being.

One: For this creature

All: we thank you, God.

Remembering our animal companions

One: We remember our animal companions who are no longer with us physically.

**All: We give thanks for the gifts they gave us and the variety of ways they enriched and
blessed our lives.**

One: We are confident that our Creator continues to care for them.

Closing Prayer: (together)

**All: May God, who created the animals of this earth, continue to protect and sustain us all,
now and forever. Amen.**

Sung Response: "Each Blade of Grass" MV 37

Scripture reading:

Job 12:7-8, 10 *The Inclusive Bible*

Luke 6:36-38 *The Inclusive Bible*

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Choir: "Ask the Animals to Teach Us"

Reflection: All our relations

Hymn: “Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works” VU 308

A Time for Creation

Offering of Music: “Trees”

*** Hymn of Dedication:** “For the Gift of Creation” VU 538

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

All: God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks for the gifts of Creation, and the gifts of your diverse peoples.

May what we offer help us to take steps with our Indigenous siblings towards genuine and honest reconciliation. Amen

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer *offered as a solo*

*** Closing Hymn:** “Deep in Our Hearts” MV 154

*** Commissioning/Benediction**

*** Sung Amen:** “Gospel Amen”

Music for Scattering