

+Applewood United Church
An Affirming Community
Sunday, September 6, 2026
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
*(*please stand in body or in spirit)*
Bold words are for all to share

Music for Gathering

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: “O God We Call” VU 411

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

One: Praise the Lord!

All: Sing to the Lord a new song.

One: Celebrate God’s goodness.

All: Praise God with music.

One: Rejoice in God’s love,

All: and shout for joy!

One: Let us praise and worship together.

**All: God of freedom, you help us to leave behind
all that keeps us from being fully alive.**

Yet we resist your call to change and new life.

**We prefer our old, familiar patterns,
reluctant to face questions and obstacles,
even as they lead to the Promised Land.**

**As we move into this season of new beginnings,
guide us on the path of generosity and openness.**

**Give us courageous hearts, willing minds, and brave spirits –
that we may hear your call,
and follow you on bold adventures of love and compassion.
This we pray in the name of our Lord Jesus,
the great challenger of the status quo, Amen.**

*** Opening Hymn: “Give Praise to Our God” VU 872 (Psalm 149)**

Give praise to our God and sing a new song,
amid all the saints God's praises prolong;
a song to your maker and ruler now raise,
all children of Zion, rejoice and give praise.

With timbrel and harp and joyful acclaim,
with gladness and mirth, we praise your great name;
for now in your people your pleasure you seek,
with robes of salvation adorning the meek.

In glory exult, you saints of the Word;
with songs in the night high praises accord;
go forth in God's service, be strong in God's might
to conquer all evil and stand for the right.

For this is God's word: the saints shall not fail,
but over the earth the humble prevail;
all rulers and nations shall yield to their sway.
To God give the glory; sing praises for aye.

Prayer for Reflection and Revelation:

Speak to us, O Lord,
as you open to us the Scriptures
and interpret them to us for this day. Amen.

***Musical Response: “Neighbour, I am Your Neighbour” TLUS 164**

Scripture Readings:

Romans 13:8-14 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

Exodus 9:13-35 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Choir: "O God of Heaven" (*Philippine Melody, Arr. Hal H. Hopson*)

Reflection: Of Tinker Toys and Tigers

***Hymn:** "If Our God Had Simply Saved Us" VU 131

Invitation to the Offering

Offering of Music: "To Love More Truly" (*Scott Kearns*)

***Hymn of Dedication:** "In Gratitude and Humble Trust" VU 544

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

All: We would take our wrinkled bills, our plastic cards,
our tarnished coins
and give them to you, Loving God,
so those who are oppressed might be set free,
that those who are hungry would be fed,
that those who are lonely might find a family.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer: Choir (*Arr. Joyce Elaine Eilers*)

*** Closing Hymn:** "O A Song Must Rise" MV 142

***Commissioning/Benediction:**

***Sung Blessing:** "May the peace of Christ" TLUS 104

Music for Scattering