

**Southminster United Church, Ottawa, Ontario**

**March 1, 2026**

**Second Sunday in Lent**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Susan Toller**

**Director of Music: Sarah Westbrook**

**Readers: Eugene Oscapella**

**Prelude: Elevazione per Organo - Bernardo Sabadini (17th C)**

**Welcome**

**Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge the importance of the land, which we call home.

Since time immemorial, Indigenous peoples have occupied and cared for this land.

**We seek to live with respect and gratitude on this land.**

We acknowledge the Anishinaabe Algonquin people on whose traditional and unceded land Southminster United Church is built.

**We seek to live with respect and gratitude on this land.**

We acknowledge the harm and mistakes of the past in our relations with Indigenous people.

**We seek to live with respect and gratitude on this land.**

We reaffirm our commitment and responsibility to improving relationships and our understanding of all Indigenous people and their cultures.

**We seek to live with respect and gratitude on this land.**

**Lighting of the Candles**

We light the Christ candle to remind us of Christ's presence among us. May this flame remind us we are loved and are not alone.

We light the Affirming candle to remind us that everyone is welcome here. We are all God's children and our community includes people of all cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations and gender identities. God loves all of us.

**Call to Worship**

Tell me something good!

**God loves you more than you could imagine.**

Tell me something good!

**God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.**

Tell me something good!

**God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.**

This is good news indeed!  
**Let us worship our compassionate God.**

### **Opening Prayer**

In our sharing together,  
help us engage with your word.  
In our singing together,  
help us to experience your song.  
In our working together,  
help us to know your Spirit.  
In shadow and in bright places,  
Help us to show your love.  
In Jesus' loving name, we ask it, O God! Amen.

*Richard Bott, Grace U.C., Burlington, Ont.*

### **Opening Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (VU 333)**

**Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.  
  
Come, almighty to deliver;  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.  
  
Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee,  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Words: Charles Wesley 1747 Music: Rowland Huw Prichard ca. 1831

## Passing of the Peace/ Greeting Time

### Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

did we see you hungry and give you something to eat?

Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink?

Did we see you alone and offer you compassion?

Or did we cross the street?

Did we avert our eyes?

Did we come up with every excuse in the book?

God, we long to be people who love our neighbors  
with the same overwhelming love that you have for them.

But we must admit, we have a long way to go.

Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear

get in the way of love. Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again.

With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.

### Words of Assurance

Faith family,

even when we act with judgment,

even when we are guided by fear,

even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need,

God does not turn God's back on us.

So join me in this good-news declaration:

**We are seen.**

**We are forgiven.**

**We are invited to try again.**

**Thanks be to God for this unending love.**

### Prayer of Illumination

Good news God,

speak louder than the news updates.

Speak louder than our mental distractions.

Speak louder than our anger and louder than our fear.

God, speak loudly to us today,

because we long to hear your good news once more.

With hope we pray, amen.

## Lectionary Readings

### Luke 7:36-50

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

### Matthew 25:35-40

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem: For Where There is Love - Douglas E. Wagner, adapted by Charlotte Lee from Ubi Caritas et amor, 9th C. Tune: Beach Spring**

**Reflection: Abundance instead of Scarcity**

**Hymn: A Prophet Woman Broke a Jar (VU 590)**

**A prophet-woman broke a jar,  
by Love's divine appointing.  
With rare perfume she filled the room,  
presiding and anointing.  
A prophet-woman broke a jar,  
the sneers of scorn defying.  
With rare perfume she filled the room,  
preparing Christ for dying.**

**A faithful woman left a tomb  
by Love's divine commission.  
She saw, she heard, she preached the Word,  
arising from submission.  
A faithful woman left a tomb,  
with resurrection gospel.  
She saw, she heard, she preached the Word,  
apostle to apostles.**

**Though woman-wisdom, woman-truth,  
for centuries were hidden,  
unsung, unwritten, and unheard,  
derided and forbidden,  
the Spirit's breath, the Spirit's fire,  
on free and slave descending,  
can tumble our dividing walls,  
our shame and sadness mending.**

**The Spirit knows, the Spirit calls,  
by Love's divine ordaining,  
the friends we need to serve and lead,  
their powers and gifts unchaining.  
The Spirit knows, the Spirit calls,  
from women, men, and children,  
the friends we need, to serve and lead.  
Rejoice, and make them welcome!**

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## Communion

### Invitation

Come to this table—Christ’s table—which is set to welcome each and all of us.

**We give thanks for that unconditional invitation.**

No one is refused at Christ’s table.

**We gather around this table with anticipation and joy.**

### The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give God our thanks and our praise.

**It is right to give God our thanks and our praise.**

We bless you, O God, for giving us life and the wonders of creation.

We thank you for the richness of the fields, for the power of growth, and for the goodness we gain from crops and other products we are able to produce for ourselves and for a hungry world.

**We give thanks for the miracle of seed and for germination, growth, and ripening, for the abundance of water and good air, for the progress of the seasons, and for the skills and talents with which you have endowed us.**

We thank you for the abundance the earth provides, abundance that everyone should be able to enjoy with dignity and equality.

**Thank you, O God, for the food we eat and the friends with whom we share it, for the love and care of families, friends, and community, and for all the joys we share. We thank you, O God, who has given us life and life abundantly.**

### Song of Creation/ Sanctus Benedictus: Holy, Holy, Holy ( VU 934)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Bless’d is the one  
who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Music copyright © 1995 Stuart Semple

## **Words of Institution**

On the night before he died,  
Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you,  
He broke it, and gave it to those who sat with him saying:  
“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”  
In the same way he took the cup, saying:  
“This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,  
Shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

## **Community Prayers**

We thank you, O God, for the gifts of friends, family, and community, and for the relationships we treasure.

There is nourishment for our hearts in those connections.

We lift to you the names of those for whom we care, trusting in your healing power.

We pray for all those living with illness, or injury, or disease, thankful that your Spirit guides them, strengthens them, and holds them.

We pray for all those convalescing at home after surgery and those getting ready for surgery, grateful for your calming, strengthening presence as they wait.

We pray for all those we hold in our hearts, lifting them to you in silent prayer or shared aloud.

## **Prayer for the Spirit's Blessing**

Let us continue our prayer together:

**As we gather at Christ's table, feed us, O God, with food for our souls.**

**Through this bread and through this grape juice, may your blessings flow, taking what we offer and share here as our communion in and through you, uniting us as one by the Spirit's power. We pray that this may be so as we share your self-giving in sacrament.**

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer - sung (TLUS 70)**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil  
For the kingdom, the pow'r, and the glory are yours  
Now and forever and ever. Amen.

### **Partaking of Bread and Grapes**

#### **Hymn: All Who are Thirsty (MV 4)**

**All who are thirsty, all who are weak,  
come to the fountain.  
Dip your heart in the stream of life.  
Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away  
in the waves of his mercy as deep cries out to deep.  
We sing**

#### *Refrain*

**Come, Lord Jesus, come. (4X)**

**All who are thirsty, all who are weak,  
come to the fountain.  
Dip your heart in the stream of life.  
Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away  
in the waves of his mercy as deep cries out to deep.  
We sing**

#### *Refrain*

**Come, Lord Jesus, come (3X)**

**Holy Spirit come.**

**All who are thirsty, all who are weak,  
come to the fountain.  
Dip your heart in the stream of life.  
Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away  
in the waves of his mercy as deep cries out to deep.  
We sing**

#### *Refrain*

**Come, Lord Jesus, come. (3X)**

**As deep cries come.  
All who are thirsty, all who are weak,  
come to the fountain.  
Dip your heart in the stream of life.  
Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away  
in the waves of his mercy as deep cries out to deep.  
We sing**

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### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray, once more, together:

**Thank you, O Christ, for making us new at your table.**

**Thank you, gracious God, for loving us into wholeness.**

**Thank you, O Spirit, for empowering us to live always in gratitude. Amen.**

Gord Dunbar, Kincardine, Ont.

### **Invitation of Offering**

We make our offering as a way of showing our commitment to the light that is needed in our communities and in the world around us. Please give as you are able. We recognize that many people give their skills and talents, and that some people contribute online. Let us now pass the offering plate around.

### **Presentation of the Offering: What Can I Do? (MV 191)**

**What can I say? What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.  
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

*Words and music: Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy; arr. Alan C. Whitmore, 2005. Words and music copyright © by Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy. Please visit [www.paulrumbolt.com](http://www.paulrumbolt.com) for information. Used by permission. Arrangement copyright © 2005 Alan C. Whitmore. Used by permission.*

### **Offering Prayer**

As followers of Jesus, we give you this offering, O God. We trust the talents and gifts we contribute this week will be the salt that helps more light emerge from darkness.

### **Announcements**

## Closing Hymn: Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love (VU 593)

*Refrain:*

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbours we have from you.**

**Kneels at the feet of his friends,  
silently washes their feet,  
master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain***

**Neighbours are rich and poor,  
varied in colour and race,  
neighbours are near and far away. *Refrain***

**These are the ones we should serve,  
these are the ones we should love,  
all are neighbours to us and you. *Refrain***

**Kneel at the feet of our friends,  
silently washing their feet,  
this is the way we should live with you. *Refrain***

Words: Tom Colvin 1969. Music: Ghanaian folk song; adapt. Tom Colvin 1969. Words and music adaptation copyright © 1969 Hope Publishing Company.

## Benediction and Sending Forth

As you leave this place,  
when you meet anger, speak with love.  
When you meet fear, speak with hope.  
When you meet pain, speak with gentleness.  
But no matter what, speak this good news.  
For the good news of the gospel is  
love and justice for all.  
It is joy that surprises,  
and nonviolence that transforms.  
The good news of the gospel is alive in the world,  
so go forth speaking.  
For if you won't, then who will?  
Thanks be to God  
for this good, good news.  
Amen.

## Postlude: Song Without Words Op 38, No. 6- Felix Mendelssohn

### Coffee Time

*Scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version (Updated Edition) of the Bible.*

**Coffee Host: Edie Fraser**  
**Ushers/Counters: Heather Macfaden/ Mona McNeil**

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**As the people of Southminster United Church**, we affirm and actively support the life experience of all. All persons are invited to take part in every aspect of church life including membership, leadership, celebration of life passages and marriage. We are committed to following Jesus' example as we embrace people of all ages, racialized groups, genders, sexual orientations, gender identities, ethnic origins, economic circumstances and differing abilities and challenges in the ministry and life of Southminster United Church.



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