

**Southminster United Church, Ottawa, Ontario**

**October 18, 2026**

**Twenty-first after Pentecost**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Susan Toller**

**Director of Music: Sarah Westbrook**

**Reader: Eugene Oscapeila**

**Prelude:**

**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 this candle to remember that God is present in all things. We are grateful for this light that shines on us and through us to illuminate the world around us.

We light the Affirming candle to remember that everyone is welcome here. We are thankful for God's gifts in people of all cultural backgrounds, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientations and gender identities. God loves all of us.

**Call to Worship**

Where is the cloud that hides God's overwhelming goodness? Where is the glorious presence of faithfulness, mercy and compassion?

Gather round, all you who seek the Living God.

Gather round, all who seek to engage with God as a friend to a friend.

Let God make glow the hearts that worship in spirit, in truth, and in love.

Come let us worship our God.

*Robin Wardlaw, Toronto, Ont.*

## **Opening Prayer**

We come before you, Holy One, seeking and yearning. We seek your presence in a new way, even as we remember that you are always with us. We come yearning for an understanding that is new and exciting, even as we remember that our faith is enough. We pray this day that you might reveal yourself to us in a way that awakens us, rekindling our faith and preparing us for whatever comes.

We await your revelation to us, Loving God. We prepare ourselves in hope and wait expectantly to serve, but we worry that we are not ready to receive your call. We struggle to stay awake just as we strive to be fully prepared for all you ask of us. Forgive our lethargy and energize us to new ways of serving you. Fill us with your love that we will reveal your light and life to our world. Amen.

*Heather McClure, Wesley U.C., Montreal, Que.*

## **Opening Hymn: Each Blade of Grass MV 37**

**Each blade of grass, ev'ry wing that soars,  
the waves that sweep across a distant shore,  
make full the circle of God.**

**Each laughing child, ev'ry gentle eye,  
a forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky,  
make full the circle of God.**

**Each silent paw, ev'ry rounded stone,  
the buzz that echoes from a honey'd comb,  
make full the circle of God.**  
**Each fire-brimmed star, ev'ry out-stretched hand,  
the wind that leaps and sails across the land,  
make full the circle of God.**

**Each icy peak, ev'ry patterned shell,  
the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,  
make full the circle of God.**

**Each cosmic hue, ev'ry creature's way,  
all form the beauty of this vast array,  
making full the circle of God.**

*Words: Keri K. Wehlander, 2005. Music: Anonymous, from The United States' Sacred Harmony, 1799, adapted; arrangement: Linnea Good, 2005. Words copyright © 2005 Keri K. Wehlander, [www.creativeworship.ca](http://www.creativeworship.ca). Used by permission. Arrangement copyright © 2005 Borealis Music, [www.LinneaGood.com](http://www.LinneaGood.com). Used by permission.*

## **Passing of the Peace/ Greeting Time**

## **Prayer of Confession**

God leans in and eagerly receives our heartfelt prayers. Trust that you have God's attention. You may honestly offer your silent prayers of personal confession now.

*(a time of silent prayer)*

Amen.

*Elaine Bidgood Sweet, Zion Lutheran Church, Minot, North Dakota*

## **Words of Assurance**

The Good News of the gospel is always this:

God wants more than anything to be in relationship with us.

God seeks us out and welcomes us back, even before we ask.

We are forgiven, we are restored.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Beth W Johnston, Collaborative Ministry, River Philip and Springhill, N.S.*

## **Prayer of Illumination**

Creator, please bless the words of our ancestors, and help us gain insight today.

## **Scripture Reading**

### **Exodus 33:12-23**

Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favour in my sight.' Now if I have found favour in your sight, please show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Consider, too, that this nation is your people." He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

The Lord said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have asked, for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord,' and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one shall see me and live." And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

### **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the

Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

#### **Anthem: Teach Me O Lord - Attwood**

#### **Reflection**

#### **Hymn: When We are Living VU 581**

**When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,  
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.  
Both in our living and in our dying,  
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

**Through all our living, we our fruits must give.  
Good works of service are for offering.  
When we are giving, or when receiving,  
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

**'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,  
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,  
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,  
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

**Across this wide world, we shall always find  
those who are crying with no peace of mind,  
but when we help them, or when we feed them,  
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

*Words: v. 1 Spanish anon., trans. Elise S. Eslinger 1983, trans. George Lockwood 1987. Music: Spanish melody, harm. Carlton R. Young 1989. Translation and harmony copyright © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House.*

#### **Prayers of the People**

## **Mission and Service Story: Paul Mullin**

### **Invitation of Offering**

Holy One, we gather our gifts to offer to you. Our contributions may seem small, but we know they can accomplish big things.

### **Presentation of the Offering: We Give You but Your Own (VU 542)**

**We give you but your own,  
whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is yours alone,  
we give it gratefully.**

*Words: William Walsham How 1858, alt. Music: Johann Balthasar König 1738 adapt. William Henry Havergal 1847.*

### **Offering Prayer**

**As we give from our hearts, let these offerings be blessed. Praise and thanks be to God.**

*Jani Francis, St. Andrew's U.C., Indian Head, Sask.*

### **Announcements**

### **Closing Hymn: Called by Earth and Sky MV 135 (v. 1, 2, 4)**

*Refrain:*

**Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.  
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life, sanctified.  
Called by earth and sky.**

**Precious these waters, endless seas, deep ocean's dream.  
Waters of healing, rivers of rain.  
The wash of love again. *Refrain***

**Precious this gift, the air we breathe, wind born and free.  
Breath of the Spirit blown through this place.  
Our gathering and our grace. *Refrain***

**Precious the fire that lights the way, bright dawning day.  
Fire of passion sorrows undone.  
Our faith and justice one. *Refrain***

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### **Commissioning**

May the Divine be with you now and always. May you find Her inside you, outside you, beneath you, above you and may you be encircled with Holy Love.

### **Postlude:**

## Coffee Time

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

**Coffee Host: Edie Fraser**  
**Ushers/Counters: Heather Macfaden/ Paul Mullin**

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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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