Southminster United Church, Ottawa, Ontario
November 22, 2026
Reign of Christ

Worship Leader: Rev. Susan Toller
Director of Music: Sarah Westbrook
Reader: Eugene Oscapella

Prelude: It is Well With My Soul - Philip Bliss, arr by Tiffany Hobson

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge we are gathering on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Anishinaabe Algonquin people.

In recognition of the thousands of years Indigenous people have cared for this land, we open our hearts and minds to the presence of First Nations, Metis and Inuit people who live in and around the Ottawa area. We do this by learning about the culture and teachings of the First Peoples who lived here and who continue to share their traditional territories with us.

Walking beside each other, and listening to each others' stories and lived experiences enriches our lives and makes us all able to practise reconciliation.

Lighting of the Candles

We light this candle to remember the peace Christ offers us. Even while parts of the world may be in war or conflict, we can rely on Christ's light to help us find our way.

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

We gather today
to celebrate the abundance God has created for us.
We gather today
to reflect on our care of Creation and our responsibility to God's Creation.
We gather today
to reflect on our care for each other, for all people, and for all creatures.
We gather today
to remind ourselves of a world that was once perfect.
We gather today
to accept our responsibility to restore some of its grandeur.
We gather today
to celebrate our awesome Creator God!

Kim Inglis, St. Paul's-Emmanuel Community Church, Englehart, Ont.

Opening Prayer

Almighty and loving Creator God, we feel your presence this morning as we, your children of peace and love, gather before you.

Stay by our side as we engage the challenges in our world.

Continue to allow us to experience the majesty of your Creation, even as we tend to the mending of Creation.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Robert Partridge, Red Lake Anglican United Church Shared Ministry, Red Lake, Ont.

Opening Hymn: Psalm 100 - Make a Joyful Noise (VU 820)

Refrain:

Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song!

Know that your God has made you.
Know it's to God we belong.
And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.
Worship your God with a song! *Refrain*

Enter these gates, thanks giving.
Enter these courts with praise.
Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy Name.
Worship your God with a song! *Refrain*

Ages through endless ages,
seasons of endless years,
the love of our Maker ever shall endure.
Worship your God with a song! *Refrain*

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Passing of the Peace/ Greeting Time

Prayer of Confession

The Great Creator of Life be with you.

And with your spirit.

Let us pray: Providing God, forgive us when we have failed to care passionately for your Creation.

Merciful God, forgive us when we have sought to have more.

Creating God, when we have forgotten to keep Sabbath, forgotten to rest
and allow Creation to rest from our needs, help us to realize when enough is enough.
Help us to come back to your quiet spaces and still waters. Forgive our busyness, especially when it serves little purpose.
Providing, Merciful, Creating God, receive our prayers.
Amen.

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

Words of Assurance

God welcomes us home
To those quiet places
Where we can relax
And be one.

Prayer of Illumination

May the words of our ancestors speak to us this morning.

Scripture Reading

Acts 6:1-6

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables.[a] Therefore, brothers and sisters, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

Anthem: I Believe - Mark A. Miller

Reflection

Hymn: Open Our Hearts (MV 21)

Open our hearts, open our minds.
Open our lives to you O loving God. *Repeat*

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Prayers of the People

Holy God,
giver of life, leader of love, teacher,
the words of Jesus call us to be
the truth of love in the world,
the truth of justice,
the truth of compassion,
the truth of giving.

We pay attention to your world and notice so many places that need those truths.
We know we can't be all that alone in what we notice, and so we pray.
We pray so that we can connect with your wisdom.
We pray to bring those truthful energies into the air we breathe.
We pray because the world needs to bear the truth together.
We pray for the leaders in the world, all who lead in small groups, in small communities, in small ways, and all who lead in large groups and in large communities on the world stage.
We pray that each one will know the power of their words and their actions.
We pray that each one will honour the trust that others place in them so that the world will become a safe, caring, and loving place for all.

We pray for all who are hurting, who are afraid, who are unheard, who are unseen; for the victims of violence, in war, in their homes, in their schools; for the victims of abusive power, who lose control over their own lives; for the ones who feel that they have just become a number, devalued.
We pray for all who strive for justice, for all who teach us what truth looks like and feels like, for all who raise their voices so that we don't miss what we need to see or hear or know.

We pray for a share of courage, strength, and boldness so that we too may strive for justice.
We pray for all who grieve, all who have lost loved ones, through war, through tragedy and disaster,
through disease, through health challenges, and through the passage of time.
We pray for all whose dreams have been shattered, whose lives will never be the same again, whose innocence is broken.

We pray for hope.

That, somehow, in the hurting and grieving, in the leading and following, we will find strength in your presence with us.
That, somehow, we will experience the voice of Jesus inviting us to be truth in the world.
That, somehow, we will know that endings are a door inviting us into new beginnings.

We pray that in our living, we will be understood to respect and love the Lord our God, that in our living, we will boldly follow the example of Jesus, that we will open the doors of life to let love in.

All this we ask in the name of the One who teaches, leads, and loves us as you do, O God. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (VU 916 A Paraphrase)

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo
through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.

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Mission and Service Story: Paul Mullin

Invitation of Offering

We invite you to make an offering this morning, so your gifts can be distributed where they are needed. All of us have been provided with gifts (of money and skills and work of the heart). Let's share these gifts.

Presentation of the Offering: For the Gift of Creation (VU 538)

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

Sometimes our offerings seem so small compared to the needs of the world. As a spark can roar into flame, we trust in your power to do more with them than we can ask or imagine. Amen.

Karen Boivin, Melville U.C., Fergus, Ont.

Announcements

Closing Hymn: Way Maker (TLUS 8)

You are here, mov-ing in our midst.
I worship You.
I worship You.
You are here, working in this place.
I worship You.
I worship You. *(2X)*

Refrain:

Way Maker, Miracle Worker.
Promise Keeper. Light in the darkness.
My God, that is who You are.
Way Maker, Miracle Worker.
Promise Keeper. Light in the darkness.
My God, that is who You are.

You are here, touching every heart.
I worship You.
I worship You.
You are here, healing every heart.
I worship You.
I worship You.

You are here, turning lives around.
I worship You.
I worship You.
You are here, mending every heart.
I worship You.
I worship You. *Refrain*

You wipe away all tears.
You mend the broken heart.
You're the answer to it all, Jesus.
You wipe away all tears.
You mend the broken heart.
You're the answer to it all, Jesus.

Way Maker, Miracle Worker.
Promise Keeper. Light in the darkness.
My God, that is who You are.
Way Maker, Miracle Worker.
Promise Keeper. Light in the darkness.
My God, that is who You are.

You are here, touching every life.
I worship You.
I worship You.
You are here, meeting every need.
I worship You.
I worship You.

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Blessing:

Go now as God's beloved.

And share your talents when the Spirit calls.

Postlude: Toccata in G Major BWV 916 by J.S. Bach

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

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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