

**Southminster United Church, Ottawa, Ontario**

**June 21, 2026**

**Indigenous Day of Prayer Service: All My Relations**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Susan Toller**

**Director of Music: Sarah Westbrook**

**Reader: Conrad Watters**

**Prelude: Curious Beast by Sonny Day Rider**

**Welcome**

**Land Acknowledgement**

We begin this time of worship by acknowledging that we are meeting on the unceded land of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people. This land has been inhabited by Indigenous peoples from the beginning. We thank all the generations of Indigenous people who have taken care of this land and been its stewards for thousands of years. We give thanks for the countless ways they have assisted the settler peoples who came to inhabit the land. We also recognize the contributions Métis, Inuit, and other Indigenous peoples have made in shaping and strengthening this region, the provinces, and Canada as a whole. May the Creator hold us gently in this time as all mourn the loss of innocent Indigenous children's lives. Meegwetch. All my relations.

## Lighting of the Candles

We light this candle. May its light guide us to truth talking and to travelling good paths. May we in turn share the light with those we meet until it spreads to all peoples worldwide.

We light the Affirming candle to remind us that everyone is welcome here. We value how the Holy Spirit moves through people of all cultural backgrounds, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientations and gender identities. God loves all of us.

## Call to Worship

In the presence of Creator, we gather:

**People carrying burdens we may not know about looking for comfort; folks needing their spirits refreshed.**

We draw together hoping for that touch that will enliven us, longing to be embraced in arms of love and understanding.

**Help us to put aside our differences and see the earth as you see it, boundary-free.**

You call us all: babies, toddlers on unsteady feet, school-age children with curious minds, teens with questing spirits, full of youthful confidence one moment and like frightened children the next.

**We are called, as adults trying to take good paths watching out for the next generations, and those easing into their winter years passing on our teachings.**

We are all kin in this meeting place whether we gather in person or through technology, our spirits joining to say meegwetch for all that we have been.

### **Opening Prayer**

All-encompassing God, you who called creation out of chaos. You breathed the sacred word Ruah (breath, Spirit) and life came into being. Your magnificence is a Holy Mystery that we are too human

to be able to comprehend. We give thanks for that which is beyond our comprehension. It allows us to dream and imagine. We give all praise and glory to you, Most Holy, for holding us in all the seasons of our days, to love, and to cherish, in this life, and in everlasting life. We are in awe of our covenanted love and journey with you. Amen.

### **Opening Hymn: Let Us Build a House (MV 1)**

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

### **Prayer of Illumination**

Creator, we ask you to open our hearts and minds as we seek to understand and appreciate the gifts of all people in your Creation.

## **Scripture Reading**

### **Galatians 3:28**

There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

### **Paraphrase of Psalm 106:1-5**

Praise our Creator! O Meegwetch give thanks to the Maker, for Turtle Island nurtures us; love lives forever in ancestors dancing in the aurora borealis. Who can truth talk the mighty doings of the Creator or drum all their praises? Joyful are those who observe justice, who work for right relations at all times. Remember me, O Great Spirit, when you show honour to your people. Help us when you lead us into places of protection. We see the grateful hunting of creatures, generous gathering, and abundant harvest and prosperity of our kin, that we may dance in the ceremonies of our nation's people, that we may glory in your ancestry. All my relations.

### **Anthem: God Be In My Head by Andrew Balfour**

### **Reflection**

### **Hymn: In Christ There Is No East or West (VU 606)**

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

## **Invitation of Offering**

God has blessed our lives with hope and love. In response to God's blessings in our lives, we are now invited to share our offerings.

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

### **Offering Prayer**

We return some of the abundance of our lives to share with others who need a caring touch. Here is the work of our hands, and here is the love of our hearts. Accept them and use them, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Prayers of the People**

Tender and loving Creator, we are all part of the delicate web of life. When one thread is plucked, the ripples are widely felt, stronger closer to the epicentre, still felt toward the outer reaches. May the uncertainties and concerns we hold close to our hearts be gentled by the love we have of you, and the support of each other.

You know the longing of our hearts for a just society for all of your beloved children. When we are cut, we bleed the same colour. When we donate blood, it provides the same life-giving sustaining gift with no knowledge of race; it does not exist in that little clear bag. We don't understand the conflicts and hatred rampant, which aren't new; have they always existed? We pray for people living in troubled places, for

refugees needing homes and relocation, for people without safe drinking water.

*(prayer requests spoken silently or aloud)*

Rabboni Jesus, may your teachings lead us all to speak the same language of loving you, ourselves, and our neighbours. Gentle people's harsh feelings and opinions. Restore our gratitude and refresh our faith. Grant us dreams of unity and harmony. May your light and love encircle and envelope us all as we rest in the promise of your goodness. Living Spirit, we are all relations in your family. We give thanks for our blessings. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Creator, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **Announcements**

**Closing Hymn: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You (VU 232)**

**Commissioning: When You Walk from Here (VU 298)**

## **Benediction**

May we travel our lands in gentle ways, caring for creation as  
in turn she cares for us.

May your light and love encircle and envelop us all, as we rest  
in the promise of your abundance.

Go in peace, with wisdom and gratitude.

## **Postlude: “Pacific Dogwood” from Beverley McKiver’s *Canadian Floral Emblems***

## **Coffee Time**

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

*This service was prepared by Rev. Nancy Best, who writes from Ottawa,  
Ontario, Canada, and has Mohawk heritage. Nancy is ordained clergy in The  
United Church of Canada and is a member of the National Indigenous  
Spiritual Gathering Planning Team. She is interested in the work of the Truth  
and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and social justice issues. Nancy  
has travelled to Palestine and Israel with The United Church of Canada to  
observe conditions firsthand. Nancy’s writings have been published in  
several places.*

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

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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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