

**Southminster United Church, Ottawa, Ontario**

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**

**Reign of Christ**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Kathryn Peate**

**Director of Music: Sarah Westbrook**

**Reader: Valerie Hindle**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Territorial Acknowledgement**

The Ottawa area, as we know it today, is rich in the history and modern traditions of the Anishinaabe Algonquin First Nation.

As we gather today on these traditional and unceded lands, we are in solidarity with Indigenous brothers and sisters to honour and respect the four directions, lands, waters, plants, animals, and ancestors that walked before us, and all of the wonderful elements of creation that exist.

**We acknowledge and thank the Anishinaabe Algonquin for being stewards of this traditional territory.**

**Lighting of the Candles**

**Call to Worship**

Joy is loose,  
**in the wiggles of children,**

the whispers of the youth,  
**the smiles of the adults.**

We praise God for this glorious day.

**Let us break forth in the most unlikely places and in silly ways.**

Joy and praise fills our hearts and our songs.

**Let the laughter be deep, for we are God's people.**

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

Joyful, joyful we adore you,  
God of glory, life and love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before you,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.

**All your works with joy surround you,  
earth and heaven reflect your rays,  
stars and angels sing around you,  
centre of unbroken praise.**

**Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
sound their praise eternally.**

**You are giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Source of grace and fount of blessing,  
let your light upon us shine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine.**

**Mortals join the mighty chorus  
which the morning stars began;  
God's own love is reigning o'er us,  
joining people hand in hand.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music leads us sunward  
in the triumph song of life.**

*Words: Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven 1824; adapt. by Edward Hodges 1864, desc. Hal Hopson 1979 .Descant copyright © 1979 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.*

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

### **Prayer of Approach**

#### **Prayer of Confession (unison)**

- Touch Holiness, ed Ruth Duck and Maren Tirabassi

**Light of Light, Very God of Very God, You have given us Jesus, light of the world, but we choose night and cling tenaciously to behaviours that negate the brightness of Your love and prevent its illumination of our society. We are afraid; Your light is too bright and we resent its penetration of our private lives and secret thoughts. But we know how self-delusion harms us. Help us to submit to scrutiny by the light that streams from Jesus' cross. Expose our guilt and convince us of Your forgiving love. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

### Prayer for Understanding (unison)

Almighty God, by Your Holy Spirit, illumine the sacred page. We pray that our minds may be open to receive Your word, our hearts taught to love it, and our wills strengthened to follow it, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Lectionary Readings

#### Psalm 126 (VU 850 Refrain 1)

*Refrain*

**We'll sing the song of joy,  
we'll sing the song of joy!**

When God brought Zion's captives home,  
it seemed to us like a dream.

**But then our mouths were full of laughter,  
and our tongues uttered shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations:  
"God has done great things for them."

**Truly God has done great things for us,  
and therefore we rejoice. Refrain**

Restore our fortunes, O God, as streams refresh the Negev.

**Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy.**

Those who go out weeping, carrying seed for sowing,  
**shall come home with songs of joy,  
bringing in their sheaves. Refrain**

*Norman L. Warren 1973. Music copyright © 1973 Hope Publishing Company.*

#### John 15: 1-11

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem: Cantate Domino (Sing to the Lord) - Pitoni**

**Message: Laugh It Up**

**Hymn of Response: Give To Us Laughter (VU 624)**

Give to us laughter, O Source of our life.  
Laughter can banish so much of our strife.  
Laughter and love give us wholeness and health.  
Laughter and love are the coin of true wealth.

Give to us laughter as sign of deep joy;  
let us in laughing find Christian employ,  
joining with stars and with bright northern lights,  
laughing and praising and sharing delights.

Why do we worry that we will lose face?  
Why act like king for the whole human race?  
Often in family, and often with friend,  
laughing at pride causes anguish to end.

Even in sorrow and hours of grief,  
laughter with tears brings most healing relief.  
God, give us laughter, and God, give us peace,  
joys of your presence among us increase.

*Words: Walter Farquharson 1974. Music: Ron Klusmeier 1974, 1995. Words copyright © 1974 Walter Farquharson. Music copyright © 1974 Ron Klusmeier.*

**Invitation of Offering**

**Offertory Hymn: 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 (unison)**

God, Your many gifts surround us each day: from each breath we take to the bounty of our lives. Receive these gifts, which we offer with faith, so that this community may continue to be strong and so that our faith may reach out from this place in acts of peace and justice. Amen.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

## The Lord's Prayer

### Closing Hymn: Isaiah 55 (You Shall Go Out With Joy) (VU 884)

**You shall go out with joy  
and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills  
will break forth before you;  
there'll be shouts of joy,  
and all the trees of the field  
will clap, will clap their hands!**

**And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
(clap, clap)  
the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
(clap, clap)  
the trees of the field will clap their hands  
(clap, clap)  
while you go out with joy.**

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## Benediction

## Postlude

*Prayers adapted from the book of common prayer for the Presbyterian Church of Canada.  
Scripture readings adapted from the NRSVUE.*

**Coffee Host: Valerie Hindle/ Starr Cameron-Wright  
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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