

Southminster United Church, Ottawa, Ontario

November 9th, 2025

Remembrance Sunday

Worship Leader: The Rev. Dr. Jessica Hetherington

Director of Music: Sarah Westbrook

Guest Musician: Keiran Driscoll

Reader: Sandra Black

Prelude: Eucharistica (Meditations on a plainsong "Kyrie") by G. Winston Cassler

Welcome and Announcements

Territorial Acknowledgement

National Anthem

**O Canada! Our home on native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
the True North, strong and free;
From far and wide, O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada! We stand on guard for thee.
O Canada! We stand on guard for thee.**

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

From east and west, north and south, we gather on this day of remembrance to give thanks and praise.

We come to be inspired by the Word of God and honour the sacrifices of those who have committed themselves to service before self.

In times of peace, in times of conflict, and in times of uncertainty,

We remember that we are not alone.

We are the people of God, connected across time and space, from generation to generation.

We are united by the love of the One who said: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

As we gather to remember, let us sing and pray.

Let us worship God together!

Opening Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy 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 thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Opening Hymn: O God, Our Help in Ages Past (VU 806)

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure,
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time like an ever-rolling stream
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

**O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.**

Words: Isaac Watts 1719, alt. Music: attrib. William Croft 1708; desc. Frances P. Macpbail 1994. Descant copyright © 1994 Frances P. Macpbail.

Children's Time

Passing of the Peace

Hymn: Put Peace into Each Other's Hands (MV 173 v. 1-3)

**Put peace into each other's hands
and like a treasure hold it,
protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.**

**Put peace into each other's hands
with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.**

**Put peace into each other's hands
like bread we break for sharing;
look people warmly in the eye:
our life is meant for caring.**

Words: Fred Kaan, 1989, rev. 2001. Music: Ron Klusmeier, 2004. Words copyright © 2004 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music copyright © 2004 Ron Klusmeier. www.musiklus.com. Used by permission.

Prayer for Reconciliation and Assurance of God's Love

Holy One, when our lives are comfortable and we live in relative safety, it can be all too easy to forget that what we enjoy today has come at a great cost.

For some, the price was their last breath.

For others, it was wounds to body, mind, or spirit.

Our inability to resolve conflicts through peaceable means has caused harm beyond measure.

Forgive us for using violence as a way to resolve our differences.

On days like this, we remember those who defend our freedoms and we say "Lest we forget." Yet, too often we forget that the wounds to mind and spirit can last a lifetime.

Forgive us for not remembering once the poppies have been put away.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers," but we have often focused on what divides us rather than on what can bring us together.

Forgive us for our reluctance to do the hard work of peacemaking.

For all these things, and for those which we name before you now in the silence of our hearts, forgive us... *(Time of Silent Prayer and Reflection)*

Assurance of God's Love

Act of Remembrance

In Flanders Fields (by LCol John McCrae)

Words of Remembrance

They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old.

**Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.**

At the going down of the sun and in the morning.

We will remember them.

Last Post/Silence/Reveille

Laying of the Wreath and Recognition of the Honour Rolls

Responsive Prayer

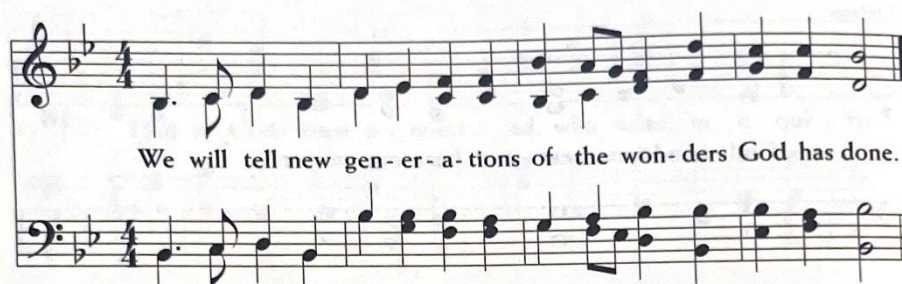
Scripture Readings

Ephesians 6:10-17

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Psalalm 78:1-7 (VU 792 Part One)

Refrain:



Give heed to my teaching, O my people,
turn your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will reveal the hidden meaning of things in the past.

What we have heard and known,
what our parents have told us,
we will not hide from their grandchildren,
but declare to the next generation
the testimony that you gave to Jacob
and the law you appointed in Israel,
which you commanded them to teach their children,
that the next generation might know them,
children yet unborn,
and these in turn should arise, and tell their children,
that they should put their trust in you,
and not forget your great deeds,
but keep all your commandments. Refrain

Joachim Neander 1680

Matthew 25:1-13

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: The Parable of Remembrance Day

Hymn: God! As with Silent Hearts (VU 527)

God! As with silent hearts we bring to mind
how hate and war diminish humankind,
we pause, and seek in worship to increase
our knowledge of the things that make for peace.

Hallow our will as humbly we recall
the lives of those who gave and give their all.
We thank you, God, for women, children, men
who seek to serve in love, today as then.

Give us deep faith to comfort those who mourn,
high hope to share with all the newly born,
strong love in our pursuit of human worth:
"lest we forget" the future of this earth.

So, Prince of Peace, disarm our trust in power,
reach us to coax the plant of peace to flower.
May we, impassioned by your living Word,
remember forward to a world restored.

Words: Fred Kaan 1989. Music: James Langran 1861. Words copyright © 1993 Hope Publishing Company.

Offertory

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.

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Life and Work of the Congregation (Announcements)

Closing Hymn: We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection (VU 586)

We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed:

we'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of new life in Christ.
We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping,
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story,
including all in circles of our love.

*Words: June Boyce-Tillman 1993. Music: Traditional Irish melody, arr. John Barnard 1982. Words copyright © 1993 Stainer & Bell Ltd.
Used by permission of Hope Publishing Company. Arrangement copyright © 1993 Hope Publishing Company.*

Commissioning and Benediction

Sung Benediction: VU 974

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

Jim Strathdee 1985

Postlude: Intermezzo in A major (no. 2) Op 118 by Brahms

Special thanks to Nick Dyson, CYJO, and Keiran Driscoll for the music.

Prayers adapted from the book of common prayer for the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

Scripture readings adapted from the NRSVUE.

Adapted from a service created by Capt (Rev.) Nathan Wright, Chaplain, the Royal New Brunswick Regiment.

© 2021 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution

Non-commercial Share Alike Licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/ca>. Any copy must include this notice.

Coffee Host: Paul Mullin Ushers/Counters: Margaret Isaac/ Sandra Black

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.



Southminster United Church / 15 Aylmer Ave. Ottawa ON K1S 3X1
613-730-6874 / admin@southminsterunitedchurch.com / southminsterunitedchurch.com

Make a DONATION

Please consider making a donation to assist the operation and mission of the church. This QR code will take you to the donation page on our website or visit southminsterunitedchurch.com/donate

