

**Southminster United Church, Ottawa, Ontario**

**June 28, 2026**

**Fifth after Pentecost**

**Annual Strawberry Social**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Susan Toller**

**Director of Music: Sarah Westbrook**

**Guest musician: Mason Pomeroy (flute)**

**Reader: Sandra Black**

**Prelude: Pastorale by Léon Böellmann**

**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 remind us Creator is the source of all Light, Jesus shows us how to be the Light and the Spirit helps us shine the Light where it is needed.

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**

Welcome to the house of the Lord.

**All people are welcome here.**

Welcome to the house of God.

**Here is justice, peace and inclusion.**

You are well-come to and in this place.

**We come to praise our God.**

*Wanda Winfield, Tupperville P.C., Tupperville, Ont.*

### **Opening Prayer**

Creator of All, we awake each morning in the knowledge that you have granted us another day in which to live out our lives. Help us to appreciate this time and find joy in the moments of this day. Open our senses to experience the sunshine or the

raindrops as gifts and to eat today savouring the tastes and textures. When we talk to a friend or a stranger and find common ground in sharing fears and anxieties, may we find a release and a freedom in knowing that others are in the same place, too. Help us to remember that while our earthly lives are but a flicker in time, you exist for eternity. The events in the world are also but a flicker in time, but you will always be our God. Amen.

*Sharon Winegarden, Lion's Head Pike Bay P.C., Lion's Head, Ont.*

## **Opening Hymn: All Who Are Thirsty (MV 4)**

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

#### **Prayer of Confession**

God whispers to us in the rain and the wind,  
**but we notice only storm and fury around us.**

God comes to us in the words in newspapers and news apps,  
**yet we read only words of despair and of tragedy, finding only pictures of destruction and of conflict.**

God tugs within our hearts with words of invitation,  
**while we seem only to feel the weariness in our bones, the heaviness in our limbs, the slowness of our will.**

God calls and commands,  
**and we turn away.**

Yet you keep insisting, prodding, beckoning, O God.  
**We turn within to find our fear of the unknown, terror at**

**changing how we've always done things, worry that we're not made of the right stuff.**

Still God, in Jesus, invites, "Follow me."

**We offer, then, our inner failings and fears,  
the ways we have ignored your calling, O God,  
hoping your invitation is still ours to accept.**

*(a time of silent prayer)*

### **Words of Assurance**

God whispers to us in the rain and the wind,  
**so that now, forgiven and transformed, we discover the  
promise of life and of growth.**

God comes to us in the words in newspapers and news apps,  
**so that disturbed and motivated by what we find there, we  
reach out in self-giving to change the world, to foster right  
relationships even with people a world away.**

God tugs within our hearts with words of invitation,  
**so that in joy, we respond with discipleship, finding a divine  
companion in the Spirit, rejoicing in our new-found freedom  
to journey in faith.**

God calls and commands,  
**so that in Jesus we find our road map, following the  
resurrection promise into new life.**

*Gord Dunbar, Kincardine, Ont.*

### **Prayer of Illumination**

May we find some insights today, from the words of our  
ancestors.

## **Scripture Reading**

### **Matthew 10: 40-42**

Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.

### **Anthem: Come Follow Me by Don Besig**

### **Reflection**

### **Hymn: Touch the Earth Lightly (VU 307)**

### **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**

God we offer you these gifts today in reciprocity for all that you share with us. May our offerings flow to where they are most needed. Amen.

## Prayers of the People

Loving and generous Creator,

We are grateful for all the gifts you continue to bless us with. We appreciate the warmer weather and cool breezes that signal the change of season. The longer days and more relaxed schedules (for some of us) enable us to find some rest. The fragrant and beautiful flowers, singing birds and appearance of rhubarb and strawberries tells us it's summer! Hallelujah!

God help us open our minds and our hearts to welcome summer visitors. Family and friends need to feel loved, and so do those who may be new to our community, or friends we haven't yet met.

*(prayer requests of celebration and joy)*

While some of us will enjoy summer holidays and the feeling of "getting away from it all", we know many people continue to carry their burdens. We ask the Spirit to shine a light on those suffering during this time. Help us be aware of those needing compassion, care and understanding. A simple visit, a listening ear or a walk might help our family, friends and new acquaintances know we care. We may not solve everyone's problems, but we can accompany folks on their journey.

Creator, while the heat of summer can bring relaxation, it can also result in unpredictable and difficult situations. We ask that young and elderly people, and people unhoused or living in urban areas be able to find cool spaces this summer, so they can breathe easily and find rest. Please support those preventing and fighting forest fires so they stay healthy and are able to

preserve vulnerable communities. Enable us to receive and offer a cup of water to a friend or stranger.

*(prayer requests spoken silently or aloud)*

God, we bring these prayers of thanksgiving and concern to you. We ask that you bring peace and comfort where it is needed. Whisper in our ear if we miss a gentle nudge towards providing an act of welcome. Help us to serve our neighbours.

### **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: Water Flowing from the Mountains (MV 87)**

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

**Postlude: Sonata in D Major Hob XVI: 37 1st movement by  
Haydn**

### **Coffee Time**

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

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**Coffee Host: Margaret Isaac**  
**Ushers/Counters: Margaret Isaac/ Sandra Black**

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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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