

Southminster United Church, Ottawa, Ontario

July 26, 2026

Ninth after Pentecost

Worship Leader: Rev. Susan Toller

Director of Music: Sarah Westbrook

Reader: Eugene Oscapeila

Prelude: Goldberg Variations BWV 988: Aria - J.S. Bach

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

People of God, why are you here?

**We hope for a glimpse of the goodness of God,
expressed in word and deed in this place.**

Followers of Jesus, what is your greatest fear?

That our prayers do not rise but fall to earth unheard.

Children of God, what does your heart desire?

We want to know that we are not alone, that God is with us.

God has sent the Spirit of Truth, the Advocate, to assure us of all these things and more.

God is seen. We are heard. God is with us! Thanks be to God.

Michele Rowe, Knox U.C., Langham, Sask.

Opening Prayer

God, when the 12 asked Jesus to “teach us how to pray,” he did.

Would you teach us how to listen?

Would you teach us how to live?

Would you teach us how to love?

Would you teach us how to be the people you created us to be?

Because we really need your help. Amen.

Richard Bott, Grace U.C., Burlington, Ont.

Opening Hymn: Gather Us In (MV 7)

Gather us in, ground us in you. (2X)

Gather us in, gather us in,

ground us, ground us in you.

Words and music: David Hann, 2005; French trans. David Fines, 2006. Words and music copyright © 2005 David Hann. Used by permission

Passing of the Peace/ Greeting Time

Conversation: When and where is your favourite prayer time?

Prayer of Illumination

Gracious and holy God, as we listen to your Word today, may we be open to understanding how your kingdom might come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 63: 1 - 8

O God, you are my God; I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.

Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.

So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
when I think of you on my bed
and meditate on you in the watches of the night,
for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.

Gift of Music: He's Always There (by Cece and Bebe Winans) - soloist: Keri Hugh

Luke 11: 1-10

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." So he said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial." And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Reflection on Prayer

Hymn: What a Friend We Have in Jesus (VU 664)

**What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.**

**Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Christ the Saviour is our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do our friends despise, forsake us?
Are we tempted to despair?
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness,
and we'll find new courage there.**

Words: Joseph Medlicott Scriven ca. 1855. Music: Charles Crozat Converse 1868

Invitation of Offering

Let us embrace the promise of love through the gifts of our offering - love with God and love with the world - as we seek to further God's eternal work of acceptance, kindness, compassion and forgiveness.

Gill Le Fevre, Walton Memorial U.c., Oakville, Ont.

Presentation of the Offering: Blest be the Tie that Binds (VU 602 v.1,3,4)

**Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.**

**We share each other's woes,
each other's burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.**

**This glorious hope revives
our courage on the way;
that we shall live in perfect love
in God's eternal day.**

Words: John Fawcett 1782, alt. Music: attrib. Johann G. Nägeli 1728; arr. Lowell Mason 1845

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 (Sung Response): Lord Listen to Your Children Praying (VU 400)

**God, listen to your children praying,
God, send your Spirit in this place;
God, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!**

Words: Ken Medema 1970. Music: Ken Medema, 1970. Words and music copyright © 1971 Hope Publishing Company.

The Prayer of Jesus - VU 959

**Our Creator in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.**

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Announcements

Closing Hymn: Take Time to be Holy (VU 672)

**Take time to be holy, speak oft with your Lord;
abide in him always, and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.**

**Take time to be holy, let him be your guide,
and run not before him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.**

**Take time to be holy, be calm in your soul,
each thought and each motive beneath his control.**

**Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love,
you soon shall be fitted for service above.**

Words: William D. Longstaff ca. 1882. Music: George C. Stebbins 1890

Commissioning: When You Walk from Here (VU 298)

**When you walk from here,
when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy,
and with God's humble care. Repeat**

Words: Linnea Good 1991. Music: Linnea Good 1991. Words and music copyright © 1991 Borealis Music.

Postlude: Sonatina in C Major Op. 55, No. 3: 1st mov - Kuhlau

Coffee Time

*Scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version (Updated Edition) of the Bible.
Most of today's service is created from "Teach Us to Pray" (A Gathering* Worship Resource Service 2026.
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Coffee Host: Margaret Isaac Ushers/Counters: Heather Macfaden / Mona McNeil
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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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