Southminster United Church, Ottawa, Ontario
November 8, 2026
Remembrance Day / Peace Sunday

Worship Leader: Rev. Susan Toller
Director of Music: Sarah Westbrook
Guest Musician: Kathryn Rutherford, trumpet
Reader: Sandra Black

Prelude: Purple Pitcher Plant on a theme by Brahms from *Canadian Floral Emblems* - Beverley McKiver

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge we are gathering on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Anishinaabe Algonquin people.

In recognition of the thousands of years Indigenous people have cared for this land, we open our hearts and minds to the presence of First Nations, Metis and Inuit people who live in and around the Ottawa area. We do this by learning about the culture and teachings of the First Peoples who lived here and who continue to share their traditional territories with us. We welcome Indigenous celebrations in our community and extend hospitality where we are invited to do so.

Walking beside each other, and listening to each others' stories and lived experiences enriches our lives and makes us all able to practise reconciliation.

Lighting of the Candles

We light this candle to remember the peace Christ offers us. Even while parts of the world may be in war or conflict, we can rely on Christ's light to help us find our way.

We light the Affirming candle to remember that everyone is welcome here. We are thankful for God's gifts in people of all cultural backgrounds, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientations and gender identities. God loves all of us.

Call to Worship

On Remembrance Day, we give thanks for those who have made sacrifices in pursuit of justice.
Soldiers, pilots, sailors, marines.

We honour the sacrifices made in pursuit of peace.
Nurses, ambulance drivers, doctors, chaplains.

We affirm the sacrifices made in pursuit of freedom.
Parents, spouses, partners, children.

We lament that these sacrifices were necessary.
We renew our calling to strive for peace and justice, freedom and truth.

We celebrate life reclaimed from war.
We proclaim life abundant, in Jesus Christ.

Let us worship together and remember together,
knowing that, in God's heart, their sacrifice is never forgotten.

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

Opening Prayer

Source of Life, we are grateful for your faithfulness, for your abiding love, and for the inspiration of the Spirit.
Even when we slip and fall, you tenderly pick us up and whisper in our ear, "Keep going."

We are your beloved. May we reflect your love to the world.
May you give us strength when we are weary and hope when we despair.

Give us courage when we are afraid
and perseverance when we want to give up.

Guide us in our journey through this world you love so much.
May we be like billions of candles lighting up the world with your compassion, forgiveness, justice, wisdom, and peace.

May it be so!
Amen!

Susan Girard, Riverview U.C., Atikokan, Ont.

Opening Hymn: Oh, let us breathe (TLUS 72 verses 1-4)

Oh, let us breathe, breathe and be together,
breathe and be together, together now.
Oh, let us breathe, breathe and be together,
breathe and be together, as if we knew how.

Oh, let us sing, sing by heart together,
sing by heart together, together now.
Oh, let us sing, sing by heart together,
sing by heart together, as if we knew how.

Oh, let us arise, arise and shine together,
Arise and shine together, together now.
Oh, let us arise, arise and shine together,
Arise and shine together, as if we knew how.

Oh, let us pray, pray for peace together.
Pray for peace together, together now.
Oh, let us pray, pray for peace together.
Pray for peace together, as if we knew how

Words and music: Lori L. Erhardt, 2010. Arrangement: Jason D. Locke, 2024. Words and music © 2010 Lori L. Erhardt, Box 443, Oxbow, SK S0C 2B0. rev.lorierhardt@gmail.com. Used by permission. Arrangement © 2024 Jason D. Locke. All rights reserved.

Passing of the Peace/ Greeting Time

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, we confess that our minds and spirits have been inundated
with thoughts and talk of revenge, retaliation, sanctions, and war.
Shock and numbness have been pushed aside by anger, spreading like a contagious and lethal disease.
Have we stopped long enough to look at history and notice the awful price of war?
Have we stopped long enough to remember that you are the God of all people,
whether we call you Father in Heaven,
Mother of Us All,
Allah,
Adonai,
Holy Wisdom,
or Great Spirit?

Have we stopped long enough to ask what you would have us do?
(a time of silence)

Teach us your ways, Source of Compassion. Guide us in the path of peace. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Words of Assurance

God loves us in our brokenness and fear, and directs us in our struggle for a whole and healing world. Let us lean into that strength and wisdom.

Juanita L. Austin, Salmon Arm, B.C., from a draft copy of Cup of Wine and a Piece of Bread. Used with permission.

Time of Remembrance

In Flanders Fields (by Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae) - recited by Keri Hugh

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

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.

Recognition of the Honour Roll and Laying of Wreaths

Last Post

Minute of Silence

Reveille

Responsive Prayer

Eternal rest grant to them, O God, and may perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls, through your great mercy, rest in peace. Amen.

Hymn: O Canada (VU 524)

O Canada!
Our home and 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.

Words: Robert Stanley Weir 1908. Music: melody Calixa Lavallèe ca. 1880, harm. William Smith Dingman ca. 1930

Prayer of Illumination

May we find insights from our ancestors in our scripture reading today.

Scripture Reading

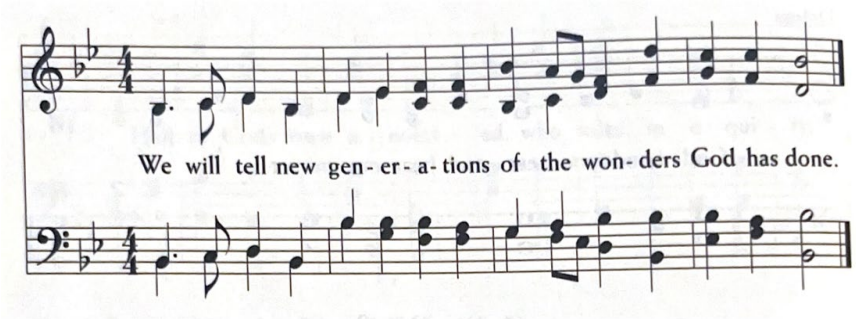
Joshua 24: 14-25

"Now, therefore, revere the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went and among all the peoples through whom we passed, and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Psalm 78 - Part One (1-7)



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

Anthem: Be Peace on Earth (From the oratorio *Palestine*) by William Crotch

This text is an 1812 poem set by William Crotch and rooted in the historical and cultural perspectives of its time. While other parts of the oratorio reflect some Eurocentric ideas about people and landscapes that we may view differently today, its plea to "let furious discord cease" remains deeply meaningful. We hear these words as our collective modern prayer for an end to violence, conflict, and suffering across the world today.

Reflection

Hymn: Let There be Light (VU 679, v. 1-3 & 6)

Let there be light,
let there be understanding,
let all the nations gather,
let them be face to face;

open our lips,
open our minds to ponder,
open the door of concord
opening into grace;

perish the sword,
perish the angry judgement,
perish the bombs and hunger,
perish the fight for gain;

let there be light;
open our hearts to wonder,
perish the way of terror,
hallow the world God made.

Words: Frances Wheeler Davis 1968; alt. Music: Robert J. B. Fleming 1967. Words copyright © 1970 Frances Wheeler Davis. Music copyright © 1976 Margaret Fleming.

Prayers of the People

God, we look to you for peace.
We need peace in our hearts, so we can face our daily fears.
We seek peace in our homes, so we can feel and provide comfort to those we live with.
We work for peace in the world around us - in our relationships where we work, study, and play. Where else do we need peace?
(prayer requests)

Source of love,
Bring the peace of a flowing stream, the silence of a passing cloud, and the purring of a contented cat to where patience, understanding and hope is needed.
Open our hearts to forgiveness.
Help us breathe, listen and love.

The Lord's Prayer (VU 916 A Paraphrase)

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo
through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.

Copyright © 1988 Jim Cotter

Invitation of Offering

We invite you to make an offering this morning, so the peace in our hearts can be radiated out where it is needed. This offering may be through financial gifts, and also through our daily lives, as we commit to preventing mistrust, violence and conflict.

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

For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

Words: Steve Garnaas-Holmes 1991. Music: Steve Garnaas-Holmes 1991. Words and music copyright © 1991 Abingdon Press.

Offering Prayer

We offer these gifts today with a prayer for peace, especially in the lives of the world's children. Bring them the peace of a secure and loving home, where their needs can be met and their dreams can become reality. Amen.

Karen Boivin, Melville U.C., Fergus, Ont.

Announcements

Closing Hymn: Hymn: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (VU 684)

Make me a channel of your peace:
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
Where there is injury, your healing power,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Refrain:
O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace;
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, only light;
And where there's sadness, ever joy. *Refrain*

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Words: attr. to St. Francis 1230; Music: Sebastian Temple 1967, arr. Betty Pulkingham 1976. Music copyright © 1968 Franciscan Communication Centre. Used by permission. OneLicense.net A-717627.

Blessing Hymn: May the Peace of God Be Your Peace (MV 222)

May the peace of God be your peace.
May the love of God be the love you show.
May the joy of God be the joy you know,
and may the world that God would see
be found in you.

Words and music: Neil McLaren, 2001, alt. Words and music copyright © November 2001 Neil McLaren. nmclaren@rogers.com. Used by permission.

Postlude: Music based on Bill Evan's "Peace Piece"

Coffee Time

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

Coffee Host: Paul Mullin
Ushers/Counters: Gerald Ohashi/ Janet Sutherland

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.

Affirm | S'affirmer
UNITED | ENSEMBLE

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

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