

Southminster United Church, Ottawa, Ontario

September 20, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Leader: David Pringle

Director of Music: Sarah Westbrook

Reader: Conrad Watters

Prelude:

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.

Call to Worship

In the beginning, when God began to create the heavens and the earth,
the earth was complete chaos, a formless void.

Swirling shadows covered the void, and then

a wind from God, the Spirit of God swept over the void

and God proclaimed, "Let there be light!"

Opening Prayer – Day One: Light and Dark

Welcoming the first day of Creation, let us pray:

Light and dark, day and night, separated, yet working together. Indeed, there is work to do, creating, moulding, fixing—but not yet. First, there needs to be light, to reveal what you need us to do, Creator God. We gather here, preparing ourselves, ready to let your light shine in our midst. We rejoice in the way you illuminate our lives. Thanks be to you, Creating and Creative One. Amen.

Lighting of the Candles

We light the Christ candle and remember that God created light. Christ shows us how to shine that 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.

Opening Hymn: All Things Bright and Beautiful (VU 291)

Refrain

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
in love, God made them all.**

**Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours,
God made their tiny wings. *Refrain***

**The purpleheaded mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky; *Refrain***

**The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them every one. *Refrain***

**The rocky mountain splendour,
the lone wolf's haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies,
the forest in the fall; *Refrain***

**God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God our maker,
who has made all things well. *Refrain***

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander 1848, alt. Music: 17th-century English melody, adapt. and arr. Martin Shaw 1915. Arrangement copyright © 1921 (renewed) by J. Curwen & Sons Ltd. (London). All rights for the U.S. and Canada controlled by G. Schirmer, Inc. (ASCAP)

Passing of the Peace/ Greeting Time

Prayer of Confession – Day Two: Separation of Waters

Welcoming the second day of Creation, let us pray:

Gracious God, we feel wonder at the sky dome over us, the vault between waters above and waters below. Yet, often, as we become aware of what is happening around us, we begin feeling that we are surrounded by water, drowning. There is so much greed, so much need. Often, we fail to notice the growing separation between people. Often, we fail to offer help to those around us, as we tread water, unable to focus on anything else. Forgive us. Help us to rediscover your vision for us. Help us to experience you in others. Help us to tend to each other and encourage one another so that we no longer feel like we are drowning. Amen.

Words of Assurance – Day Three: Land and Sea

In the third day of Creation, we find our assurance. Land and sea, terra and aqua. Friends! Yes, there is the water in which we often find ourselves and others swimming, treading, struggling. But there also is land! Solid, steady, expansive, the cornerstone of our lives, terra firma! Recognize that God's grace is present, available to us when we need it, a solid island offering hope when we are caught in the seas of unease. Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Illumination

Creator, in our reading today, may we find words to inspire us to love you and your Creation. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Genesis 1:1—2:3

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night,

and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth[d] and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Proverbs 8:22–31

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, when he had not yet made earth and fields or the world’s first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I

was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker, and I was daily his[e] delight, playing before him always, playing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

Anthem: I Believe by Mark A. Miller

Reflection: David Beck-MacNeil - Manager at the Centretown Community Food Centre

Hymn: O Beautiful Gaia (MV 41)

Refrain:

O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia, calling us home.

O beautiful Gaia, calling us on.

Soil yielding its harvest,

O Gaia, calling us home.

Soil yielding its harvest,

calling us on. *Refrain*

Waves crashing on granite,

O Gaia, calling us home.

Waves crashing on granite,

calling us on. *Refrain*

Pine bending in windstorm,

O Gaia, calling us home.

Pine bending in windstorm,

calling us on. *Refrain*

Loon nesting in marshland,

O Gaia, calling us home.

Loon nesting in marshland,

calling us on. *Refrain*

Words and music: Carolyn McDade, with verses created by the singers gathered in Atlantic Canada. Arrangement: Lydia Pedersen, 2006. Words and music copyright © Carolyn McDade Music. www.gis.net/~surtsey/mcdade. Email: surtsey@gis.net. Used by permission. Arrangement copyright © 2006 by Lydia Pedersen. Used by permission.

Invitation to Offering – Day Four: Sun, Moon, Stars

We welcome the fourth day of Creation. We welcome the sun, moon, and stars. The cosmos is as abundant, mysterious, and amazing as God's abundant blessings. We are gifted with many blessings. Let us share some of what we have with others.

Presentation of the Offering: What Can I Do? (MV 191)

**What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

Words and music: Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy; arr. Alan C. Whitmore, 2005. Words and music copyright © by Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy. Please visit www.paulrumbolt.com for information. Used by permission. Arrangement copyright © 2005 Alan C. Whitmore. Used by permission.

Offering Prayer - Day Five: Birds and Fish

Loving Creator, as we honour the fifth day of Creation, we think of birds and fish, the creation of the winged things that fly through the air and the finned things that swim through the depths. Beauty, majesty, grace. As these creatures spread across your Creation, let our gifts today spread as much as they are able. Let them serve your people. Amen.

Prayers of the People – Day Six: Land Animals and Humans

We welcome the sixth day of Creation. Animals of the land, hooves and hands, tails, fur, scales, feet and paws. Animals inhabiting the treetops, the fields, the forests. Then came human beings created in God's own image, and we were given responsibility to care for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, and the animals on the land. And so, we offer our prayers for all of Creation:

Holy Mystery, when you created us, you gave us free will. You let us make our own decisions. Sometimes we make the wrong ones and sometimes the right ones. Always we have the responsibility and privilege of holding all people and all Creation in prayer.

We pray for all your creatures: humans, animals of earth, sea, and sky, and for the Earth itself. We pray for all who live under oppression. May each person feel your comforting presence and may freedom and justice come. We pray for all who are in positions of power. May each one know your wisdom in the midst of decision-making. We pray for all who are hungry today, in body, mind, or spirit. May your Spirit feed souls, but more than that, may we all work together so that no one lives with any kind of hunger.

We pray for all who are lonely and grieving. May each one feel your embrace and take comfort in you. We gather all of our prayers as we pray in the name of the Jesus the Word, who was there with God at the beginning of Creation,

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Mother and Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done
On earth as it is 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 forever, Amen.

Announcements

Closing Hymn: It's a Song of Praise to The Maker (MV 30)

It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker,
The gray whale sings in the sea,

Refrain

And by the Spirit
you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a call of life to the Giver
when waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver
when high tides break on the shore, *Refrain*

It's the chorus of all creation;
it's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation;
a song the universe sings, *Refrain*

Words: Ruth Duck, 1992. Music: Ron Klusmeier, 1992. Words copyright © 1992 by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800-442-1358. Music copyright © 1992 by Ron Klusmeier, www.musiklus.com. Used by permission.

Commissioning: Day Seven: It Is Very Good

We have gathered on the seventh day of Creation. We celebrate that God gazed out at all that had been created and declared, "It is very good!" As our worship draws to a close and we move into the week ahead, notice the goodness of God's Creation around you. Give yourself permission to work and to rest. Seek God in the rest, in the calm, and in the quiet. Seek out time to rest and offer rest to others. Amen.

Postlude

Coffee Time

*Scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version (Updated Edition) of the Bible.
This service was written by Jamie Miller. Used with permission. The United Church of Canada.*

Coffee Host: Brian and Peggy Kinsley, Donald Tarte
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.



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