

Southminster United Church, Ottawa, Ontario

November 1, 2026

Twenty-third after Pentecost

Worship Leader: Rev. Susan Toller and Rev. Sondia Martha Tubman

Director of Music: Sarah Westbrook

Reader: Conrad Watters

Prelude:

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge we are gathering on the unceded and unsundered 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 Indigenous 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 that Christ is present in all things. Even while the world, and our church continues to change, 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

As a people who yearn for new opportunities to put our faith into action,
we give thanks for God's presence in our lives.

As a congregation that seeks to build community and to serve with a common purpose,
we give thanks for the Spirit's presence in our lives.

As individuals who seek to follow the teachings of Jesus and to make a difference in our community and in the world,
we give thanks for Christ's presence in our lives.

We seek to share both hope and love with others as we live our purpose and offer our space.

Thanks be to God.

Come, let us worship, in the presence of God: Creator, Christ, and Spirit.

Bill Steadman, Copper Cliff U.C., Copper Cliff, Ont.

Opening Prayer

Creator, now that the harvest is almost complete, and the leaves are falling, it's time to slow down. We invite you to speak to us, and help us find space to listen, in those quiet spaces that we need, to rest and revive ourselves.

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**

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Passing of the Peace/ Greeting Time

Prayer of Confession

God leans in and eagerly receives our heartfelt prayers. Trust that you have God's attention. You may honestly offer your silent prayers of personal confession now.

(a time of silent prayer)

Amen.

Elaine Bidgood Sveet, Zion Lutheran Church, Minot, North Dakota

Words of Assurance

The Good News of the gospel is always this:

God wants more than anything to be in relationship with us.

God seeks us out and welcomes us back, even before we ask.

We are forgiven, we are restored.

Thanks be to God.

Beth W Johnston, Collaborative Ministry, River Philip and Springhill, N.S.

Prayer of Illumination

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

Scripture Reading

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

2 Timothy 2: 14-15

Remind them of this, and warn them before the Lord that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

Anthem: Bless the Lord - Beethoven, arr. H.Hopson

Reflection by Rev. Sondia Martha Tubman, Word of Life International Ministries, Liberia

Hymn: Precious Lord, Take My Hand (VU 670)

Precious Lord, take my hand,
lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear,
precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call,
hold my hand lest I fall:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

**When the darkness appears,
and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand,
guide my feet, hold my hand:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

Words: Thomas A. Dorsey 1932. Music: George N. Allen 1844; adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey 1932. Words and music adaptation copyright © 1938 Unichappell Music Inc.

Prayers of the People

Comforting God, unclench our spirits and open our hearts to others.
Open our senses to notice the needs around us.

To all who are grieving, give comfort.

To all who are ill, grant healing.

To all who are struggling with depression or anxiety, minister to each heart and mind.

To all who live paycheck to paycheck, bring possibility, encouragement, and hope.

To all who face discrimination every day in ways big and small, lead each to justice.

To all who are lonely and feel shut out, bring a caring friend.

(personal prayer requests)

Wind of God, blow away our fears and stir up our spirits.

Rejoicing Spirit, teach us to unclench our hearts and love with wild abandon.

May your kingdom of joy-filled love arrive through our words and actions.

Thank you for teaching us your prayer that guides our way, and so we pray to Creator...

The Lord's Prayer VU 959 (sung)

**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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Invitation of Offering

A world in need awaits our offering.

Our offering of time, talents, and treasures can make a difference, here and around the world.

The needs of our community and of the world are many.

We sometimes feel as if we cannot possibly make a difference.

Yet, we are called to work together

and to realize that, in caring together, the results are multiplied beyond our imagination.

Let us give of our hearts, ourselves, and our lives. The offering will be received.

Beth W Johnston, Collaborative Ministry, River Philip and Springhill, N.S.

Presentation of the Offering: 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.

Offering Prayer

Receive these gifts O God,
use them to reform this community of faith
as you remake the world in your image.
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Announcements

Closing Hymn: Siyahamba (VU 646)

**We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
(the light of God.)
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,)
oo-oo, (marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.
(the light of God.)
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,)
oo-oo, (marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.**

**Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
siyahamb'ekukhanyen' kwenkhos,
(khanyen'kwenkhos'.)
Siyahamba, (hamba siyahamba,)
oo-oo, (hamba,)
siyahamb', ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.
(khanyen' kwenkhos'.)
Siyahamba, (hamba siyahamba,)
oo-oo, (hamba,)
siyahamb', ekukhanyen' kwenkhos.**

Words: South African trad. song, 20th century; trans. Anders Nyberg 1984. Music: South African trad. song, 20th century; arr. Anders Nyberg et al. 1984. Translation and arrangement copyright © 1984 Walton Music Corporation.

Commissioning

As we leave this place today,
Let us continue to pray
For wherever peace, hope, joy and love are needed.
May God be with you this week.

Postlude:

Coffee Time

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

**Coffee Host: Starr Cameron-Wright
Ushers/Counters: Heather Macfaden/ Bernie Ducker**

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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