

**Southminster United Church, Ottawa, Ontario**

**October 11, 2026**

**Thanksgiving Sunday**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Susan Toller**

**Director of Music: Sarah Westbrook**

**Reader: Aidan MacNaull/ Sandra Black**

**Prelude:**

**Welcome**

**Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge we are gathering on the unceded land of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people. They have cared for this land for millenia.

Robin Wall Miller, a botanist from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, talks about gratitude in her book "Braiding Sweetgrass". She reminds us of the benefits of the gift economy. When you receive something, it is important to express gratitude, by giving back. This is reciprocity. We all thrive from the cycle of giving and gratitude.

We are grateful for the teachings of reciprocity.

**Lighting of the Candles**

We light this candle to remember that God is present in all things. We are grateful for this light that shines on us and through us to illuminate the world around us.

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**

Welcome, family of God!

God has visited the earth and watered it.

God has provided the people with grain and crowned the year with overflowing bounty.

The earth has yielded its increase, God; our God has blessed us!

Let us give thanks and praise to God!

*Anne Mathewson, St. David's Trinity U.C., Saskatoon, Sask.*

**Opening Prayer**

O God, we come before you

**to give thanks**

for the wonders of your Creation;

**to give thanks**

for the reassuring touch of loved ones;

**to give thanks**

for the tantalizing aroma of home cooking;

**to give thanks**

for the joyous sounds of children laughing;

**to give thanks**

for your presence in the shadowed times.

**We who are so blessed come in gratitude to offer our communal prayer**

**for the limitlessness of your love that fills us with the very breath of life.**

Gracious God, we give our thanks. Amen.

*Barbara Johns, Queenswood U.C., Orleans, Ont.*

### **Opening Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth VU 226**

**For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies,**

*Refrain:*

**God of all, to you we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon, and stars of light, *Refrain***

**For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild, *Refrain***

**For each perfect gift sublime  
to our race so freely given,  
graces human and divine,  
flowers of earth and buds of heaven, *Refrain***

*Words: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint 1864; alt. Conrad Kocher 1838; adapt. William H. Monk 1861; desc. Alan Gray 1920 Press.*

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

### **Prayer of Confession**

God, you have provided your children with many wonderful gifts. But there are times when we may get so caught up in the busy-ness of our own day-to-day living that we forget to stop and breathe a simple word of thanks.

**Forgive me, God, when I forget to whisper, “Thank you.”**

God, as we travel through life, there are times when we are so happy to have received your gifts of grace that we may forget that the gifts came from you.

**Forgive me, God, when I forget to whisper, “Thank you.”**

*(a time of silent prayer)*

Amen.

### **Words of Assurance**

Receive the good news! The assurance of God’s love for you—you are forgiven! The greatest gift of all was bestowed upon all of us when God sent Jesus Christ, God’s own beloved Son, to live with us and to die for us. So, know that you are loved by God, you are forgiven by the holiness of Christ, and you are assured of that forgiveness always by the grace of the Holy Spirit. And now you can whisper, “Thank you!” Amen.

*Diane McKenty, Grey Street U.C., Winnipeg, Man.*

### **Prayer of Illumination**

Creator, please bless the words of our ancestors, and help us gain insight today.

### **Scripture Reading**

#### **Deuteronomy 8: 7-18**

For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

“Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes that I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them and when your herds and flocks have multiplied and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock. He fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, ‘My power and the

might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

### **Psalm 65 ( v. 3-4 page 783)**

God crowns the year with goodness,  
the earth God's mercy fills,  
the wilderness is fruitful,  
and joyful are the hills.

With grain the fields are covered,  
the flocks in pastures graze;  
all nature joins in singing  
a joyful song of praise.

*Words: The Psalter 1912; alt. Music: Melchior Vulpus 1609*

### **Luke 17:11-19**

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus[a] was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

**Gift of Music: "Méditation" from Thaïs: - Massenet Isabelle Lacroix (violin)**

### **Reflection**

**Hymn: Praise God for this Holy Ground (MV 42, v. 1, 2, 3 & 5)**

**Praise God for this holy ground,  
place and people, sight and sound.**

*Refrain:*

**Hallelujah! (3X)**

**God's goodness is eternal.**

**Praise God in whose word we find  
food for body, soul and mind.**

**Praise God who through Christ makes known  
all are loved and called God's own.**

**Though praise ends, praise is begun  
where God's will is gladly done.**

*Words and music: John L. Bell, 2002. Words and music copyright © 2002 by WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland, admin.  
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### **Invitation of Offering**

Come gather up our gifts. With joy, let us offer to our Creator a thanksgiving portion for all we have received.

### **Presentation of the Offering: For the Fruit of All Creation (VU 227 v. 3)**

**For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

*Words: Fred Pratt Green 1970. Music: Welsh folk melody ca. 1784. Words copyright © 1970 Hope Publishing Company.*

### **Offering Prayer**

**As we give from our hearts, let these offerings be blessed. Praise and thanks be to God.**

*Jani Francis, St. Andrew's U.C., Indian Head, Sask.*

### **Announcements**

### **Closing Hymn: Grateful (MV 182)**

*Refrain:*

**Grateful for the life you give us,  
thankful for your Holy Son,  
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all,  
O God of Love.**

**Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,  
thankful for your Holy Word,  
joyful in your mercy flowing,  
we will praise you.**

**You are more than we imagine,  
Ancient, Holy, Living God.  
Even when we doubt your presence  
you are faithful to your Word. *Refrain***

**May our lives proclaim your justice,  
may our voices sing your praise.  
May our hands work in your service  
to the glory of your name. *Refrain***

*Words and music: Tom Tomaszek, 2003; arr. Sarah Hart and Tom Tomaszek, 2003. Words and music copyright © 2003, Tom Tomaszek. Published by spiritandsong.com ®. All rights reserved. Used with permission.*

## Commissioning

May your hearts be filled with thanks for all we have received.

## Postlude:

## Coffee Time

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

*This service was mostly created by Gathering Worship Resource, Bree MacKenzie and Brooke MacKenzie and Lorna Carley, St. John's United Church, Kemptville, Ont. Used with permission. The United Church of Canada.*

**Coffee Host: Brian and Peggy Kinsley, Donald Tarte**  
**Ushers/Counters: Heather Macfaden/ Janet Sutherland**

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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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Southminster United Church / 15 Aylmer Ave. Ottawa ON K1S 3X1  
613-730-6874 / [admin@southminsterunitedchurch.com](mailto:admin@southminsterunitedchurch.com) / [southminsterunitedchurch.com](https://southminsterunitedchurch.com)