

GROWING, CARING, MAKING A DIFFERENCE



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
IN ELGIN AND PORTLAND

Ministers: All of God's People
Pulpit Supply: Barb DeJeet, LLWL

January 21, 2024 - *Third SUNDAY After Epiphany*

✦ *indicates when those who are able will please stand.*

WE CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER

Welcome, Announcements

God in My Week – Sharing & Caring, Birthdays & Anniversaries

Traditional Land Acknowledgement (All)

Before we begin our worship with language that is ancient and music that comes from an intentional community, it is important to acknowledge other ancient and intentional communities. Ancient and modern people have inhabited and continue to inhabit this land on which we worship. We are deeply grateful to be here and to ground ourselves in the land that has been a place where people have lived for thousands of years.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Each Sunday morning, we gather around this candle, a symbol of Christ. This ritual brings focus to our time of worship, a time when we pause to renew our faith and spiritual life with our Creator. May the light shine, gathering us in and bringing us to a place of calm and shalom.

Jim McKean, Severn Shores U.C., Severn Ont.

WE APPROACH GOD

Call To Worship

You've maybe heard the story of the little girl who was listening to her grandfather as he read her a bedtime story. She would occasionally wander from the book and touch Grandpa's cheek, and then her own.

One: "Grandpa, did God make you?"

All: "Yes, sweetheart, a long time ago."

One: "So, did God make me too?"

All: "Yes, indeed, sweetie. God make you just a little while ago."

One: Feeling their respective faces again, the little girl observed.

All: "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

That's what draws us here, connects us, and then sends us forth.

We Worship.

✦ Opening Hymn: VU # 562 "Jesus Calls Us"

Passing Of the Peace

Jesus comes to us, proclaiming the good news. He challenges us to acknowledge our wandering hearts and to remember that we are loved. As children, forgiven by grace, let us take time now to extend peace to one another. **(the sign of Peace)**

Opening Prayer

In a world filled with noise, you are a quiet place, God. In a world filled with complexity, you are wisdom. In a world filled with brokenness and loss, you are the sturdy ground of our being. Through this time together, through the love of Christ, may the world be changed, and may all be made whole. AMEN Richard Bott, Grace U.C., Burlington, Ontario.

WE LISTEN FOR WISDOM

Ministry of Music: PUC Choir – No One Understands Like Jesus
By J.W. Peterson
EUC Choir – "Wherever He Leads I'll Go",
By: B.B. McKinney c.1936

Invitation Of Illumination

Give us understanding, Holy One, as we listen to your Word.

Scripture Reading

Reader: Listen for the sacred story

All: **May our ears and hearts be open to God's Word**

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 "Jonah calls Nineveh to repent"

Mark 1: 14-20 "Jesus calls, Simon, Andrew, James and John"

Reflection: "Why Did You Follow Jesus??" What Is Your Reason??

✦ Responding Hymn: VU#608 "Dear God, Who Loves All Humankind"

OUR RESPONSE

Invitation For Offering

Offering Hymn: VU#544 "In Gratitude and Humble Trust" (music VU 530)

Offering Prayer

Restorer of divided hearts, bless our gifts this morning. Make our offering a path to holy living and action. May our very lives reflect the truth of our faith and our commitment to your world. With generous hearts, we pray. AMEN

Prayers of the People /The Lord's Prayer

✦ Closing Hymn: VU # 642 "Be Thou My Vision" (vs 1,2,5)

Commissioning

One: The kingdom of God is near.

All: We are called to action.

One: The kingdom of God unfolds throughout our lives.

All: We will take the word of grace into the world.

One: Go, redeemed and blessed, for you are never alone.

All: We will spread the good news!! AMEN

Benediction

✦ **Choral Blessing: 402 “We are One” (vs 4)**

Postlude PUC: Trumpet Tune In D. By: John Stanley

It was decided at the last Official Board meeting after much discussion that the annual reports should be in Annette by the 17th of January with the treasurer's reports by the 24th of January. All AGMs will be held on Sunday the 18th of February. Both churches right after their regular services and the O.B. probably about 3 pm.

Our prayer list is still growing. Please keep the Pastoral Care Director, Liz Church, or Clint Halladay updated.

Monday Evening Bible Study Group-6:30 Portland UC

As we continue our daily Bible readings, this week we will discuss Matthew 18-24. This reading schedule can be done in as little as ten minutes per day. Please come join us for lively discussion and rich fellowship. Everybody welcome.
For info: ccjimbarton@gmail.com or 613-328-4089.

January 30, 2024, PUC Council Meeting @ 7 p.m.

Elgin Portland Pastoral Charge

PO Box 251, Portland ON K0G 1V0

Web site: www.eppc-ucc.com (or.ca)

Church Office: (613) 272-2002

Office Hours: Wednesday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Secretary: Annette Clarke, E-mail: office@eppc-ucc.com

Chair of the Official Board: Acting Chair Ted Brett

Church Council Chairs:

Elgin: Clint Halladay 613-359-5607 **Portland:** Duncan Pickard (613) 272-2524

OUR CHURCHES UNITED

Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge



January 21, 2024