

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

March 10, 2024-*Last Sunday Before Lent*

"Grace is the gift that binds us to God. It protects us, redeems us,
restores us, and makes us whole"

✠ 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)

For the keepers of this land who came before us, we give thanks. May we learn from them and be reconciled with them. We are all children of God.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

One: In Christ Jesus, we are created to do good things.

All: **By God's grace, we are able to be good people.**

One: In God's goodness, we are created good.

All: **In Christ's grace, we are saved by love, that we may love and be loved.**

One: We light this candle in the love and grace of the ever-present God. AMEN

WE APPROACH GOD

Call To Worship

One: The goodness of God beckons,

All: **calling us to goodness and grace.**

One: The grace of God redeems,

All: **saving us and making us whole.**

One: The love of God welcomes,

All: **inviting us to worship and praise.**

✠ Opening Hymn: VU # 574 "Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love"

Passing Of the Peace

One: You are God's accomplishment.

All: **You are God's joy.**

One: You are created in Christ Jesus to do good things.

All: **As you are!**

One: When we live into God's plan, these things become our way in the world.

All: **Goodness and love will be our way of life. AMEN**
(The Peace of Christ)

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

In Christ Jesus, we are created to do good things. By God's grace, we can be good people. In God's goodness, we are created good. In Christ's grace, we are saved by love, that we may love and be loved.

WE LISTEN FOR WISDOM

Ministry of Music: **PUC Choir – Shepherd of Love**
By **John W. Peterson**

Invitation Of Illumination

Holy Spirit, open our hearts to receive your Word.

Scripture Reading

Reader: Listen for the sacred story

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

Numbers 21: 4-9 "A bronze serpent heals the people"

John 3: 14-21 "For God so loved the world"

Reflection: "What's so amazing about Grace?"

✠ Responding Hymn: VU # 356 "Seek Ye First the Kingdom"

OUR RESPONSE

Invitation For Offering

As we have been saved by grace for the goodness of all, may we share our gifts of grace for the goodness of God's world.

Offering Hymn: VU#541 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Offering Prayer

Merciful God, you have richly blessed our lives with love and bounty beyond measure. Bless these gifts we return to you now, that they may bestow the same richness of your love and grace in the world.
AMEN

Prepare Our Hearts For Prayer:
VU #400 “Lord, listen to your children praying”

Prayers of the People /Singing of the Lord’s Prayer VU #960

✦ **Closing Hymn: VU # 266 “Amazing Grace” (vs 1-4)**

Commissioning/ Benediction

✦ **Parting Hymn: VU # 266 “Amazing Grace” (vs 5)**

Postlude PUC: Trumpet Tune in “D” – John Stanley

Precious Lord, we ask you to hold the soul of our dear friend and your faithful servant **Bonnie Bilton** tenderly in your loving arms. Our prayers turn to Bonnie's family and friends that they find comfort and peace through Your Grace.

Bible Discussion Groups

This week's discussions will be centered (but not limited to) on Bible readings from 2 Corinthians 3-13 and Luke 1&2. Please join us for lively discussions and warm fellowship on Monday evening at the Portland UC at 6:30 pm or on Tuesday morning at the Elgin Municipal Complex at 10 am. All are welcome. For info contact Jim at ccjimbarton@gmail.com or 613-328-4089. John 4:14 “But whoever drinks of the water that I [Jesus] will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

PUC UCW meeting on Tuesday, March 12th at 1:30 p.m. All Welcome!

Mark **Friday, March 22nd** on your calendar for a fabulous turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Bring your families, friends and neighbours. 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. \$18 for adults and \$10 for children under 12.

As always, you are invited to drop in weekly on Thursdays to Chit Chat, downstairs between 10:30 and 12:00 noon.

We keep Kathleen Seward and her family in our prayers. She is in palliative care at Smiths Falls Hospital.

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: Clint Halladay

Church Council Chairs:

Elgin: Clint Halladay 613-359-5607 **Portland:** Katy Gibson (613) 929-9351

OUR CHURCHES UNITED

Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge



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