

GROWING, CARING, MAKING A DIFFERENCE



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
IN ELGIN AND PORTLAND

Ministers: All of God's People
Pulpit Supply: *Portland United Church Council*

April 21, 2024

✠ indicates when those who are able will please stand.

WE CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER

"A Village Church with A Heart for The World"

Welcome/ Community Sharing/ Birthdays/Anniversaries

Land Acknowledgment/ Stewardship Promise

ONE: For those who came before us, and cared for this land, we offer gratitude. We live and work on Treaty lands and respect the love given to our land. As we look to the celebration of Earth Week, we remind ourselves of our dependence on the earth, given to all by our Creator.

ALL: We take opportunity now, and honor relationships with those who continue to act in love, respect and deep interconnectedness. We celebrate together the world we have been given to share and care for. God's Creation continues to hold us together as we work to heal the land. Amen

Spiritual Focus

Today we will be reminded of our responsibility to care for God's Earth. We will also reflect on the Good Shepherd who leads us.

Call to Worship

One: We are one flock

All: Called by the Good Shepherd to be one in community

One: We are loved by God

All: Compelled by Creator to Love One Another

One: We are stewards of this land

ALL: Commanded to care for the earth we have been given

One: In truth and action, as one flock

All: We join together to worship our Creator

Lighting of Christ Candle

We gather today in the presence of God, having received the salvation given us through Christ, and in the peace of the Holy Spirit. As we light the Christ candle, our hearts are filled with joy and thanksgiving.

✠ **Opening Hymn VU # 296 This is God's Wondrous World**

Opening Prayer

Creator God, we come together to worship You this day. We celebrate the bounteous gifts given to us – in family, friends, Creation. We adore You and praise You, for You alone are worthy of our praise. We pray You are pleased with our offering of worship to You. Amen

Poem for Earth Day: "Trees" – by Alfred Joyce Kilmer, 1913

Reflection 1

Scripture: Psalm 23

Ministry of Music VU # 226 For the Beauty of the Earth

Reflection #2

✠ **Hymn MV # 126 Are You A Shepherd?**

Poem: A GOOD SHEPHERD (written by Liz Church adapted by Liz Church)

Prayers of the People

✠ **Hymn VU # 959 The Lord's Prayer**

Scripture Reading: John 10: 11-18 New Life Version

Reflection #3

✠ **Offertory Hymn VU # 544 In Gratitude and Humble Trust**

Offertory Prayer

- In a world without hope, we call on You for faith
- In a world of despair, we call on You for courage
- In a world without peace, we call on You, the Peace-giver
- In a world without love, we call on You, the Lover of all

We pray today for all people – Your Creation. May they have a renewed sense of You. Give comfort. Show them Your power. Give refuge and strength.

Through our offering this morning, O Creator, we ask that You use this in extending Your Kingdom throughout our community and beyond, that others will hear Your Word and believe. Amen

✦ **Closing Hymn MV 161 I Have Called You by Your Name**

Benediction:

Together we are stronger, as we care for Creation. Together we are stronger, as we witness to others. Together we are stronger, as we work with each other.

As you leave this place of worship today, know that you are loved. Leave with God's peace. Walk in paths of righteousness. And know that you are blessed.

Choral Blessing Thank You, Lord (Tune: Edelweiss)

Bible Discussion Groups

Learn how to read and understand you Bible in our weekly Bible discussion groups. Enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and warm fellowship and lively discussions. The Portland meeting is 6:30 at the church on Monday Evening and the Elgin meeting for this week will be at the Elgin Municipal Complex Community Room at 10am. For info contact Jim at ccjimbarton@gmail.com or 613-328-4089. Galatians 4:9 *"But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God..."*

April 22nd is Earth Day. In celebration and recognition, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our Portland United Church Council members for taking on this endeavor.

Elgin Portland Pastoral Charge

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**PORTLAND UNITED CHURCH
APRIL 21, 2024**



**Service led by
Portland United Church Council**