



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

IN ELGIN AND PORTLAND

Ministers: All of God's People

Leader: Liz Church

✦ indicates when those who are able will please stand

DECEMBER 29, 2024 – JOINT SERVICE

Welcome & Announcements

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Territorial Acknowledgment (together)

God created this world and made us caretakers. Earliest peoples, our Indigenous brothers and sisters cared for the land and we give thanks for their care and nurturing of this earth. We, in turn, continue to cultivate this caring and loving relationship with the land and with God who gave this earth to us as a temporary dwelling place until we dwell forever with Creator God.

WE WELCOME GOD

Spiritual Focus With the words of hope, peace, joy and love still fresh in our minds, let us move boldly forward to do the work of God, as we have been called to do.

✦ Opening Hymn – VU #220 – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Opening Prayer VU Pg.907

Holy God, You call us together to reflect on Your Word, and our life in Your World. Be with us now as we sing and pray together, that we may hear Your voice and understand Your way. This we pray through Jesus Christ. Amen

Sung Prayer - VU #544 – In Gratitude and Humble Trust

Call To Worship

Reader: Shout praises to the Lord! Praise God in His temple. Praise Him in Heaven, His mighty fortress.

ALL: Praise our God! His deeds are wonderful, too marvellous to describe.

Reader: Praise God with trumpets and all kinds of harps. Praise Him with tambourines and dancing, with stringed instruments and woodwinds. Praise God with cymbals, with clashing cymbals.

ALL: Let every creature praise the Lord. Shout praises to the Lord!

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Never has there been a time when the Light of Christ is needed more. We light the Christ Candle as a reminder that Christ is the Light of the World and we are His messengers. We are called to share this Light with all peoples.

WE LISTEN FOR WISDOM

✦ Illumination Hymn - VU #371 – Open My Eyes, That I May See

Prayer of Illumination

Eternal God, through Your Son, Jesus, we have come to see light. Your Word has given us a path to follow. As we read these Scriptures today, we ask that You give us understanding, bring us hope and make our hearts overflow with praise and joy. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen

Scripture

Reader: Open your hearts and minds to God's Word.

All: We listen with joy as the Scripture is read this day.

Luke 2 41-52 GNT

Colossians 3: 12-17. J.B. Phillips New Testament

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

Ministry of Music VU #635 – All The Way the Saviour leads me

Reflection - A New Year, Another Step Forward

Prayers of the People/ The Lord's Prayer

GOD'S MISSION – OUR GIFTS

✦ Offertory Hymn - VU #537 – Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands

Offertory Prayer

Gracious Lord, please accept our offerings which we have given back to You this day. Thank You for your gracious and generous love. We ask that You give us wisdom to use these offerings in the growth and development of Your kingdom. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

✦ Closing Hymn - VU #342 – You Servants of God

Commissioning

Go now, in the strength of the Lord to carry out His work. Keep alert for opportunities to share His love. And in all things, give praise and thanks to God.

Benediction

And may God, who loves you, guide you in all your ways. Take courage to tell of Jesus, your Saviour. And allow the Holy Spirit to guide your steps.

Choral Blessing – Go Now In Peace

Wishing everyone a wonderful New Year. May God's grace bring you peace and comfort throughout 2025. Blessings.

Annual General Meetings are scheduled (PUC/EUC/OB) for Sunday, February 16th, 2025. OB will be in Elgin. General reports are due by January 20th, and financial reports are due by January 27th, for the Annual Report to be done. Please forward your reports to office@eppc-ucc.com.

CHIT-CHAT. Starting back on the January 2nd.

Bible Discussion Groups will resume after the holidays on January 6th and 7th. Info: Jim at ccjimbarton@gmail.com or 613-328-4089.

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

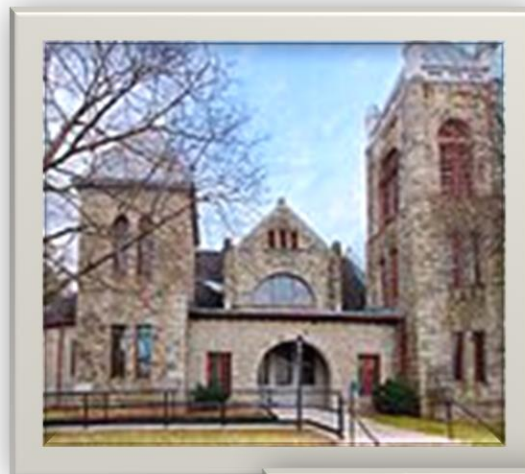
Church Council Chairs:

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

Pastoral Care Director: Liz Church (902) 441-5357

OUR CHURCHES UNITED

Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge



December 29, 2024