



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

JANUARY 12, 2025

Welcome & Announcements

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Territorial Acknowledgment

As we gather today, we acknowledge that we work, worship, and live on the lands of our Indigenous brothers and sisters. We wish to express gratitude for the resources we are using and honour all by learning, understanding, and acknowledging, the rich Indigenous history of this area.

WE WELCOME GOD

Call To Worship

Reader: Prepare for God's arrival!

ALL: Make the road straight and smooth, a highway fit for our God.

Reader: Prepare for God's arrival!

ALL: Fill in the valleys, level off the hills. Smooth out the ruts, and clear out the rocks. For our God is coming!

Reader: He is here. Praise His Holy Name!

Centering Hymn – MV #14 – Where Two or Three are Gathered

Opening Prayer (together)

Dear Creator, we have come into Your House. We have cleared our minds from distracting thoughts. May You be pleased with our worship this day. We honour You. We adore You. Continue with us. Amen.

✦ Opening Hymn – VU #660 – How Firm a Foundation

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Light came into the world. And the world rejected Him. Christ broke through the darkness and gave His light to us.

We light this Christ Candle to remind us that we will carry His Light to others and allow His light to shine through us. Amen

WE LISTEN FOR WISDOM

✦ Illumination Hymn – MV #21 – Open Our Hearts

Prayer of Illumination

As Your Scriptures are read this day we ask You, our Lord, to guide our thoughts and give us understanding and wisdom. May Your words transform us as we walk our spiritual journey.

Scripture

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

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

Isaiah 43:1-7 - New Living Translation

Mark 1: 1-12 New Living Translation

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

Ministry of Music:

Reflection:

Created by God, made for His glory, messengers of love

Prayers of the People/ VU #959 – The Lord's Prayer

GOD'S MISSION – OUR GIFTS

✦ Offertory Hymn – VU #537 – Your Work, O God

Offertory Prayer

Dear Holy One, we have gladly returned a portion of what You have provided. Accept our gifts this day, given from grateful hearts. May this offering be used to grow Your Kingdom. This we pray in Your name. Amen

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

Commissioning – The Great Commission - [Matthew 28:16-20](#)

The eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for their reunion. The moment they saw Him they worshiped Him. Some, though, held back, not sure about *worship*, about risking themselves totally. Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave His charge: "God

authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.”

Benediction - 2 Corinthians 13:14 - May the amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, and the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you, now and forever. Amen

Choral Blessing – MV #218 – May the Love of the Lord

The Young @ Heart Breakfast Club meets again on Thursday, January 16th, at 9 a.m. at the Junction Restaurant. If you're coming let Ted or Clint know by noon on the 15th so we can reserve a spot for you. Everyone is welcome.....Ted

Sylvia French – Celebration of Life - Saturday, January 25, 2-4 pm – The French Family are inviting friends and family to PUC to remember the life of Sylvia, a mom, grandmother, friend, and active member of her community. Please join us as we celebrate her life.

Duncan Pickard – We thank the Lord that Duncan's recent hip surgery was successful and that he is doing quite well.

Advance notice January 25, 2025 - our Canadian Women in Song troupe plays at the Joshua Bates Centre, Athens. Get your tickets early. joshuabatescentre.com

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

Bible Discussion Groups meet on Monday at Portland UC (6:30 PM) and Tuesday in Elgin (10:00 AM) at the Guthrie House. All are welcome. Info: 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



January 12, 2025