



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

IN ELGIN AND PORTLAND

Ministers: All of God's People

Leader: Norma Wrightly, LLWL

✦ indicates when those who are able will please stand

JANUARY 5TH, 2025

Welcome & Announcements

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Territorial Acknowledgment (together)

Gathering ACE, 2025, page 45, Natasha Pearen, used with permission.

As we gather, we take a moment to remember that the land we call Portland/Elgin is the traditional territory of the Algonquin People. We seek to learn about past wrongs, act with justice in the present, and pray for a better future together in the spirit of truth and reconciliation.

WE WELCOME GOD

✦ Gathering Song – VU #82 – A Light Is Gleaming

Call To Worship Gathering ACE, 2022, page 39, Bob Root, used with permission.

**ALL: A new day, a new week, the beginning of a new year,
and we have come to worship.**

Reader: May hearts be open to all the wonders God would have us experience, in this time and when we go out from this place to serve in the world. Come, let us worship God.

Opening Prayer Gathering ACE, 2021, page 39, Bill Steadman, used with permission.

Be with us, God, as we set out on the journey of a new year. Like those who have traveled through uncharted territories in the past, give us the courage to face new challenges. Like those who give us the confidence to know that you are there to guide us. Like those who have assumed they had all of the answers even before the questions were asked, give us the humility to be surprised by your people everywhere. **(A moment of silence)** Give us the strength we need, the sensitivity others need from us, and the wisdom to respond in ways that nurture all of creation. This we pray in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

Hymn - VU #91 – The First Nowell

Lighting of the Christ Candle Gathering ACE, 2025, page 45, Mary Parsons, used with permission.

Long ago, before there was a world, before there was anything, before there was day or night, there was God, our Creator, Source of Life and Goodness. Then God said, "Let there be light." We light this candle to remind us of that gift of light and love.

WE LISTEN FOR WISDOM

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

Prayer of Illumination

Westminster John Knox Press, Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion, Copyright 2012, Yr C, 26 used with permission

Reader: Holy God, through the power of your Holy Spirit illumine your word, that we might see Christ, the living Word, the light of the world. Amen

Scripture

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

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

Isaiah 60: 1—6 - NRSV

Matthew 2: 1—12 - NRSV

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

Ministry of Music VU # 73 The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

Reflection - "The Wonder of Awe"

Prayers of the People/ The Lord's Prayer **(See Insert)**

GOD'S MISSION – OUR GIFTS

Offertory Invitation - Gathering ACE, 2025, page 49, John Moses, used with permission. Adapted

There are many reasons for us to stay where we are---some more compelling than others. But our money can always travel and go where you need it. Our gifts reflect our commitment to follow Jesus ... as our offering is presented. Amen

✦ Offertory Hymn - VU #81 As With Gladness Men of Old vs 3

Offertory Prayer - Westminster John Knox Press, Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion, Copyright 2015, used with permission

Glorious God, you led ...men of wisdom to seek Jesus, your Holy Child, born of Mary. Overjoyed in the presence of his radiant light, the men knelt down at the infant's crib and offered him precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We, too, offer our gifts in gratitude, reverence, and thanksgiving for the birth of your child, whom you called to lead the world into the fullness of life. Receive and bless this offering as a joyful sign of the boundless love and abundant life we are called to share in Christ. Amen.

✦ Closing Hymn - VU #424 May the God of Hope Go with us.

Commissioning & Blessing Prayer Westminster John Knox Press, Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion, Copyright 2015, adapted used with permission

Let us go forth rejoicing in the light of God's love. May the love of Christ that shines in you shine brightly in the world wherever you go. And the blessing of God, Divine Giver, Radiant Light, and Fountain of Life bless you and keep you always. Amen

Choral Blessing – Go Now In Peace

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.

Annual General Meetings (PUC/EUC/OB) are scheduled 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.

Bible Discussion Groups resume 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

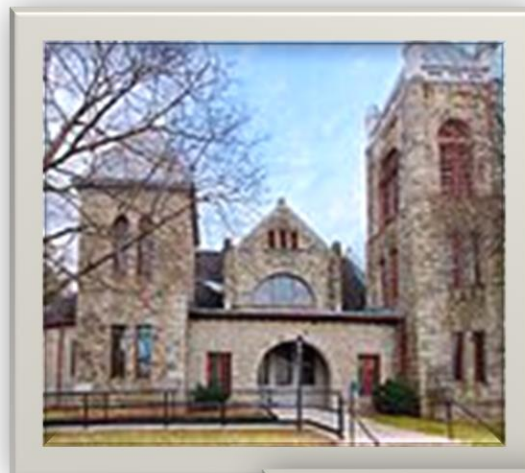
Church Council Chairs:

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



January 5th , 2025

Prayers of the People/The Lord's Prayer

Presbyterian Church in Canada worship resource, used with permission

...with one heart we pray on behalf of and in solidarity with others who follow the World Council of Churches prayer cycle as we pray for ... Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine...

God of all time and space, as we gather in prayer, we recognize that our lives are but small details in the vast expanse of your universe. So, we thank you for attending to the details of our lives. We thank you for the year just past, for walking through the good days and the hard days with us. Thank you for friendships and relationships that sustain us in uncertain times. We ask for your Spirit to guide us into the future, and create new possibilities for ministry and mission through our congregation. In gratitude our hearts kneel before you, O God;

Receive our humble prayers.

God of all people and places, the year just ending has held sorrows for so many in our community and around the world. We remember dear ones of have died and pray for those who look ahead in loneliness or sadness.....

A silence is kept.

We pray for those who have faced challenges in health, in their families or at work.....

A silence is kept.

Support each one who needs You close by. In compassion our hearts kneel before You, O God;

Receive our humble prayers.

God of light and love, as we face the year ahead, so much around us is still uncertain. We seek your strength and guidance in each challenge we will face. Draw near to each one who must confront illness, loss, economic hardship or changing circumstances....

A silence is kept.

Guide those for whom new opportunities appear and choices must be made. In anticipation our hearts kneel before you, O God;

Receive our humble prayers.

God of community and commitment, we pray for wisdom and courage in the year ahead. Strengthen us as a congregation to be a lively and committed witness to your love. Help us reach out to our community in faithfulness and service. Guide leaders in our nation and around the world so that justice and peace may prevail, especially in troubled places and vulnerable lives. Show us all how to honour and protect your creation, even when that takes sacrifice on our part.

Receive our humble prayers and encourage us onward in the name of Jesus our Christ who taught us to pray together:

Lord's Prayer (in Unison)