

Monday, April 28, 2025 is election day for our nation's government and political leader for, presumably, the next four years. Remember, bad governments are elected by good citizens who do not vote! Mark your X.

**The Bible Discussion Groups meet on Monday at 6:30 pm at Portland UC & Tuesday at 10:00 am in Elgin at the Guthrie House. All are welcome.
Info: ccjimbarton@gmail.com or 613-328-4089**

OUR CHURCHES UNITED

Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge



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: Katy Gibson

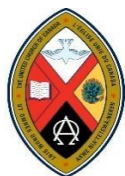
Church Council Chairs:

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

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

April 27th, 2025

GROWING, CARING, MAKING A DIFFERENCE



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
IN ELGIN AND PORTLAND

Leader: Norma Wrightly, LLWL

Pianist: Janet McKeage

Ministers: All of God's People

✠ *indicates when those who are able will please stand*

APRIL 27, 2025 – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Welcome & Announcements

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Land Acknowledgment

It is good to recognize that the land where we meet and gather for worship sits on the traditional unceded territory of the Anishinaabe, Wendake-Nionwentsio, Mississauga, Haudenosaunee people. This area is rich in history, and so we acknowledge both the first peoples and the settlers to this area. In that recognition, may we work to educate ourselves, work for justice, and strive for reconciliation.

We Welcome God

Spiritual Focus: How has camp shaped your spiritual life?

✠ Opening Hymn – VU PG. 820

Psalm 100 - "Make a Joyful Noise"

Call to Worship

Halleluiah, Christ be with you.

We gather as friends of Jesus, pushing through whatever holds us from being close to his heart. We step forward, like Thomas, reaching out our hands and find the peace and joy the Risen Christ offers us.

ALL sing: Kumbaya

We turn to you for hope, for truth, and for life itself.
We sing our prayer in the words you taught us...

Lord's Prayer (VU 960 sung)

God's Mission – Our Gifts

Offertory: Invitation:

What we offer this morning is from our hearts and from our living. We offer our time, our talent and our treasure knowing that these gifts come from you, O Creator. From our hands to your heart our offering is now received.

✠ Offertory Hymn – "Johnny Appleseed"

Oh, the Lord is good to me and so I thank the Lord
for giving me the things I need;
the sun and the rain and the apple seed.
The Lord is good to me.
Johnny Appleseed! (*clap, clap*) Amen

Offertory Prayer

Gathering L/E 2015, Year C, page 46, Gord Dunbar, Used with permission.

Take what we offer this morning, God, transforming our gifts into joy for others, changing sorrow into laughter and healing, turn plodding footsteps into dancing celebration. Amen

✠ Closing Hymn - More Voices #209

"Go, Make a Difference"

Commissioning/Benediction

Camping-Sunday-Worship-Resource-PMR. Used with permission.

Let us go in peace and love, knowing that we never go alone, for the peace of Jesus, the love of God, and the wisdom of the Spirit are always with us.

Choral Blessing – Go Now In Peace

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

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

Gospel: John 20: 24—31 NRSVUE

Jesus and Thomas

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

The Purpose of This Book

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

John 21: 1—14 NRSVUE

Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to

him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So, Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Reader: May God bless our understanding of these readings.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

Ministry of Music

Reflection – "Gone Fishin'" Gathering L/E 2022, Year C, page 71,
Cathy Gradante, Used with permission.

With thanks to Duncan, Portland U.C.

Prayers of the People Gathering L/E 2015, Year C, page 47, Wendy McLean Adapted, Used with permission.

Great and loving God, we give You thanks for this day, and each day, each breath, each moment of life.

We praise you for the beauty of your earth, for each creature, each plant, each star.

At camp, you help us to learn about nature, help us to care for your creation. We are sorry for the way we hurt the earth. Forgive us when we are wasteful, or let the tap run without thinking.

We give thanks for the shimmering, slithery creatures of water. We give thanks for the green growing life of trees and plants. We give thanks for the winged creatures, the song of the birds, and the work of the bees.

We are all connected. Forgive us when we forget that we are made to live together. Thank you for your love, which is growing in us all, in each branch, each wing, each wiggle, each breath.

Hear us as we pray for your earth.

ALL sing: Kumbaya

**Kum ba yah, my lord, Kum ba yah!
Kum ba yah, my lord, Kum ba yah!
Kum ba yah, my lord, Kum ba yah.
O Lord, Kum ba yah**

We pray for our siblings, of blood and by heart.

For the sick and the lonely, for those who struggle with illness and constant pain.

Hear our prayers and longing for peace, especially in places of conflict and war.

We pray for the countries where our faith tradition began.

ALL sing: Kumbaya

We pray for our children and their children and their children's children, for seven generations. We are all connected. We pray as one family. Thank you, Jesus, for showing us the way.

So, gather your prayers. Reach deep inside you for your song, and find calmness within your being, as you remember the flickering flame of a campfire or of still waters.

Now, as fellow travelers of the Way, let us journey together this day with loud Halleluiahs and shouts of joy.

Come, let us worship our God.

Bell Choir - It Is Well with My Soul

Philip P Bliss , arranged by Bill Ingram

Opening Prayer

Gathering L/E, 2024/25, page 50, Wendy McLean, used with permission.

Holy One, keep us from taking ourselves too seriously. By your grace, you set us free from the illusion that we are in control of everything we are part of. Help us to shed our worries and fears and to take up your gift of a light heart and joyful spirit. Amen

✦ Sung Prayer – VU 412 “This is the Day”

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Gathering 2025, L/E Year C, page 43, Laura J. Turnbull, Used with permission

May the light radiating from this candle be a sign and symbol of Jesus' amazing grace!

Bell Choir - Easter Medley - Arranged by Jason Krug and including Christ Arose, Lancaster, Victory, and Easter Hymn

We Listen For God's Word

✦ Illumination Hymn – MV#156 “Dance with the Spirit”

Prayer of Illumination - Gathering L/E 2025, Year C, page 48, Wendy McLean, in part. Used with permission.

Bless us with spirits open to experience you, Great Storyteller, and may our lives be a joyful part of the story of your Spirit living, breathing, and rejoicing in us and with us. May our delight in your company be a joy to you. Amen.