

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

Welcome

Announcements/Birthdays & Anniversaries Territorial Acknowledgment
(All)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

Spiritual Focus

"Joy does not come from what you do, it flows into what you do and thus into this world from deep within you," – Eckhart Tolle.

✦ Opening Hymn – "Let Us Build a House" MV #1

Call to Worship: - Gathering 2013, Cindy Laing, pg. 25, Used with permission

Leader: **Thirsty people, come with joy to this place!**

ALL: God's water of salvation is here for us..

Leader: **Let it be known in all the earth:**

ALL: Great is the Holy One in our midst!

Leader: **Give thanks to the Lord and call on God's name!**

ALL: We will praise the Lord, for God has done glorious things!

Opening Prayer

✦ Sung Prayer - Great is Thy Faithfulness VU #288

Lighting of the Christ Candle Gathering 2019, Year C, page 33, Bill Perry, adapted. Used with permission

Leader: Every day offers us potential and possibilities, opportunities and challenges, sometimes even storms. Every day is a gift.

ALL: Every day, Jesus Christ offers us potential and possibilities, opportunities, and challenges, grace amid the storms. Every day, Jesus is God's grace.

We light this candle, naming that grace with us always.

✦ Illumination Hymn – Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
VU # 400

Prayer of Illumination

In our struggles to hear your Word, O God, bless even our doubts, our wonderings, our wanderings, our soul-struggles, life's deep questions, and deeper mysteries. Teach us to love our questions as well as our answers. Amen.

WE SEEK WISDOM

Scripture

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

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

Responsive Reading Isaiah 12: 1a-6 Page 880
Luke 2: 5-9 NRSV

Reader: May God bless our understanding of these readings.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

Ministry of Music



Reflection – "Shouting for Joy"

Responding Hymn- Deep in Our Hearts MV #154

Prayers of the People – Lord's Prayer

GOD'S MISSION – OUR GIFTS

Offertory Invitation

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

Offertory Prayer Gathering 2019, David Sparks, pg. 43, Used with permission

...Most Gracious God. And so we pray...

ALL: These varied yet wonderful gifts are ours to share, within this church family, in this neighbourhood, and in a beautiful but troubled world. We cannot thank you enough for them, Gracious God, and we ask you to bless them as you show us how to use them wisely. Amen

WE GO FORTH AS GOD'S PEOPLE

✦ Closing Hymn – You Shall Go Out with Joy VU #884

Commissioning

Benediction

Choral Blessing – Go Now In Peace

The Young @ Heart Breakfast Club meets next week on Thursday, the 20th of November, at 9 am at the Junction Restaurant. If you are coming, and I hope you do, let Clint or Ted know by whatever means you are comfortable with by Wednesday noon, the 19th, so we can reserve a spot for us.Ted

Bible Discussion Groups

Monday evening at Portland UC at 6:30 - 7:45 and Tuesday mornings at Guthrie House in Elgin (10 Perth St.) at 10:00-11:30. All are welcome to join in the friendly discussions and fellowship. For more information, contact Jim Barton at ccjimbarton@gmail.com or 613-329-4089.

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: 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

OUR CHURCHES UNITED

Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge



November 16, 2025

Mill Bay Court crafters are having a Craft & Bake Sale on Saturday, November 22nd, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Portland Community Hall, 24 Water Street

Henry Reinders, the Ontario Regional Director of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, is speaking at Elgin United at 11 AM, November 23rd. We invite you to join us to hear about the important issue of food security and hunger in our world, and what we can do to help. Please share this invitation with others that you feel might be interested. Light refreshments will be available.

Get a head start on your Christmas shopping or just pamper yourself (you're worth it!). The Elgin United Church 6th annual on-line auction is gearing up. The auction runs on the Elgin United Church Facebook channel from November 26th to December 3rd, and pickup will be Saturday December 6th. Details of pick up will be given to the successful bidders. Proceeds are being shared with the Elgin Food Bank. Donations of NEW items will be received until Sunday November 22nd.

Elgin Build a Mountain of Food will take place on Saturday, November 29 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. So many are struggling to put food on the table this year, and this annual event is essential for collecting supplies for the Christmas hampers and filling the shelves at the Foodbank. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!** If you can help out for a shift, please contact Sue Crump at church@bethelgelgin.com

Portland Build a Mountain of Food will take place on Saturday, December 6th, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Portland LCBO and RBC.

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Thought Post Remembrance Day

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Where were you Tuesday? Did you attend a special service at church, gather at a cenotaph service, watch the national broadcast from Parliament Hill, or respectfully pause from your activities for a moment of silence? I was blessed to be leading a Service, very humbling. Remembrance Day is not just a ceremonial nod to history—its relevance today is profound. In a world still grappling with conflict, injustice, and division, Remembrance Day serves as a moral anchor. It reminds us of the cost of peace, the fragility of freedom, and the courage it takes to defend both. It is a living testament to the values we hold dear and the future we aspire to build. It is a day of looking back and a day of shaping the moral compass of tomorrow. Remembrance Day is a call to vigilance, to ensure that the freedoms we enjoy are never taken for granted and are never left undefended. The Canadian Forces is not the Department of War!

Our soldiers fought, not for personal gain, but for the preservation of innocence, for the defense of those who could not defend themselves and for the protection of the innocent, the vulnerable, and the honorable.

Remembrance Day invites us to confront uncomfortable truths. It challenges us to examine not only the external causes of war but also the internal struggles—the pride, greed, and hatred—that reside within each of us. Remembrance Day asks us to reflect on the human condition, on the capacity for both good and evil that exists in every heart. It is a moment to recommit ourselves to peace—not just as a geopolitical goal but as a personal discipline. Viewing the world through a spiritual lens, the sacrifices made on the battlefield echo the ultimate sacrifice made on the cross. Just as soldiers lay down their lives for others, so too did Christ lay down His life for humanity. Our efforts at justice and compassion, however noble, are but reflections of this divine act. They are imperfect glimpses of a greater truth—that real innocence and worth are not earned through battle but bestowed through grace. Remembrance Day, then, is not only a civic observance but a sacred reminder of the cost of redemption and the power of sacrificial love. There is nothing glorious about war. It is brutal, chaotic, and dehumanizing. On Remembrance Day, we remember those who faced these horrors with courage. Their legacy is not found in medals or monuments but in the freedoms we enjoy, the rights we exercise, and the lives we lead. Remembrance Day is not passive. It challenges us to live lives worthy of the sacrifices made. It also calls us to support our veterans, honour the fallen, and care for the living. In a world often divided by politics, ideology, and identity, Remembrance Day offers a rare moment of unity, bringing together people of all backgrounds, beliefs, and generations in shared reflection and reminding us that the values we hold in common—freedom, dignity, peace—are worth defending together. We remember the cost of peace and the price of freedom, and we commit to living lives of purpose, to building a nation of compassion, and to ensuring that the sacrifices of the past are never in vain. Let us remember. Let us never forget. We Shall Remember Them.

With God's Grace may it be so.

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