

GROWING, CARING, MAKING A DIFFERENCE



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

IN ELGIN AND PORTLAND

Leader: Liz Church

Pianist: Pam Newton

Ministers: All of God's People

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

MARCH 8, 2026 – 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Welcome

Announcements/Birthdays & Anniversaries

Territorial Acknowledgment

We gather on land first cared for by the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Nations. We remember that colonization brought injustice and harm. We seek healing and right relationship. We give thanks for their wisdom and stewardship.

Call to Worship

Leader: Each day, every day -

People: Jesus is with us.

Leader: Whether we feel his presence or walk by faith alone,

People: He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us.

Leader: The Lord is faithful.

People: Let us worship our ever-present Savior!

✦ Opening Hymn – VU # 635

“All the Way My Saviour Leads Me”

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, we come to worship you, knowing that you are not a distant God but our constant companion. We bring our busy lives, our anxieties, and our hopes, trusting that you are already here, surrounding us with your presence. Open our hearts to feel your closeness, that we may leave this place strengthened by your love. This we pray, in your precious name. Amen.

✦ Hymn - MV # 117 - “By the Well, a Thirsty Woman”

1st Scripture Reading:

John 4: 4-42 – Biography Style

Lighting of the Christ Candle

We light the Christ Candle as a reminder that Christ is the Light of the World. We are called to share this Light, with assurance, into a world of chaos, spreading God's love and peace.

✦ Hymn - VU # 626- “I Heard the Voice”

2nd Scripture Reading:

Romans 5: 1-11 New Living Translation

Prayer of Illumination

Dear Holy One, we have listened as Your Scriptures were read. As we now reflect on these words, open our hearts and minds to hear Your message to us. This we pray in your Holy Name. Amen

Reflection – Nearer than your every breath!

Prayers of the People/ The Lord's Prayer

✦ Offertory Hymn - MV # 182 – “Grateful” – refrain only X 2

Offertory Prayer

To You, the Great Provider, we come before You with grateful hearts, recognizing that all we have is a gift from You. We give our offering not out of obligation, but out of love and devotion. Use these gifts to further Your kingdom here on earth. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

✦ Closing Hymn - MV # 209- “Go Make a Difference”

Commissioning

"We have gathered to share in God's presence; now let us go forth to take that presence into the world. You do not go alone, for the Creator who loves you, the Christ who saves you, and the Spirit who guides you is already there.

Benediction

May the calmness of God rest within you. May the peace of Christ go before you. May the fire of the Holy Spirit spark your joy into action. Walk with the awareness that you are anchored in the Christ, now and forevermore. Amen."

Choral Blessing - MV # 218 – “May the Love of the Lord”

Many thanks to Katy Gibson for her service as Council Chair for the past term at Portland United Church. Altogether, Katy has served as Chair of Council for nearly 20% of her adult life!

As I step into the role of Council Chair, I take great comfort in knowing that things continue to run very smoothly — and that Katy lives just around the corner.

Katy is also taking on other roles within the church and community, including the Chair position at Mill Bay Court. She’s certainly staying busy! On behalf of all who have benefited from your service, thank you. Will French - PUC Council Chair.

Get the ALTO facts! ALTO representatives have refused to meet because Rideau Lakes is pushing back against the Southern Route. So, an information session is being held at the Portland Hall, Sunday March 8th from 2pm to 4pm, without ALTO. Attend and learn for yourself.

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: Will French (613) 803-4684

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



**OUR CHURCHES
UNITED**

Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge



March 8, 2026

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Ministry of Music

Prayer of Illumination

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Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Congregational Meetings and the Official Board Annual General Meeting. These meetings are important to reflect on the happenings of our charge for the past year and how they transition to a new year. Thank you as well to all who stepped up and filled the various council and board positions. Your energy, dedication, talent and faith are sincerely appreciated.

And a HUGE thank you to Clint Halladay for your faithful service and leadership, as our Council Chair and as the incoming Official Board Chair!

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March 8, 2026

3rd Sunday in the Lenten Journey