

GROWING, CARING, MAKING A DIFFERENCE



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

IN ELGIN AND PORTLAND

Leader Barb DeJeet

Pianist: Morgan Wright

Ministers: All of God's People

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

Welcome

Announcements/Birthdays & Anniversaries

Territorial Acknowledgment

For the keepers of this land who came before us, we give thanks. May we learn from them and be reconciled with them. We are all children of God.

Lenten Meditation

When we arrived this morning, we entered into the normal bustle of a church on a Sunday morning; friends greeting each other, choir members practicing, children bringing energy and enthusiasm. Now that we are sitting together in the pews, I invite you to close your eyes. and consider the word, "SANCTUARY". A sanctuary is a place set aside for sacred things. It is a place of refuge and protection. This room is a sanctuary. The season of Lent is a kind of sanctuary, extended in time. And one of the things Lent teaches is that you, too, are a sanctuary. There is inside you a place for sacred things, a place where God abides. (silence)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of war and oppression in the world.

Call to Worship

Leader: We pray together

People: Holy Creator, source of life, come from the four winds and breathe your Holy Spirit into the weary souls of your children. (3 deep breaths in and out)

Leader: We want to live

People: We want to live as your people. We want our light to shine as a candle in the shadows, as a lamp lighting

the path back to you. Thank you for bringing us to life. Amen. Juanita Austin, Salmon Arm, B.C.

✠ Opening Hymn - MV # 90 "Don't Be Afraid" x2

Passing Of the Peace - Let us greet each other with the sign of peace. Shalom

Opening Prayer

May your wilderness time, O Christ, inform our wilderness time, the wilderness time of this Lenten season and the wilderness times that we do not choose for ourselves. Help us to organize our thoughts and align them with God's love. Help us to breathe deeply of the breath of the Spirit. Help us to find your gift of living water. Help us to crack open and plant the dry seeds we have gathered so that spring can blossom with a plan that renews hope and purpose. AMEN Karin Boivin, Melville. U.C. Fergus, Ont.

Ministry of Music - "The Lighthouse"

Prayer of Illumination

O Lord, we wait for you and in your Word we trust. By the power of your Spirit, set our hearts and minds on the source of life and peace, Jesus Christ, our Savior. AMEN

Scripture

Reader: Open your hearts and minds to God

All: We listen to the Sacred Word

Ezekiel 37: 1 – 14 "The valley of the dry bones"

John 11: "The raising of Lazarus" (Barb)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Reflection – "From Death to Life!"

✠ Responding Hymn - "MV # 115 (X2)

"Behold, behold, I make all things new"

Invitation For Offering

Without the breath of God, we are dry bones, and without the Word of God, we are dust. With gratitude, let us offer our lives to the Lord of all life.

✦ **Offertory Hymn – VU #544 (music VU # 530)**
“In Gratitude and Humble Trust”

Offertory Prayer

May these gifts of talent, time and money bring encouragement, strength, and peace to each other, and to all who need care, O God. And may our gifts, in some small way, bear witness to our love. **AMEN.** George Allan, Chatham, Ontario.

Prepare Our Hearts for Prayer: VU # 400 - “Lord, listen to your children praying”

Prayers of the People/ The Lord’s Prayer

✦ **Closing Hymn – VU # 108 (vs 1,3,5)**
“Throughout these Lenten days and nights”

Commissioning & Benediction

May the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life, bless and keep us in this life and the life to come.

Choral Blessing - “Go Now in Peace”

Portland Council would like to thank our UCW for organizing an amazing Turkey Supper Friday night.

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

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OUR CHURCHES UNITED

Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge



March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent