

GROWING, CARING, MAKING A DIFFERENCE



## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

IN ELGIN AND PORTLAND

*Leader: Liz Church*

*Pianist: Janet McKeage*

Ministers: All of God's People

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

**MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2026**

Welcome

Announcements/Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Territorial Land Acknowledgment

As we gather today, we acknowledge that we are part of the vast and beautiful creation of the Creator, and that we are currently on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Anishinabee and Haudenosaunee peoples. We recognize that these lands are part of God's creation and that Indigenous nations have served as the original stewards of this area. We honour these nations and pledge to learn from their wisdom as we walk together on this earth.

✦ Opening Hymn – MV #40 “Never Ending Joy”

**Spiritual Focus: Christ - Source of our Power and Peace**

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jesus said, "I am the true vine." We gather as the branches, rooted in his love and light. As we light this candle, we remember that the same life-force that brings buds to the trees and fruit to the harvest is the light that shines in the darkness.

*(The Christ Candle is lit)*

We light this candle to celebrate Christ, the True Vine. Apart from him, we are in shadows; in him, we are filled with the radiance of God's grace. May this light flow through us like sap through a vine. May it warm our hearts, prune away our fears, and empower us to bear the fruit of the Spirit in all we do.

### Responsive Reading - John 15:1-8 - New Living Translation

**Leader:** “I am the true grapevine, and my father, is the Gardener.

**ALL:** He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.

**Leader:** You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you.

**ALL:** For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

**Leader:** Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me, you can do nothing.

**ALL:** Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.

**Leader:** But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!

**ALL:** When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to God, my father.

**Lord's Prayer:** Dear Lord, our prayer to you - that we bring glory to You. Help us each day to follow your teachings, to be aware of others, and to walk with purpose. This we pray together, in your Holy Name: Our Father....

✦ Offertory Hymn – VU # 242 “Let All Things Now Living”

### Offertory Prayer

O holy and gracious Creator: We thank you for the life that flows through us from Christ, the True Vine. You have nurtured us and provided for us, allowing us to grow and flourish in your love. These gifts we offer today are not ours alone, but the fruit of the life you have sustained within us. We return a portion of what you have given - our time, our talents, and our resources.

Bless these offerings. May they be used to strengthen your church. Use our lives and our gifts to show compassion for all your creation. In your precious name, Amen.

✦ Hymn – VU # 501 “Break Now the Bread of Life”

**Scripture:**

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

**All: We listen to the Sacred Word.**

**Gospel of John 16: 23-33**

**Reader: May God bless our understanding of this reading**

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen**

**Ministry of Music**

**Reflection: The Secret to a Fruitful Life/ Peace in the Storm**

✦ Hymn: VU # 671 "I Need Thee Every Hour"

**Prayers of the People**

✦ Closing Hymn: VU # 337 "Blessed Assurance"

**Commissioning**

As you leave this place, remember: you are the branches. You do not have to manufacture your own strength; you are the channel through which God's life-giving water flows. You only have to stay connected. Abide in Him, work through Him, and find your rest in Him.

**Benediction**

May the roots of your faith grow deep in Christ.  
May the life of the Vine nourish your soul.  
May the fruit of your hands bring glory to God.  
Go now, and abide in His love. Amen."

**Choral Blessing – MV # 215 "Peace Be With You"**

**Elgin Portland Pastoral Charge**

PO Box 251, Portland ON K0G 1V0

Web site: [www.eppc-ucc.com](http://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](mailto: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**

**[lizchurch1@hotmail.com](mailto:lizchurch1@hotmail.com)**

# OUR CHURCHES UNITED

## Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge



May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026