

GROWING, CARING, MAKING A DIFFERENCE



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

IN ELGIN AND PORTLAND

Leader: Liz Church

Pianist: Claire French

Ministers: All of God's People

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

MAY 17TH, 2026

Welcome

Announcements/Birthdays & Anniversaries

Territorial Land Acknowledgment

"The land on which we gather, belongs to Creator. For thousands of years, the Anishinabee and Haudenosaunee have walked gently upon this territory, and we acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. In a spirit of reconciliation, we commit ourselves to a new relationship - one rooted in honour, deep respect, and a shared responsibility to care for this land."

Spiritual Focus

✦ Hymn - VU # 334 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Opening Prayer:

Holy God, you are the source of all glory and the author of our unity. As Jesus lifted his eyes to heaven and prayed for his friends, we lift our hearts to you today. In this hour of worship, glorify your name among us. Knit us together in love. Remind us that we are sent into the world to be his body. Protect us in your name, that we may be one, even as you are one. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Call to Worship

Leader: Why do we stand looking into heaven?

All: Because the One who ascended is the One who remains with us.

Leader: Christ has gone before us, yet prays for us still.

All: We gather as those who wait, those who pray, and those who witness.

Leader: Let us worship God, the Maker of the Universe!

All: Let us sing praises to the One who makes us one.

Hymn – MV # 145 "Draw the Circle Wide"

Lighting the Christ Candle

Women: We gaze at the heavens, wondering where Christ has gone. Like the disciples on the mount, we sometimes feel the weight of His absence, standing in the "in-between" time - caught between what was and what is yet to be.

Men: Yet Lord, you do not leave us as orphans. You have promised us power from on high and have prayed for our protection and unity. You are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, present here even as you are glorified in heaven.

(The Christ Candle is lit.)

Leader: We light the Christ candle to remind us that Christ's light is not confined to the sky, but lives within us. Christ is the Light of Life that illumines the way forward, even when the path is not yet clear.

ALL: As this candle burns, may Christ's Spirit burn in our hearts. May His glory be revealed in us, as we wait, as we pray, and as we witness to everyone we meet.

✦ Hymn – VU # 371 "Open My Eyes, that I May See"

Scripture:

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

All: We listen to the Sacred Word.

Acts 1:6-14 -New Living Translation

Reader: May God bless our understanding of this reading

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

Ministry of Music

Reflection: "The Promise of Power"

A Prayer of the Son to His Father - John 17:1-11

"Father, the hour has finally come. I ask that You would reveal Your glory through me, Your Son, so that I may reflect that glory back to You. You have given me authority over all people, and I have used it to give eternal life to everyone You placed in my care. This is the life they truly need: to know You - the only true God - and to know me, Jesus Christ, whom You sent into the world.

I have brought You glory here on earth by completing every task You gave me to do. And now, Father, bring me into Your presence. Let me share again in that radiance I had with You before the world was ever created.

I have made Your name known to the people You took out of the world and gave to me. They were always Yours, but You entrusted them to me, and they have kept Your word. Now they finally understand that everything I have - every word I speak and every miracle I perform - comes directly from You. I passed on to them the truths You gave me, and they have accepted them. They know deep in their hearts that I came from You, and they believe that You are the one who sent me.

I am praying for them now. I am not praying for the world at large, but for these specific ones You gave me, because they belong to You. All who are mine belong to You, and all who are Yours belong to me. My glory is revealed through them.

I am leaving the world now to come home to You, but they are staying behind. Holy Father, keep them safe by the power of Your name - the very name You gave to me. Protect them so that they may be one, just as You and I are one."

Prayers of the People

Leader: Loving God we pray today for the unity of your Church- that our differences would be a source of strength rather than division.

All: Protect us in your name; make us one.

Leader: We pray for those whose joy has been stolen by grief, illness, or injustice.

All: Protect us in your name; make us one.

OUR CHURCHES UNITED

Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge



May 17th, 2026

Leader: We pray for our world - for leaders to seek peace, for the earth to be cherished, and for the vulnerable to find sanctuary.

All: Protect us in your name; make us one. In the name of the ascended Christ, we pray. Amen.

Offertory Hymn – MV # 182 “Grateful” - refrain only (x2)

Offertory Prayer

Holy Father,

In the shadow of the cross, your Son, Jesus, looked to heaven and declared that everything he had came from you. He took the words, the people, and the life you gave him and offered them back to the world so that we might know you.

Today, we bring our own offerings. We acknowledge that these gifts are not ours alone, but are a portion of the abundance you have entrusted to us. As we return them to you, we ask that you would protect and bless them.

Use these resources to make your name known. Use them to foster unity in our community and to protect those who are vulnerable.

May we be one in purpose, one in heart, and one in our mission to share your love. Amen.

✦ Closing Hymn: VU # 633 “Bless Now, O God the Journey”

Commissioning

You have heard the prayer of Christ; now go to be the answer to that prayer. Stand firm in the knowledge that God goes with you. Go in the power of the Spirit to live as one.

Benediction

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit keep you and protect you, now and forevermore. Amen.

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

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Hoogenboom Huge Family Garage/Yard Sale,

Victoria Day Weekend, over 25 tables. All proceeds to local charities, 7 Cachet Drive, Smith Falls. Rain or Shine

The Rideau Players present "Spectres & Speed Trains" an original comedy of chaos written by Tao-Lynn Carr, produced by Chris Witty and directed by Beth Hart. The cast includes Michelle Knapp and Graham Lowe.

Performances are at 7:30pm at the Delta Old Town Hall, May 29, 30 & 31, and Elgin United Church June 5 & 6. Tickets are \$25, refreshments available. See posters or Facebook "Rideau Players".

Bible Discussions Groups

Two meetings each week - Monday evenings at Portland UC (6:30-7:45PM) and Tuesday mornings in Elgin at the Guthrie House 10 Perth St.; (10:00AM-11:30AM). All are welcome to join in the friendly discussions and fellowship. For more information contact Jim Barton at ccjimbarton@gmail.com or 613-328-4089

The Young @Heart Breakfast Club

will meet again on Thursday the 21st of May at 9 am at the Junction Restaurant.

All are welcome but if you are coming let Ted or Clint know by noon Wednesday the 20th so we can reserve a spot. Ted

Pentecost Sunday, May 24th

is fast approaching. How exciting to once again be able to are excited that we will once again be able to gather with other United Churches within this rural area. Plans are in full swing to meet at the Lion's Club at 10 a.m. in Elgin for this event. Our special guest will be our own Regional Executive Officer, Eric Hebert-Daly.

Lunch will be provided in a similar style to last year.

Come hungry – food for the soul and food for the body will be available in abundance.

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

lizchurch1@hotmail.com

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