

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

AUGUST 2, 2026 – EMANCIPATION SUNDAY

Welcome

Announcements/Birthdays & Anniversaries

Lighting the Christ Candle

Leader: The world tries to chain us in darkness, but Christ breaks every bond.

People: We are free to worship!

Leader: The world tries to stomp out our hope, but Christ renews our vision.

People: We are a people set free to praise Christ!

Leader: As we light this candle, we invite Christ to continue with us - not to keep the light for ourselves, but to share His light, in love, with others.

Territorial Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional territory of Indigenous peoples, who, for generations, lived in perfect harmony with the land, loving and protecting these sacred spaces. May this inspire us to protect this earth and walk alongside our Indigenous neighbours in truth, respect, and unity.

Opening Hymn – MV # 2 “Come, All Ye People”

In Zimbabwe, the supreme creator God is called Mwari. So let us sing:

U-ya-i mo-se, ti-na-ma-te Mwa-ri;

U-ya-i mo-se, ti-na-ma-te Mwa-ri;

U-ya-i mo-se, ti-na-ma-te Mwa-ri;

U-ya-i mo-se zvi-no.

Opening Prayer:

Creator God, we come together to worship and praise you. Refresh our spirits. Renew our minds. Allow us to draw closer to you. This we pray in your Holy Name. Amen.

Call to Worship

Leader: Look at your hands! You are free to choose. Look at your neighbor! God has gathered us as one.

People: We are a people liberated, brought out of darkness into marvelous light!

Leader: Stand in God's strength. No system, no past, no fear can hold back what God is doing today.

People: God is with us. We are free. We will move forward with persistence, claiming divine victory!

Leader: Let us use our freedom to lift up others, to share the love of Christ.

People: We are set free to serve. Let us worship God in strength, courage and love.

Spiritual Focus: "The power to live as God intended"

Illumination Hymn - VU # 700

“God of Freedom, God of Justice”

Scripture:

Reader: Listen for the Sacred Story.

All: May our ears and hearts be open to God's Word.

Scripture: Psalm 126 (The Message)

Galatians 5:13-18, 22-23, 25-26 (The Message)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

Ministry of Music:

Reflection: Restored by Grace, Released to Serve

Prayers of the people/ The Lord's Prayer

Offertory Hymn – VU # 701

“What Does the Lord Require of You?”

Offertory Prayer

God of all goodness, take these offerings and use them to feed the hungry, comfort the lonely, and heal your creation. Turn our prayers into action and our songs into justice. Amen.

Closing Hymn – MV # 92 "Like a Rock"

Commissioning

Go out into the world as a people liberated. Carry a purpose that is freshly renewed. Use your liberty to heal the broken, to challenge injustice, and to love fiercely. Remember that you have been set free to serve.

Benediction

And may the blessing of God Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit - our Divine Breath - be with you now and forevermore. Amen

Choral Blessing – "Go Now In Peace"

OUR CHURCHES UNITED



Elgin Portland Pastoral Charge

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Church Office: (613) 272-2002

Office Hours: Wednesday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 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

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Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge August 2, 2026