

GROWING, CARING, MAKING A DIFFERENCE



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
IN ELGIN AND PORTLAND

Ministers: All of God's People
Guest Clergy: *Clint Halladay*
Pianist: *Liz Theobald*

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

August 23rd, 2026

Welcome

Announcements/Birthdays & Anniversaries

Lighting of the Christ Candle

May the light of this candle help us to clearly see God the Creator, the living presence in our relationship with all creatures, the land, the environment and the universe.

Territorial Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that we are gathered on unceded land of the First Peoples of Turtle Island. We acknowledge the oppression of Colonialism and the hurt inflicted upon our Indigenous Brothers and Sisters. And we humbly commit ourselves to the just pursuit of truth and understanding embracing the principles of coordination, cooperation and one community. In this we pray for Christ's help. Amen

Spiritual Focus: Rooted in God, Flexible in Life

✦ Gathering Hymn: VU #121 Tree of Life and Awesome
Mystery 1st 3 verses

Call to Worship:

✦ Opening Hymn: As the Wind Song Through the Trees
Words: Shirley Erena Murray Music: Lim Swee Hong

Opening Prayer:

Dear Lord, You sent your Word to bring us truth and your Spirit to make us holy. Help us to worship you, one God in three persons. Remind us you are present in all things: the air we breathe, the land we walk upon, the water that sustains and nourishes us, You are all things. Teach us to live respectful of your people and the environment. Grant us the strength to stand firm in our faith in You, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

✦ Hymn: VU #643 Faith While Trees are Still in Blossom

WE LISTEN FOR WISDOM

Prayer of Understanding

Creator of all things, as we hear these words, grant us the clarity of understanding that we may live a life firmly rooted in faith as you have taught us.

Reader: Hear now the symbolism of the written word

All: May our listening bring us meaning, clarity and understanding.

Scripture: Jeremiah 17:8 1-5 NRSV
1 Chronicles 16:33
Daniel 4: 10-12
Genesis 2:9
Ezekiel 17:24
Ezekiel 47:12

Reader: May this powerful imagery of life, growth and strength be the model for our spiritual life and our relationship with God.

Ministry of Music: Where the Willow Bends
Appalachian Mountain Gospel... to Word of Life
Chronicles - The Timberline Gospel Sisters.

Message: Like A Willow

Prayers of The People – Lord's Prayer

GOD'S MISSION – OUR GIFTS

Invitation to Share:

While our hearts and minds may be comforted during worship, it is through sharing generously that we release our gifts into the world to transform others. We give freely, praying that with God's Grace our generosity will help with the betterment of our community and the world. Let us share.

✦ Offertory Hymn: VU #227 For the Fruit of All Creation (1st verse)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (All):

Giver of every perfect gift, we offer our thanks for this life and its gifts. Bless these offerings given at this time of worship. May our contributions both here and in every part of our lives, our time, our skills and our money, work towards a world of justice and peace. We pray that it be so. Amen

WE GO FORTH AS GOD'S PEOPLE

✦ Closing Hymn: VU #884 You Shall Go Out With Joy

Closing Prayer:

Commissioning and Blessing:

Friends, we leave this time of worship inspired by renewed hope and faith in the power of the Love of the Triune God. May the mystery of the Trinity keep us firmly anchored and strengthen our faith as we face our days ahead. Amen.

✦ Choral Blessing: VU # 214 May God's Sheltering Wings

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Chair of the Official Board – Clint Halladay

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OUR CHURCHES UNITED

Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge



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