

GROWING, CARING, MAKING A DIFFERENCE



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
IN ELGIN AND PORTLAND

Leader: UCW Women

Pianist: Liz Theobald

Ministers: All of God's People

World Food Day/ UCW October 18, 2026

Special Intro

Welcome

Announcements/Birthdays & Anniversaries

Lighting the Christ Candle

Leader: We light the Christ Candle as a reminder that Christ is the Light of the World and we are His messengers. We carry this Light with courage and love into our world.

People: May the light of Christ guide our hearts toward fairness, compassion, and true equity for all people.

Leader: We see the Creator's vast bounty, the rich soil, the rain, and the hands that harvest the food we enjoy. We confess our pain for a world where resources are hoarded and millions go hungry.

People: Teach us to hunger and thirst for Your righteous justice. As this flame burns bright, may we show God's love as we reach out to support those without food security. Send us forth into the world to be hands that feed, hearts that share. Amen.

Territorial Acknowledgment

We gather today on the lands of our Creator; lands that had been available to our Indigenous brothers and sisters before us. We now have the responsibility for the stewardship of this land where we work, live and worship. By learning, understanding and acknowledging, we wish to pay respect to the rich indigenous history of this area.

Introduction of UCW and World Food Day

Call to Worship: based on Psalm 24

Leader: The earth is the Lord's and everything in it.

All: Let us worship the Lord!

Leader: Look around at the world - every mountain and ocean is a masterpiece of God.

All: We are not owners, but stewards of what belongs to our King.

Leader: From the rising of the sun to its setting, God's Spirit moves.

All: We come with gratitude to worship the Creator of all things!

Opening Hymn: MV #28 - "God of the Bible"

Opening Prayer

O God, the source of life and energy, teach us to conserve and not to squander the riches of nature. Make us better stewards and more careful tenants of the world you lend to us as our home. Hear us, O God, our creator and redeemer, in the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn – MV #157 - "I Am a Child of God"

Baptism – Twyla Rosalie Daber

(Choir to Sing VU # 454 – "May God Who Creates You" following baptism while family members are seated)

Hymn – MV 161 "I Have Called You by Your Name"

Ministry of Music: Duet by Sharon Schwartz and Sheila Barber

Scripture Verse - 1 Corinthians 15: 58

"With all this going for you, my dear, dear friends, stand your ground. And don't hold back. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is a waste of time or effort."

Reflection 1 – Annette Clarke – 'The Harvest of Our Hands'

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

All: We listen to the Sacred Word.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 139: 1-17 NIV

Reader: May God bless our understanding of this reading.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

Reflection 2 – Liz Church - 'The Miracle of You'

Prayers of the People

VU # 960 – The Lord's Prayer

Offertory Hymn – VU # 537 – Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands

Offertory Prayer

This day, dear Lord, we bring to you, our offering. Accept and use these gifts for the blessing of others. We offer them with open hearts and minds. May Your work grow through these contributions. Amen.

17th Century Prayer

Closing Hymn – VU # 424 – “May the God of Hope Go With Us”

Benediction:

Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good. As you have been fed today, go now to feed a hungry world. And when opportunity arises, may God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from hunger, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy. And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world. Go now from this place with your eyes wide open. The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. We are stewards. We are witnesses. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Choral Blessing: Go Now In Peace

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OUR CHURCHES UNITED

Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge



UCW Sunday/World Food Day

October 18, 2026