

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

October 25, 202 – PEACE SUNDAY

Welcome

Announcements/Birthdays & Anniversaries

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Leader: We light this Christ Candle to remind us of the active presence of Jesus Christ in our midst. He is the Light of the World, a light that no darkness can ever overcome.

All: In his light, we find our path to peace.

Leader: This flame represents the Prince of Peace, who did not enter our world with military force or loud demands, but in the quiet humility of a servant. He emptied himself to step into our brokenness, mending the fractures between God, humanity, and all of creation.

All: His light warms our hearts; his peace heals our lives.

Leader: This light shines in our sanctuary. May it scatter the shadows of our anxieties. May the unshakeable peace of Christ rule in our hearts today, transforming us into a community of wholeness, justice, and love.

All: Jesus Christ is Lord, and his peace is our light.

MV # 95 "How Deep the Peace"

Announcements



The Portland United Church Women, Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge, unite in leading worship at Elgin United Church October 18, 2026. They led worship at Portland earlier in the morning.

Thank you for your leadership of a meaningful and inspiring worship service. Blessings, Elgin United Church.

PUC Council Meeting on October 28th, 2026 @ Portland United Church

Elgin Portland Pastoral Charge

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Web site: www.eppc-ucc.com (or.ca)

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

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OUR CHURCHES UNITED

Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge



October 25, 2026

PEACE Sunday

Commissioning & Benediction:

Go out into the world in peace. Have courage; hold fast to what is good. Strengthen those who are afraid, support the weak, and honor all creation. Go out to be the hands and feet of Christ. May your daily lives reflect His love.

And may the deep *shalom* of God - a peace that passes all human understanding, a peace that the world cannot give and the world cannot take away - keep your hearts and your minds centered in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

Congregation response: And also with you.

Choral Blessing - MV # 215 - "Peace Be With You"



Territorial Land Acknowledgment

For thousands of years, Indigenous peoples have walked upon, cared for, and loved this earth. We acknowledge that we live, work, and pray on the traditional territories of the Indigenous peoples who have kept this land since time immemorial.

True peace (*shalom*) is never just the absence of conflict; it is the presence of justice, equity, and right relationships. We acknowledge the injustices that have fractured the relationships between Settler and Indigenous communities. We recognize the sacred responsibilities laid out in the Treaties, acknowledging that we are all treaty people called to live together in harmony.

May the peace of Christ guide our steps as we seek to live together in mutual respect, healing, and wholeness on this shared earth. Amen.

✠ Opening Hymn – VU # 374

“Come and Find the Quiet Centre”

Opening Prayer

God of the quiet storm and Lord of all creation, we gather today in a world that is weary, fractured, and longing for rest. We often seek a peace that is temporary - a mere pause in conflict or a hiding place from trouble. But you offer us *shalom*: a peace that makes all things whole. We ask you to breathe your unshakeable peace into our midst. Knit us together in love. Grant us the mind of Christ, that we might look to the interests of others and build a caring community.

With all creation, we declare that Jesus Christ is Lord! We pray that your deep, enduring *shalom* fill this house and echo throughout the world. Amen

Call to Worship

Leader: The world tells us that peace is won through power, force, and standing above others. But Jesus Christ has shown us that true peace (*shalom*) is born in humility.

All: Guide our feet into the way of peace.

Leader: Jesus Christ stepped down into our brokenness, taking the form of a servant, and poured himself out to heal our fractured relationships. By his humble obedience, he put to death the hostility that divides us.

All: Make us channels of Christ's unshakeable peace.

Leader: For this hour of worship let us clear away our anxieties and our internal storms. Quiet your minds. Be filled with the same mind that was in Christ Jesus - a mind of gentleness, mutual care, and deep love.

All: We allow God's inmost calm to rule in our hearts today.

Leader: We join our voices with all of creation to declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, and that his kingdom of justice, wholeness, and eternal peace has no end.

All: Amen.

✦ Hymn – VU # 684 - “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Prayer of Illumination

Leader: Living God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. In a world crowded with competing voices, chaotic demands, and anxious noise, we pause to listen for your still, small voice.

All: Quiet our minds, Lord, that we may hear you.

Leader: By the power of your Holy Spirit, illuminate these holy Scriptures today. Break open these words of life. Grant us the humility of Christ as we listen to his call to love you with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

All: Soften our hearts, Lord, that we may receive your truth.

Leader: Do not let your Word merely inform us; let it transform us.

All: Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening.

Leader: May the words of my mouth and the meditations of all our hearts be pleasing to you, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Scripture:

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

All: We listen to the Sacred Word.

Matthew 22: 34-46 (NLT)

Philippians 2: 1-11 (LB)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

Ministry of Music:



Reflection – “The Curve of Peace”

Prayers of the People – VU # 693

O God of many names, Lover of all nations, we pray for peace – in our hearts; in our homes; in our nation; in our world. For the peace you willed, we pray. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

✦ Offertory Hymn – VU # 538 – “For the Gift of Creation”

Offertory Prayer

Generous God, everything we have comes from you, and everything we bring belongs to you. We offer these gifts as a sign of our love and gratitude. In a spirit of humility, we bring our tithes. We ask you to bless them. Please help us to use them to bring wholeness and comfort to others. Through this offering we pray that we might expand your Kingdom by sharing your peace. Amen

✦ Closing Hymn – VU # 541

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow