

EAST PLAINS UNITED CHURCH
August 7, 2022—9th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship Leader: Josephine Braun
Minister Emeritus Rev. Dr. Harold Wells

GOD WELCOMES US IN WORSHIP

*indicates where we stand in the service
(Feel free to remain seated if that helps you to worship better)

Bold = congregational responses

VU = Voices United, the red hymn book in the pew rack

MV = More Voices, the spiral bound song book

Affirming Process

Please read about our Affirming Process in the Announcements.

Welcome and Land Acknowledgment

EPUC is on traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabeg, and Neutral peoples, part of the Upper Canada Treaties, on the Brant Tract (Treaty 3 ¼). We are all treaty people. We seek to be in Right Relations with those who stewarded this land before settlers arrived.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Josephine Braun

Prelude

My Lord, What a Morning, African-American
Spiritual, arr. by S. Vacca

***Call to Worship (Responsive)**

Psalm 24

The earth is God's, and all that is in it;
the world, and those who live upon it.

**For God founded it upon the seas,
planted it firm over the waters beneath**

Who may ascend the mountain of God?

Who may stand in God's holy place?

**Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
who have not set their minds on deceit,
nor made false promises;**

they shall receive God's blessing,
righteousness from God who will save them.

**Such are those who seek God,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

Opening Prayer

Josephine Braun

***Hymn VU #331 The Church's One Foundation (vs. 1,2,4,5)**

GOD'S WORD FOR GENEROUS LIVING

Prayer before Scripture (Unison)

**Spirit, open our eyes that we may see what we have
not noticed before**

**Open our ears that we may hear your voice in a new
way**

**Open our hearts that we may receive your Word with
love and grace.**

Amen.

First Reading: Romans 12: 1-16 Josephine Braun

Gift of Music It is Well with My Soul by P. P. Bliss
arr. by S. Vacca

Second Reading: Matthew 16: 13-18 Josephine Braun

**For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,
ALL: Thanks be to God.**

Reflection The Church: One Body in Christ Rev. Harold

***Hymn VU #402** We Are One

GOD STRENGTHENS US TO LOVE AND SERVE

Life and Work of East Plains United Church

Offering Invitation: Offering plates are at the doors.
Our gifts make the ministries of this congregation possible.

Your gifts of money, time, energy and expertise make good things happen. *Thank you!*

You can also give in these ways:

- **Mail or drop off cheques to the church mailbox.**
- **PAR (Pre-authorized monthly remittance) – ask how!**
- **Online via EPUC website donation link:**
<https://www.eastplainsunitedchurch.com>
- **E-Transfer, payable to “East Plains United Church”**
Email: treasurer@eastplainsunitedchurch.com

Offering Dedication Prayer

A Reading from the United Church Song of Faith (Unison)

We sing of a church

**seeking to continue the story of Jesus
by embodying Christ’s presence in the world.**

We are called together by Christ

**as a community of broken but hopeful believers,
loving what he loved,
living what he taught,
striving to be faithful servants of God
in our time and place.**

Our ancestors in faith

**bequeath to us experiences of their faithful living;
upon their lives our lives are built.**

**Our living of the gospel makes us a part of this
communion of saints,**

**experiencing the fulfillment of God’s reign
even as we actively anticipate a new heaven and
a new earth.**

The church has not always lived up to its vision.

It requires the Spirit to reorient it,

**helping it to live an emerging faith while
honouring tradition,
challenging it to live by grace rather than
entitlement,**

for we are called to be a blessing to the earth.

**We sing of God’s good news lived out,
a church with purpose:**

**faith nurtured and hearts comforted,
gifts shared for the good of all,
resistance to the forces that exploit and
marginalize,
fierce love in the face of violence,
human dignity defended,
members of a community held and
inspired by God,
corrected and comforted,
instrument of the loving Spirit of Christ,
creation's mending.**

Prayers of the People

Prayer of Jesus VU page #921

***Hymn VU #580** Faith of Our Fathers

***Commissioning and Blessing**

***Three-fold Amen**

Musical Postlude

Leaders in today's worship and work

Josephine Braun, Worship Leader and Reader
Steven McMaster, Tech.

Janice Barretto, Song Leader Sabatino Vacca, Music Director
Rev. Dr. Harold Wells, Minister Emeritus

Acknowledgments: Our hymn use is with permission through our licence with CCLI.

Vision for Becoming Affirming

As a community of faith on a path to becoming an Affirming Ministry, we seek to better understand and celebrate the diversity of God's creation. We are living into celebrating the richness of our community when we have diversity in age, ability, gender identity, racial/cultural backgrounds, economics, class, sexual orientation, and family configurations. We seek to create a brave space with an open invitation to bring every aspect of your whole self into your participation within the East Plains United Church faith community.

Stewardship Second

The gospel according to Luke reminds us, "Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are now in yet another wave of COVID. The Official Board of EPUC continues to comply with the Ontario guidelines for the general public, including indoor and outdoor gatherings.

Your personal protection is your responsibility. We continue to fully support individuals who choose to wear masks, to physically distance and to refrain from attending some gatherings.

Men's Coffee—Join on Zoom Mondays at 9 am:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85405381593?pwd=T3RuNkl4bm9jc0wrU3NmRzdhbFNmUT09>

Meeting ID: 854 0538 1593 Passcode: 737756

Condolences from the congregation go out to the family and friends of Jack Low who died on July 31, 2022. Jack and his late wife, June, were long time members of East Plains United Church.

NOTE: People are invited to worship on Zoom at West Plains United Church, or at another local church, on Sun, Aug. 14 and Aug. 21. We will be back at EPUC on Sun, Aug. 28.

Garage Sale

The Building and Property committee will hold a Garage Sale in the basement of Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, September 17 9:00am-1:00pm**. 90% of the proceeds will go to the General Fund and 10% to Wider Work. Members who wish to donate items for the sale are asked to leave them in Fellowship Hall the day before; Friday September 16. Volunteers are needed for the set up and take down of tables and chairs. Please contact Jim McMaster.

Thank You from Rev. Barb

Thank you very much for all you did to make the celebration of the completion of the Intentional Interim Ministry and my retirement so memorable! Brenda's words in worship meant so much, as did what Brenda, Gayle, and Pat said after lunch.

I loved the photo loop that Steve made with the music Sam sent, and so appreciated Steve's leadership in the projection room, as well as that of Robert and Jim. The musical leadership of Sam and Janice was superb, as always! Thanks also to Morgan for serving as liturgist. The flowers are still gorgeous! It is such an elaborate bouquet that each angle offers new delights.

The meal was delicious, with so many gluten-free options! The food hospitality by EPUC Support Group is the best! Thanks to Pat for organizing lunch and to all who made and served food and cleaned up the kitchen and Peart Hall afterwards. Thank you, too, for the generosity expressed in the money gifts in "the pink box." Thank you so very much.

The Memory Book is a treasure! Thank you to Gayle, Brenda, and Grace for bringing it together and to those who sent messages! In addition to photos of dear folks who have died, the other thing in the book that made me teary was seeing the Covid message on the sign out front. That changed so much in our lives. We learned new ways to live out our ministries together, continued our transitional tasks, and began the journey toward becoming an Affirming Community of Faith.

Our hearts are full and we will miss you dearly.

