

EAST PLAINS UNITED CHURCH

Fourth Sunday in Lent

PIE Day Service

March 15, 2026

Gathering In Community

Prelude

Choir Introit

Lead Me, God

Peace Greeting: Look around. Look closely. Do you see Christ's light shining among us? Greet one another as children of the light, for that is what you are when you abide in Christ, the Lord of Light.

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you

Opening Hymn

Let Us Build a House (vs 1,2,4,5) MV: 1

Territorial Acknowledgement

Grace Boogers

We acknowledge that we are living and worshipping on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe Peoples, the Haudenosaunee Peoples, the Huron-Wendat Peoples, and the Mississaugas of the Credit Nation. We seek to walk together with our Indigenous brothers and sisters in the spirit of justice and reconciliation.

Announcements

Reverend Jan

Halton Islamic Group – Jim McMaster

Words of Welcome

Theme Introduction

PIE stands for:

Public – Our Collective Voice

Intentional – Our Deliberate Actions

Explicit – Our Clear Message

Conclusion: The Power of PIE in Action

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Lighting of the Affirm Candle

Grace Boogers

Call to Worship

Reverend Jan

We gather together on this Affirming Sunday,
celebrating the all-inclusive love of God---
Worshipping our Maker, who delights in diversity;
Worshipping the Lover, who in Jesus reached out
and accepted and embraced everyone,
despite all social, class, ethnic
and spiritual barriers.
Worshipping the Keeper,
the Spirit who continues to break down
the walls that divide us.
Come, let us worship God!

Opening Prayer

**Loving God, when people wandered in the desert,
you were there.**

**When they were hungry, thirsty,
and wondering how they could go on,
you responded with your abundance,
water from a rock, manna in the wilderness.**

**You, present with us now,
are aware of our needs;
you hear our concerns.**

**Help us to set down all of our burdens
and be fully present to you,
in the way that you are present to us.
Feed us with the food that we need
during this time together,
enable us to live in your way
of abundance for all,
following the path toward peace and justice.
Amen**

Hymn:

Though Ancient Walls

VU: 691

Seeking to Grow Spiritually

Prayer for Illumination

Grace Boogers

Let us pray:

Loving God,

help us to find a quiet center in you

so that as we receive these ancient words and stories,

we will understand them as if for the first time,

fresh, alive, and filled with meaning

and hope for your world and for our lives.

Amen

Hebrew Testament Reading

New Revised Standard Version

Isaiah 58: 6-12

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,

to undo the straps of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.

¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has

so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

**For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,**

Thanks be to God!

Gift of Music This Is the Day by M. Blankenship

Message Crafting Community Reverend Jan

Hymn My Love Colours Outside the Lines MV: 138

Responding In Care

Minute For Mission Gail Lorimer

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology What Can I Do? MV: 191

Offering Prayer

We thank you, Holy One, for this banquet of love,

acceptance and empowerment.

May what we have said and done

so put its mark upon us, within us,

that we might live as you would have us live.

May this community of faith affirm

the worth, value and beauty of all our neighbours,

all our relations,

the whole of creation.

Bless these gifts and use them

for your work in the world.

Amen

Pastoral Prayers

PIE Day Lord's Prayer

Our Parent in Heaven,

whose love knows no bounds,

Your name is holy,

held in the highest regard.

May Your realm of love, acceptance, and justice come,

May Your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven,

Guiding us to honour each other's dignity and worth.

Give us today our daily bread,

the sustenance we need,

And forgive us our prejudices

as we forgive those who are prejudiced against us,

Lead us away from judgement,

and deliver us from the hands of hatred.
For Yours is the realm of unconditional love,
the power to change hearts,
And the glory of diversity in unity,
now and forever.
May all of us,
created beautifully and wonderfully
in Your image,
Live and love in the spirit of Your Son,
who taught us to pray,
Embracing each other,
as You embrace us all.

Amen

Reaching Out In Love

Closing Hymn

Draw the Circle Wide

MV: 145

Commissioning

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Postlude

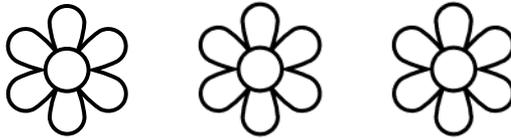
Worship Resources: *Gathering Magazine Lent/Easter, 2026 Year A* (page 12, 28-34); *Abingdon Worship Annual 2026* (pages 54-57); *Worship Service Template for PIE Day 2026* by Jane Thirikwa, Program Coordinator, Global Advocacy 25 and LGBTQIA+, The United Church of Canada ; <https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2026-02/2026-pie-day-worship-service-template.pdf>.; *Worship Service Template* by Shane Goldie, Student Minister, Knox and St. Paul's United Churches, Taber/Milk River, Alberta. Accessed online on March 11, 2026. Used with Permission.

EAST PLAINS UNITED CHURCH AFFIRM STATEMENT

We celebrate the richness of our community when we have diversity in age, gender identity, racial/cultural backgrounds, economics, class, sexual orientation, and family configurations fully participating in all aspects of the life and work at East Plains United Church. We commit to continuing education to promote understanding and create a safe environment for all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS—If you would like to order flowers (bulbs) in memory of someone dear, please fill out an order form, separate form for more than one order. These will be placed in the sanctuary for our Easter Service and ready for you to take home after.



Jan's Journal



On this fourth Sunday in Lent, our worship service will celebrate PIE Day, or National Affirming Day, which takes place on March 14th each year. PIE is an acronym for **P**ublic, **I**ntentional and **E**xplicit. Be sure to come to worship this Sunday to hear more!

Leanne, who is our contact at PFLAG Halton, has generously provided information pamphlets and items which will be available on Sunday. Please come and help yourself to those items.

There is a planning meeting on March 19th for a collaborative event involving PFLAG and Burlington United Churches to be held in Burlington sometime this summer.

On **March 29th**, there will be a Seniors Symposium at the Art Gallery of Burlington. This is an opportunity to learn more about the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, celebrating and supporting seniors. The event will take place between 11 am and 3 pm. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. This event will be hosted by Kenadie St. James. There will be art activities, a theatre group, community booths and "Fabulous Drag Bingo," plus much more. This event is free, but registration is required. Please speak to me or any member of the Affirm Team for more information.

Speaking of special events related to Affirm, East Plains will be hosting an educational event focused on understanding transgender. This information evening will be held in Peart Hall on Tuesday, **May 12, 2026** at 7 p.m. Please invite family friends and neighbours to join you in attending this special evening.

Plans for the "Week of Guided Prayer" are beginning to form. The week will take place between **May 3rd and May 9th, 2026**. You will soon see trifold information boards at the church entrances. Registration forms will soon be available. You are invited to participate in "A Retreat in the Midst of Daily Life," as you pray with scripture and then meet with a trained Companion to discuss your prayer experience. The time with your Companion will be arranged to fit your schedule. The registration cost is \$20, which will be used to cover the cost of materials. Those materials are produced by the Week of Guided Prayer Network. If anyone is unable to afford the \$20 registration fee, the church will cover the cost for you. No one will be unable to participate due to financial restraints.

If coming to the church to meet with your Companion each day is difficult due to mobility limitations, we will provide a Companion who is able to meet with you on Zoom or FaceTime.

The Theme for the Week of Guided Prayer is “Hope,” which seems quite pertinent at the present time!

There is a lot happening at East Plains in the next two months:

Looking ahead in March:

- March 17th is St. Patrick’s Day. A special day for anyone who is Irish to celebrate their heritage.
- There will be a meeting of the Official Board on March 24th
- Companion Training for Companions for “A Week of Guided Prayer” will take place at East Plains on Saturday, March 28th. A Week of Guided Prayer will be shared with Appleby United Church. Companions will be trained for both churches.
- We continue our Lenten Journey throughout March. Palm Sunday, is Sunday, March 29th.

Looking Ahead to April:

- The Good Friday Service is a joint service with West Plains United Church, at West Plains. The service will begin at **10:30** a.m. Good Friday is April 3, 2026.
- We will celebrate Easter Sunday on April 5th, 2026.
- The Community Connections Team has been very busy since last July exploring the goal of making the church building an asset in the Aldershot community. East Plains has partnered with Community Development Halton to plan and implement a community discussion, which we hope will help to identify the needs of the community and possible ways in which space at East Plains might be available to fulfill some of those needs. A Community “Round

Table” discussion is planned for Thursday, April 16th from 1- 3 p.m. in Peart Hall. Representatives of community-based organizations and programs will be invited to attend, but more importantly, you are invited to attend. In order for the congregation of East Plains to decide on a path forward, everyone needs to be involved. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this very important event.

- The Annual Meeting for 2025 will be held following worship on April 19, 2026. If you are the Chair of a Ministry Team, please submit a report for the Annual Report to the church office by the end of March. Please mark your calendars with this date and plan to attend the Annual Meeting following worship on April 19th.

Looking Ahead to May:

- We will be holding a “Week of Guided Prayer” at East Plains during the first week of May, May 3rd to 9th. A Week of Guided Prayer is described as “A Retreat in the Midst of Daily Life.” Whether or not you choose to participate in the “Week of Guided Prayer,” this will be a prayerful week within the church. All activities which are not related to long-term rentals (ie: The Aldershot Child Care Centre) will be suspended for the week. If you are scheduling a Ministry Team meeting in early May, please avoid the week of May 3rd to 9th. More detailed information will be coming in the next few weeks.

You can reach me at: revjanmcc@gmail.com or on my cell phone: 905-630-8202.

Blessings,

Pastor Jan