

EAST PLAINS UNITED CHURCH
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day/Christian Family Sunday
May 10, 2026

Gathering In Community

Prelude

Choir Introit

Lead Me God

Peace Greeting: On the other side of trials, rest in the sanctuary of God's healing love. Come, let us share the peace of Christ with one another—the peace promised through the Holy Spirit.

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you

Opening Hymn Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

VU: 232

Territorial Acknowledgement

Joyce Smith

The Land Acknowledgement we speak today is based on a tradition or protocol carried out by Indigenous communities in Canada throughout the ages. It is intended as a way for guests to show their respect for the Indigenous community that they are visiting. The acknowledgement confirms that the visitors come with peaceful intentions.

Today, we acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality and culture of the Anishinaabe Peoples, the Haudenosaunee Peoples, the Huron-Wendat Peoples, and the Mississaugas of the Credit Nation. We also acknowledge the Attawandaron and Métis Peoples. We gather for

worship today on the traditional territory inhabited by these peoples throughout the ages.

The Anishinaabe Peoples include people of the Ojibwe, Odawa and Pottawatami Nations who joined together to form the Three Fires Confederacy around the year 800 AD. The Haudenosaunee Peoples are the Iroquoian peoples of the Six Nations, which includes members of the Mohawk, Oneida, Cayuga, Onondaga, Seneca and Tuscarora Nations.

As we gather for worship, we acknowledge that treaties have not been honoured, nor have First Nations peoples been treated with dignity and respect. We have much work to do to create right relationships.

Announcements

Reverend Jan

Words of Welcome

Theme Introduction

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

Reverend Jan

Christian Family Sunday is a time to celebrate the family with which we connect.

It is a time for celebrating where we live and who we live with.

It is a time for connecting and a time for setting free.

Help us always, Everlasting God, to celebrate the beauty in every relationship in our lives.

Help us to be a Christian Family.

As we worship, we celebrate the foundation upon which our family is grounded.

Today we celebrate the mothering gifts that both women and men have to share:

nurturing and encouraging,
nourishing and healing,
enabling and teaching,
sustaining and letting go.
We come as one family:
seeking your presence,
celebrating our faith,
supporting one another,
walking together through change.
Let us lift our voices together in worship,
remembering the mothering Christ.

Opening Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for our family circle.

Our family: a group of people who understand us and accept us as we are.

Loving God, we thank you for our family circle.

Our family: there for us when life is challenging, there for us when the going gets rough.

Loving God, we thank you for our family circle.

Our family: there for us in the past, strong support for today, to be relied on in the coming days.

Loving God, we thank you for our family circle,

Which is sometimes our family of birth or adoption, and sometimes a varied group of people who have come into our lives.

Loving God, we thank you for our family circle, however it came to us.

Amen

Hymn:

Love Is the Touch

MV: 89

Seeking to Grow Spiritually

Prayer for Illumination

Joyce Smith

Let us pray:

God of family and relationships,

open our hearts and minds to receive your Word for us this day.

Bless us with your wisdom,

and reveal the promise of your love

through the reading of your holy word.

Amen

Hebrew Testament Reading

New Revised Standard Version

Psalms 42: 1-2

As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

² My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.

New Testament Reading

New Revised Standard Version

Acts 17: 22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor [\[a\]](#) he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for

God^[b] and perhaps fumble about for him and find him— though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we, too, are his offspring.'

²⁹ "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Gospel Reading

New Revised Standard Version

John 14: 15-21

If you love me, you will keep^[a] my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,^[b] to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be^[c] in^[d] you.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

**May God bless this reading of the Holy Word to our insight
and our understanding. Thanks be to God.**

Amen

Gift of Music Through the Eyes of a Child, by M. Burrows,
G. Gilpin

Message Not Far From Each One of Us Reverend Jan

Hymn Who Is My Mother MV: 178

Responding In Care

Asian Heritage Month

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology Grant Us, God, the Grace VU: 540

Offering Prayer

In you, O God, every family on earth receives its name.
Illumine the homes of this earth with the light of your love,
granting courage to those who are hurt or lonely,
endurance to those who care for sick or aging family
members,
and wisdom to those in fearful times of change.
We thank you for gifts of love we have received
from mother, father, spouse, child, or companion.
As we have been loved by you and by our family, so may
we love others.
Accept our gifts of time, talent and treasure.
May they be used to create unity in the world.
Amen

Pastoral Prayers

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,

thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen

Reaching Out In Love

Closing Hymn Would You Bless Our Homes and Families VU: 556

Commissioning

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Postlude

Worship Resources: *Gathering Magazine Lent/Easter, 2026 Year A* (page 22,39-48); *Abingdon Worship Annual 2026* (pages 104-107); *Feasting On the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year A, Volume 2* (pages 472-495); *Texts For Preaching: A Lectionary Commentary Based on the NRSV – Year A* (pages 300–308). 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

Homeowners and Faith Leaders:

Burlington needs more affordable housing. The Halton Faith Network is helping to create solutions! Discover what additional housing is now allowed on your property! Please attend an information session on Monday, **May 11th** at Port Nelson United Church, 3132 South Dr, Burlington, at 7:00pm. City of Burlington and Halton Region staff will answer your questions and agencies will provide insight to the needs and the solutions our community can create together. Please RSVP to HaltonFaithNetwork@gmail.com. See you there!

Learning about our 2SLBGTQIA+ community

Inclusivity + Allyship with speaker Leanne Rancourt

On **Tues, May 12 at 7:00pm** at EPUC

Everyone Welcome to this FREE Event!

Building & Property Work Bee Saturday, May 16, 9-12noon.

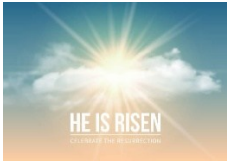
Tasks: grass mowing, garden weeding and tilling, removal of leaves and dead plants, pruning, dandelion removal, planting new plants, sweeping up stones etc.

Areas: Memorial Garden, gardens in front of church including around big tree, garden beside sign, garden in front of pastor's office, west parking lot property line etc.

Tools: Bring your own; yard waste bags will be provided; spade, rake, clippers, trimmers, gloves, etc.

Hope to see you there, Jim McMaster.

Jan's Journal



Happy Mother's Day!

Happy Christian Family Sunday!

This week, we celebrate the sixth Sunday of the Season of Easter as we continue to follow the story of the Risen Christ.

During the past seven days, East Plains has experienced its first ever "**Week of Guided Prayer.**" It was a very meaningful week for participants, Companions, and Co-ordinators. The experience was enriched by a partnership with participants at Appleby United Church. Participants from both congregations shared the Opening and Closing services. The Companions and Co-ordinators met for two Team Meetings which included dinner together. The Labyrinth was available in Peart Hall on Tuesday and on Friday morning. Several people took the opportunity to try a sacred walk!

The congregation was well-represented at the "**Family Pasta Dinner**" celebrating 65 years of Scouting in Aldershot, held in Peart Hall on Saturday, May 2nd. The event was hosted by 7th Aldershot Scouting. We enjoyed a delicious meal, bid on the items offered in the Silent Auction, and got very competitive as we bid on desserts!! Great fun for a great cause—what could be better?

The **Community Connections Team** has received the Final Report on the Community Event which was held on April 16, 2026. The Community Connections Team will meet to discuss the report recommendations and to determine next steps in the process. Stay tuned!!

May is **Asian Heritage Month**. In recognition of this, I will share a reflection each Sunday. These reflections have been written by a friend whose mother is from the Philippines.

Mark your Calendar

Affordable housing is a primary concern in Halton Region. An information session about the work of the Halton Faith Network and opportunities to build affordable housing, will be held at Port Nelson United Church on **Monday May 11th** from 7 to 9 p.m. Please see the announcement in the Bulletin for more details.

Also in regard to affordable housing, the proposed Indwell project which will create 74 housing units on Waterdown Road requires a change in the Zoning of the property in order for the proposal to move forward. If you are supportive of this project, you may be interested in attending a meeting to discuss the Zoning change, which will take place at Burlington City Hall on **Tuesday, May 12th** between 9:30 am and 4:30 p.m. You might also send a letter of support via email. I have the pertinent email addresses if you would like to do so.

The Affirm Team will be hosting an educational event on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026 beginning at 7 p.m.**, here at the church. The guest speaker will be Leanne Rancourt, a representative of PFLAG. Leanne's topic will be "Learning About 2SLGBTQIA+community, Inclusivity, and Allyship." Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Please invite family, friends, neighbours to come as well.

The Moosehide Campaign began in British Columbia more than 10 years ago. I learned about it in 2022 when a member of my congregation at Eden United Church presented me with a Moosehide Pin. He had heard about

the Moosehide Campaign through a conversation on his car radio as he was driving to work. He told me that he had been moved to tears by the story. He said that it made him think of his own wife, daughters, and granddaughters and it moved him to learn more. He purchased Moosehide pins for the significant women in his life. I was honoured to receive one. **May 14, 2026** is a day of Moosehead Campaign in Ceremony.

For the first time, the Wider Work Team and the Support Group will be replacing the spring Rummage Sale with a Trunk Sale, which they hope will be less labour intensive! Vendors and Artisans will rent a parking spot in the east parking lot and sell their items from the trunk of their vehicle, or a table set up behind it. There is also the option for members of East Plains to fill the trunk of your vehicle with items stored in room 14, which did not sell at last year's spring sale. If you are willing to do this, you will not be asked to rent a parking spot, but to donate the proceeds from your trunk to the church. You could also sell items from home, which you would have donated to the rummage sale! Please support this new experiment! The Support Group will also be holding a Bake Sale in the Gathering Place. I heard a rumour that there might be meat pies!!

The Trunk Sale is planned for **Saturday, May 23, 2026 from 9 am to 1 pm**. If that happens to be a day of heavy rain or thunderstorms, the Trunk Sale will be postponed to May 30th. If you have any questions or concerns about anything you have read here, you can reach me at: revjanmcc@gmail.com or on my cell phone: 905-630-8202.

Blessings,

Reverend Jan