

EAST PLAINS UNITED CHURCH

Trinity Sunday

May 31, 2026

Gathering In Community

Prelude

Choir Introit

Lead Me God

Peace Greeting: Scripture asks us to live with one another in peace, and promises us that the God of love and peace will be with us. Let us greet one another with God's love, Christ's peace, and the Holy Spirit's embrace.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you."

And also with you

Opening Hymn

This Is God's Wondrous World

VU: 296

Territorial Acknowledgement

Mandy Bertozzi

For thousands of years, Indigenous peoples have journeyed on this land. A relationship with the land is at the center of Indigenous peoples' lives and spirituality. We are gathered on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat, and Mississaugas of the Credit, and we acknowledge these peoples' stewardship of the land throughout the ages.

Acknowledging the territory where we gather and the peoples who have traditionally called it home over thousands of years helps us to live out the United Church's Apologies to the First Peoples of North America. But words are easy---actions are more difficult. We are called to live the apology we speak. The acknowledgement supports our

calls to ourselves and others to pay respect to Indigenous Peoples. It is one way that we, and the church, can work toward right relations, and move toward becoming the community that God calls us to be together.

Announcements

Reverend Jan

Words of Welcome

Theme Introduction

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

Reverend Jan

**We come to experience the presence of God.
We seek to be inspired by the Way of Jesus.
We look for ways to be transformed by the Holy Spirit.
As we gather, we hope to feel the winds of God,
to sense the power of the Spirit
and to find the truth of Christ for our lives.
Come, let us worship the Triune God.**

Opening Prayer

**Creator God, who brought this world into being
and gave life to humanity;
Christ, who lives within us and among us
and teaches us the lessons of love;
Holy Spirit, who is the breath of life,
inspires us to new beginnings;
Creator, Sustainer, and Fire of Life,
you each are part of us and part of each other,
helping us to grow,
helping us to live with love and compassion.
Holy Three-in-One,
help us to be hopeful, faithful,
and lead us to truth.**

Amen

Seeking to Grow Spiritually

Prayer for Illumination

Mandy Bertozzi

Let us pray:

Come, Holy God,

Creator, Christ and Spirit,

come in this moment to open your word
to us, and in us.

May the same Word that created all things
bear fruit in our lives,
in this community of faith,
and in the world.

Amen

Hebrew Testament Reading

New Revised Standard Version

Psalm 8

O Lord, our Sovereign,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

² Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.

³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;

⁴ what are humans that you are mindful of them,
mortals^[a] that you care for them?

⁵ Yet you have made them a little lower than God^[b]
and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶ You have given them dominion over the works of your
hands;

you have put all things under their feet,
7 all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
8 the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
9 O Lord, our Sovereign,
How majestic is your name in all the earth!

Gospel Reading

New Revised Standard Version

Matthew 28: 16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."[\[a\]](#)

**May God bless this reading of the Holy Word to our insight
and our understanding. Herein is Wisdom.**

Thanks be to God.

Amen

Gift of Music

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Arranged by A. Zsolt

Message

Created By Love

Reverend Jan

Hymn

God, Whose Almighty Word

VU: 313

Responding In Care

Asian Heritage Month

Reverend Jan

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology

Grant Us, God, the Grace

VU: 540

Offering Prayer

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!

You are active within us,

our community, and the world,

restoring all things back to loving community.

We offer these gifts and ourselves

as instruments of your ever-new creation.

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

Go to the World

VU: 420

Commissioning

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Postlude

Worship Resources: *Gathering Magazine Lent/Easter, 2026 Year A* (page 9,30-31); *Abingdon Worship Annual 2026* (pages 119-122); *Feasting On the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year A, Volume 3* (pages 26-42); *Texts For Preaching: A Lectionary Commentary Based on the NRSV – Year A* (pages 337–345). 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



Orders are due Sun, May 31st—Forms are in the Gathering Place with details. **Enquiries:** Gayle Burnison 905-630-3525. All proceeds applied to the EPUC General Fund.

OUT-4-LUNCH will be on Monday, June 1st at 12 noon, St. Matthew's on-the-Plains Anglican Church. Entry off REAR parking lot. Thank you to ALL of the volunteers 😊

Wesley's 35th Annual Case For Kids Walk, Run, Ride
We need more walkers for **Sunday, June 7th** at Bayfront Park from 12 noon – 2:30 pm! This event raises funds for Wesley's children, youth and family programs in Hamilton, Halton and Brantford. Pledges can be made after worship in The Gathering Place. Thank you and hope you can join us 😊

Congratulations from the congregation to Susan and Paul Preston who are celebrating their 65th wedding Anniversary this week!

Jan's Journal



This week, we begin the Season of Pentecost, which lasts until the beginning of Advent. This time may also be referred to as "Ordinary Time" which does not mean that the weeks are dull and boring! Ordinary Time covers the time outside of the major seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.

Ordinary Time includes 33 or 34 weeks, which is more than half of the year. The liturgical colour is green, which symbolizes spiritual growth, new life, and hope. Included within Ordinary Time is the Season of Creation which begins on the first Sunday after Labour Day and continues through to Thanksgiving Sunday. "Ordinary" is derived from the Latin word *ordinalis* which means "ordered" or "counted" using ordinal numbers. Spiritually, Ordinary Time is designed to help Christians live out their faith in the routine of their daily lives.

May 31st is Trinity Sunday. The first Sunday after Pentecost celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Triune God: Father, Son

and Holy Spirit. These three aspects of God form the one God of our Christian faith. Come and learn more this Sunday!

Thank you to everyone who has committed to helping with the Trunk and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 31st. Hopefully, the weather will co-operate this week and provide us with a lovely day!

Last Sunday, I mentioned during the Announcements, that United Church of Canada has created a fund to support regular Retreats for Northern Indigenous Ministers. You can make a donation in support of this fund through Mission and Service or through this link:

<https://uccf-northern-ministers-retreat.pllenty.com>

You may recall that, a couple of years ago, congregations were asked to review a few hymns from a new Hymn Book which was being created. The choir sang a few of the hymns and we listened to a few others on video. The new hymn book, titled *Then Let Us Sing!* has recently been published and made available for purchase. East Plains has purchased one copy for Sam and the Choir to test and for the Worship and Sacraments Team to evaluate. Hopefully, you will hear some of the new hymns soon! We will then decide whether to purchase more copies.

It is hard to believe that June begins on Monday. We have had a handful of warm days, but as I write today, the temperature is just 17 degrees Celsius. Tonight's forecast low is just 7 degrees! I have not yet put out my tropical impatiens, because it is too cool for them. I imagine that we will be complaining about the heat soon enough...

Mark your Calendar

There is something special to celebrate on every Sunday during the month of June!

On Sunday, **June 7, 2026**, we will mark the 101st Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. Do you remember all the special events we enjoyed last year, as we celebrated the 100th Anniversary? **June 7th** is also the date for the **35th Annual Case For Kids Walk** in support of Wesley Urban Ministries programs for children and youth. Please sign up to walk with the East Plains Team and canvas your neighbourhood for pledges of support or make a cash donation to this worthy cause.

There will be a **PFLAG Family Fun Event on Saturday, June 13th from 1 to 4 p.m.** This is jointly sponsored by PFLAG Halton and local Affirming United Churches. (East Plains United, Grace United, Munns United, Norval United, Port Nelson United, and St. Paul's United, Oakville) The event will take place at **Roseland Park**, 3076 South Drive, Burlington. This is a small park adjacent to the Roseland Park Country Club, which offers tennis courts, bocce ball and more. It is located opposite Port Nelson United Church, on the west side of Rossmore Blvd.

East Plains will have a table at this event. The event includes:

- Hands On Exotics featuring reptiles, birds, and unusual animals. Shows will take place at 1:30 and 3 p.m.
- A Bouncy Castle
- A Fire Truck
- Art activities
- Games

Invite your family friends and neighbours to join you for an afternoon of fun in support of PFLAG and the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Volunteers are needed. Please consider whether you might like to help.

On **June 14, 2026**, we will celebrate both **Father's Day** and **Pride Month**.

June 21st is **National Indigenous Peoples Day**, which will be reflected in our Worship service.

On **June 28th**, we will celebrate **Canada Day**, a few days early, in the worship service.

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