

EAST PLAINS UNITED CHURCH
National Indigenous Peoples' Day Service
June 21, 2026

Gathering In Community

Prelude

Introit

Peace Greeting: We are the body of Christ, a community of differing gifts. Each of us is called to give ourselves fully to God and to one another. As we share signs of peace today, remember our connection in call and in service to lift and encourage one another.

The peace of Christ be with you,

And also with you

Opening Hymn All Creatures of Our God and King VU: 217

Territorial Acknowledgement

Garth Smith

We begin this time of worship by acknowledging that we are meeting on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe Peoples, the Haudenosaunee Peoples, the Huron-Wendat Peoples, and the Mississaugas of the Credit Nation. This land has been inhabited by Indigenous peoples for thousands of years. We thank all the generations of Indigenous people who have taken care of this land and been its stewards. We give thanks for the countless ways they have assisted the settler peoples who came to inhabit the land. We also recognize the contributions Métis, Inuit, and other Indigenous peoples have made in shaping and strengthening this region, the provinces, and Canada as a whole.

We seek to build right relations with the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples, to learn from them, and to live on the land with respect and gratitude for its Creation and Creator. This is our commitment as treaty people.

Announcements

Reverend Jan

Words of Welcome

Theme Introduction

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Lighting of the Affirm Candle

Garth Smith

Call to Worship

Let us give thanks to our Creator
for the Creator is always with us.
God is with us in the call of the loon
and in the flight of the eagle.
Our Creator is with us in the changing of the seasons.
God is with us when we gather together
and when we are alone.
Our Creator is with us in our giftedness,
in our search for new understandings of ourselves,
and in new visions of our communities.
We gather to share in God's dream of abundant life for all.

Opening Prayer

God of all people,
give your blessing this day to the Aboriginal people of this
land:
guide their Elders and give them strength;
comfort and renew their men and women
in times of sorrow and despair;
give grace and pride to their children
as the daughters and sons of your creation.

**Hear our prayers for those who gather today
to learn the true story of the Aboriginal peoples of this
country.**

**Give us a sense of justice, an awareness of new beginnings,
that ancient wrongs may be redressed,
broken promises forgiven,
and a new covenant forged.**

**May those who have used the land with little thought or
regard,**

learn to love and respect this gracious heritage.

**May those who find your presence in the land
be free to model its grateful use to all,
that in common life and common dignity
all may receive from you a new humanity.**

We pray for wisdom for our leaders and for ourselves.

**Great Spirit, our God and Creator, hear our prayer,
and give your blessing this day**

to the Aboriginal peoples of this land.

Amen

Hymn: Sisters, Let Us Walk Together

MV: 179

Seeking to Grow Spiritually

Prayer for Illumination

Garth Smith

Let us pray:

Gracious God, great Teacher, bearer of peace,
we come to you today seeking your guidance.

Open our ears to hear your Word,

and open our hearts to perceive possibilities,

both seen and unseen, we pray.

Amen

Hebrew Testament Reading

New Revised Standard Version

Genesis 21: 8-21

The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹ But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. ¹⁰ So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." ¹¹ The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹² But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. ¹³ As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." ¹⁴ So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶ Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. ¹⁷ And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸ Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." ¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

²⁰ God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. ²¹ He lived

in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Gospel Reading

New Revised Standard Version

Matthew 10: 24-39

²⁴ “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.
“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, ³⁶ and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. ³⁷ “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who

find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

**God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.
Herein is Wisdom.
Thanks be to God.
Amen**

Gift of Music Sam Vacca and the East Plains Choir

Message The God Who Sees Me (El-Roi) Reverend Jan

Hymn In Christ There Is No East or West VU: 606

Responding In Care

Minute for Mission Callie Archer

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands VU: 537

Offering Prayer

Creator God, we dedicate these gifts

to the work of our congregation:

serving human wholeness,

caring for our planet,

upholding religious freedom,

welcoming the stranger,

working for equality,

abundance for all,

and most of all, loving one another.

We offer our gifts for your work 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

○ Day of Peace

VU: 682

Commissioning

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Postlude

Worship Resources: *Gathering Magazine Lent/Easter, 2026 Year A* (page 12 ,36-37); *Abingdon Worship Annual 2026* (pages 133-136); *Feasting On the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year*

A, Volume 3 (pages 146-169); *Texts For Preaching: A Lectionary Commentary Based on the NRSV – Year A* (pages 371–379). 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

Service to celebrate Rev. Gardner's retirement at West Plains UC on Sunday at 3:00 pm

Jan's Journal



Happy Father's Day to all fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers in our midst!

June 21st is National Indigenous Peoples' Day. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the recognition of this day. June 21st was intentionally selected for this day as it is also the summer solstice---the longest day and the shortest night of the year. You are invited to wear an orange shirt, or a red dress, or a moosehide pin to worship as we mark this day on Sunday.

This week seems to have been a week of endings. Some of you have been involved in graduation ceremonies for your children or grandchildren. Here at East Plains, Teams and Committees have been holding their final meetings as church life winds down for a summer break. The Coffee and Conversation Group and the Lunch and Lectionary Group have each met for the last time. Both groups will resume in September. Perhaps you would like to join one or the other, or both??

The Official Board will meet this Tuesday, June 23, 2026.

Thank you to Morgan and Reverend Harold and others, who stepped in to lead Worship in my absence. Their support is very much appreciated.

Mark your Calendar:

After a busy month of June, including many special services, July will be a much quieter month!

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