

23 August 2026
Ordinary Time

THIS WEEK AT BRECHIN

Minister: Rev. Katherine Brittain

Music Director and Choir Leader: Tim Weger

Leader: Rob Russell

Greeters: Teresa Bellinger & Colleen Weir

Power Point: Mary Boyd

Announcements Preparation: Matt Haapala

Audio Visual: Justine Etzkorn

Coffee Servers: Bruce & Linda Wilson

Welcome Table: Diane Morris

Centring and Land Acknowledgement and Lighting the Christ Candle

Centring Hymn: MV 18 "Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary"

(Words and music: John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs)

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**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true;
with thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

Call to Worship

(Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister, Easter Ontario Outaouais Regional Council.

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One: Time calls us to this place

All: to find comfort, to find caring, to love one another.

One: Time is a gift we are given each morning we rise.

All: It is our responsibility to use it wisely.

One: It is our responsibility to use it gently.

All: To be, rather than always "to do".

One: We are human creatures

All: and we come to this place to honour our Creator.

One: Come. Sit. Listen. And most importantly, BE in this place.

All: We have come answering God's call.

Affirming statement:

All: As an Affirming Ministry we boldly declare that we fully welcome and include the full participation of all people in the life and work of Ministry as we journey together, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, marital status, mental or physical ability, beliefs, cultural backgrounds, or economic circumstance. We are dedicated to being good stewards of God's world, working and living towards justice and wholeness for all God's people.

(Words & music: Marty Haugen; French trans. David Fines, 2006

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1. Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children
tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

2. Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: R
3. Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground,
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: R
4. Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: R
5. Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: R

Scripture: Matthew 16:13-20

Response:

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

All: **Thanks be to God**

Hymn: VU 352 "I Danced in the Morning"

*(Words: Sydney Carter 1963; Music: Shake melody, adapt. and harm. Sydney Carter 1963 Words & harmony © 1963
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**1 I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.**

**Refrain: Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

**2 I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on. R**

**3 I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die. R**

**4 I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. R**

**5 They cut me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he. R**

Sermon: Who Do You Say Jesus Is?

Rev Katherine Brittain

Hymn: VU 365 "Jesus Loves Me"

(Words: v. 1 Anna Bartlett Warner, 1859, v. 2 and 3 David Rutherford McGuire 1970

Music: William Batchelder Bradbury 1862

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1. Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
in his love we shall be strong.

Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

2. Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me." R
3. Jesus loves me still today,
walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give
light and love to all who live. R

Affirmation of faith

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.
It sounds like welcome and feels like home.
It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy.
It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table,
so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

I have seen it alive in the world.
And even when my heart aches,
even when wars rage,
even when mercy feels out of reach,
I remember the one who welcomed the children
and led with nonviolence.
I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable
and inspired those around him.

I remember that the good news really is good news,
for I have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Minute for Mission

Invitation to Offering

Offering Hymn:

MV 62 "There is Room for All"

(Words & music: Bruce Harding, 2004; French trans. David Fines, 2006

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**There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;
There is room for all, sheltered in God's love.
And I rejoice and sing, "My refuge and my rock,
in whom I trust."
There is room for all, there is room for all!**

Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer (Unison)

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory,

For ever and ever. Amen.

Announcements: Life and Work of the Church

Hymn:

VU 716 "My Life Flows On"

(Words and music: Robert S. Lowry 1869, alt., Public Domain)

- 1. My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.
I hear the sweet, though far off hymn
that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear the music ringing:
It finds an echo in my soul—
how can I keep from singing?**
- 2. What though my joys and comforts die?
My Saviour still is living.
What though the shadows gather 'round?
A new song Christ is giving.
No storm can shake my inmost calm,
while to that Rock I'm clinging:
since Love commands both heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

- 3. When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,
and hear their death knells ringing:
when friends rejoice both far and near,
how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell and dungeon vile
our thoughts to them are winging:
when friends by shame are undefiled,
how can I keep from singing?**
- 4. I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin,
I see the blue above it;
and day by day this pathway smooths,
since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing:
all things are mine since I am Christ's—
how can I keep from singing?**

Commissioning and Benediction