

**EAST PLAINS UNITED CHURCH**  
**Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**Creation Time 2**  
**September 20, 2026**

**Gathering In Community**

**Prelude**

**Introit**

**Peace Greeting:** The first shall be last and the last shall be first. In holy wisdom, let us seek the peace and welfare of one another as we share signs of Christ's peace.

The peace of Christ be with you,

**And also with you**

**Opening Hymn**      Crashing Waters at Creation      VU: 449

**Territorial Acknowledgement**      Garth Smith

For thousands of years, Indigenous peoples have lived and journeyed on this land, weaving their identity and their spirituality intimately with the land.

We begin our worship by acknowledging that we live, work, and worship on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

May we grow into living with respect on this land, seeking reconciliation through peace and friendship, while honouring Indigenous ancestors who cherished this land.

**Words of Welcome**

**Theme Introduction**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**Call to Worship**

The wonders of God's abundant creation call out to us.  
We marvel at the magnificence of God.  
Yet God has entrusted all this to our stewardship.  
We marvel at the immensity of God's trust in us.  
God has given us all we need to live  
abundantly, joyfully, and generously.  
We come to worship God, creator of all.

**Opening Prayer**

Spirit, life, and soul of all creation,  
in moments of change,  
when everything we know starts to fade away  
and yet before we know what is coming,  
bless us with confidence  
in your wisdom and guidance.  
Remind us of the glory of the earth  
as the leaves begin to change.  
Help us to let go of what is no longer needed.  
Free us from holding tightly to old ways and habits  
when your Spirit calls us  
to a new day and a new way in creation.  
We pray in the name of Jesus,  
who shows us the way.

**Amen**

# Seeking to Grow Spiritually

## Prayer for Illumination

Garth Smith

Let us pray:

Your wisdom comes to us, Creating God, in word, in story, and in life.

As we listen to the scriptures, may your spirit stir in us.

May we open our hearts and our minds that the words may take root in our lives and grow into a strong foundation of faith, hope, and love.

As a deeper knowing stirs within us,

may we be part of your creating in the world.

Amen

## Hebrew Testament Reading

New Revised Standard Version

### Psalms 105: 1-6; 37-45

O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples.

<sup>2</sup> Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wonderful works.

<sup>3</sup> Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

<sup>4</sup> Seek the Lord and his strength;  
seek his presence continually.

<sup>5</sup> Remember the wonderful works he has done,  
his miracles and the judgments he has uttered,

<sup>6</sup> O offspring of his servant Abraham, [\[a\]](#)  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

Then he brought Israel [\[a\]](#) out with silver and gold,  
and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.

- <sup>38</sup> Egypt was glad when they departed,  
for dread of them had fallen upon it.
- <sup>39</sup> He spread a cloud for a covering  
and fire to give light by night.
- <sup>40</sup> They asked, and he brought quails  
and gave them food from heaven in abundance.
- <sup>41</sup> He opened the rock, and water gushed out;  
it flowed through the desert like a river.
- <sup>42</sup> For he remembered his holy promise  
and Abraham, his servant.
- <sup>43</sup> So he brought his people out with joy,  
his chosen ones with singing.
- <sup>44</sup> He gave them the lands of the nations,  
and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,
- <sup>45</sup> that they might keep his statutes  
and observe his laws.

**Praise the Lord!**

## **Epistle Reading**

**New Revised Standard Version**

### **Philippians 1: 21-30**

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. <sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, <sup>24</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup> so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

<sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of

the gospel <sup>28</sup> and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, <sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

**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

**Message**

Standing Firm In Faith

Reverend Jan

**Hymn**

O God, Whose First Creative Word

VU: 322

## **Responding In Care**

**Minute for Mission**

Richard Townsend

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Doxology**

For the Gift of Creation

VU: 538

**Offering Prayer**

**Living God, all of creation is yours;  
the earth is full of your riches.  
We are blessed to be nourished  
through all that you have provided.  
Ground of All Being,  
bless our gifts, we pray,  
and use them to sustain and improve**

**all of your 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**    God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness    VU:260

### **Commissioning**

### **Extinguishing the Christ Candle**

### **Benediction**

### **Three-fold Amen**

### **Postlude**

**Worship Resources:** *Gathering Magazine Pentecost 2, 2026 Year A*  
(page 9, 25-29); *Abingdon Worship Annual 2026* (pages 199-202);  
*Feasting On the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year*

*A, Volume 4* (pages 86-91); *Texts For Preaching: A Lectionary Commentary Based on the NRSV – Year A* (pages 487–493). *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer (2013). 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**

East Plains UC will be having its 51<sup>st</sup> Arts & Crafts Show and Sale “**Holiday Traditions**” on Sat, Nov 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-2:00 pm.

**VISTA Cards**— Orders are due next Sun, Sept 27<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds are applied to the EPUC General Fund. Call or email Gayle Burnison: 905-630-3525 or [gburnison@gmail.com](mailto:gburnison@gmail.com).

### **MEAT PIES**

The Support Group is making meat pies again, starting on Mon and Tues next week. Pies can be picked up or ordered for Tues, Sept 22. Call or email Gayle Burnison as above.

### **Jan's Journal**



IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER  
Ezekiel 47:9, 12

**Living Water**  
Season of Creation 2026

### **Creation 2**

This week, we mark the second Sunday in the Season of Creation. Our focus for worship will be the creation of relationships.

As Fall begins and programs resume following the summer hiatus, here are some opportunities which you might like to consider participating in:

As Callie mentioned in the Announcements last Sunday, United in Reconciliation events are offered from September 25<sup>th</sup> to September 27<sup>th</sup>, featuring Cree Author David Robertson.



On Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, from 12:30 pm to 2 pm, you may wish to participate in the sixth Annual "Walk to the Lighthouse" in support of Mental Health Programs at Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital. You can register to participate, or make a donation at:

<https://www.walktothelighthouse.com/>

September 30<sup>th</sup> is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The Sunday prior to this date, Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> is "Orange Shirt Day." Please wear something orange to worship on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> in recognition of this important day.

As we jump back into Church activities at East Plains

**Mark your Calendars:**

**Sunday, October 4, 2026:** World Communion Sunday

**Sunday, October 11, 2026:** Thanksgiving Sunday

**Sunday October 18, 2026:** World Food Sunday

**Sunday October 25, 2026:** Reverend Dr. Harold Wells will lead worship with a focus on climate change. October 24<sup>th</sup> is the "International Day of Climate Action"

**Monday, October 26, 2026:** Municipal Election Day ---- be sure to vote for Mayor, City Councillor and School Board Trustees.

**Saturday, November 7, 2026: The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Arts and Crafts Show and Sale**

If you have any questions or concerns about anything you have read here, you can reach me at:

[revjanmcc@gmail.com](mailto:revjanmcc@gmail.com) or on my cell phone: 905-630-8202.

Blessings,

Reverend Jan