

EAST PLAINS UNITED CHURCH
Twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost
Reformation/All Saints Day Service
November 1, 2026

Gathering In Community

Prelude

Introit

This Is the Day

by M. Blankenship

Happy Birthday

Peace Greeting: The saints of God are all around us. With eyes ready to see one another as we truly are, we share signs of Christ's peace this day.

The peace of Christ be with you,

And also with you

Opening Hymn

For All the Saints (vs 1,2,3, and 6) VU: 705

Territorial Acknowledgement

Callie Archer

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

Reverend Jan

Call to Worship

God is our dwelling place from year to year,
from age to age.

And yet, we become complacent,
forgetting who we are.

God reforms us,

and makes prosperous the work of our hands!

God's life surges forth through creation,
like the grass that renews every morning.

And yet, we prefer to be dust,
swept away in the wind of every
new idea and new fad.

God reforms us,

and makes prosperous the work of our hands!

God turns to us,
and has compassion on us,
so the great work of our lives
manifests Christ's glorious love to the world.

God reforms us,

and makes prosperous the work of our hands!

Let us worship God together!

Opening Prayer

Wondrous God, you called creation into being.
Two thousand years ago you lit a spark of new creation in Christ.

Five hundred years ago, your grace ignited the hearts of men called Martin Luther and Ulrich Zwingli.

Just when we think that all is settled, everything is finished, your power and presence explodes on the scene yet again, bringing newness, bringing life.

Fill us with your power and presence, O God,
so that we may, like our grandparents in faith
carry your truth, your beauty, and your justice to the world.
We praise and honour you in the true worship of our lives.

Amen

Hymn

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

VU: 651

Seeking to Grow Spiritually

Prayer for Illumination

Callie Archer

Let us pray:

We prefer you as an architect,
whose desire is to construct for us perfect lives.
And yet, the witness of the scriptures says otherwise.
No, your Word is explosive,
it is a live wire, one that electrifies
all who are within range.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
shine yet more light forth from your Holy Word,
shocking our hardened hearts back to life
with your freely given grace.

Amen

Psalm 34: 1-10; 22

I will bless the Lord at all times;

his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

² My soul makes its boast in the Lord;

let the humble hear and be glad.

³ O magnify the Lord with me,

and let us exalt his name together.

⁴ I sought the Lord, and he answered me

and delivered me from all my fears.

⁵ Look to him, and be radiant,

so your  faces shall never be ashamed.

⁶ This poor soul cried and was heard by the Lord

and was saved from every trouble.

⁷ The angel of the Lord encamps

around those who fear him and delivers them.

⁸ O taste and see that the Lord is good;

happy are those who take refuge in him.

⁹ O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,

for those who fear him have no want.

¹⁰ The young lions suffer want and hunger,

but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

²² The Lord redeems the life of his servants;

none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

New Testament Reading

New Revised Standard Version

Revelation 7: 9-17

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"

¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?"

¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶ They will hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat,

¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

Herein is Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Amen

Choir Anthem People Need the Lord, by P. McHugh and
G. Nelson, arranged by J. Purifoy

Message God's Ongoing Creation Reverend Jan

Responding In Care

Invitation to the Offering

Reverend Jan

Doxology

Grant Us God the Grace

VU: 540

Offering Prayer

**God of Creation, as we present our offering today,
we thank you:**

for blessing us with goodness and grace;

for teaching us and guiding us through your Holy Spirit;

for inviting us to be participants in your reconciling work.

Receive these gifts, O God,

use them to reform this community of faith

as you remake the world.

**May the offerings we bring this day be a sign of our
commitment**

to be known by your love.

Bless these offerings and our loving, we pray.

Amen

Pastoral Prayers

Reverend Jan

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

We Are Pilgrims

VU: 595

Commissioning

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Postlude

Worship Resources: *Gathering Magazine Pentecost 2, 2026 Year A* (page 16, 46–47); *Abingdon Worship Annual 2026* (pages 224–227); *Feasting On the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year A, Volume 4* (pages 218–241); United Church of Canada Worship Resources: A Service For Reformation Sunday. Accessed online. 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

Please join us after worship in The Gathering Place for refreshments served by the Christian Education Committee.

OUT-4-LUNCH on Mon, Nov 2nd served at 12 Noon, St. Matthew's on the Plains Anglican Church, 126 Plains Rd E, Burlington. Entry off REAR parking lot please. Thank you to all of the volunteers 😊

51st ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW AND SALE—Reminder to volunteers: If possible please park off-site on Saturday Nov 7th to make room for customers (parking behind WEE CARE plaza 1010 Downsview.) Also, on Fri, Nov 6th please park in east parking lot to leave room for artisans' access elevator. Thank you!

Jan's Journal



November 1st is All Saints Day, a day when we remember the "communion of saints" who have gone before us in faith and who have had an influence on our lives. All Saints Day follows "All Hallows Eve", which has become, today, our very commercial Hallowe'en.

October 31st is not only Hallowe'en, it is also the anniversary of the beginning of the Christian Reformation movement. On October 31st, 1517, Martin Luther nailed a list of his 95 theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther was a monk and a professor. His intention was to spark a debate about some practices of the Roman Catholic Church, most particularly the sale of indulgences.

He posted his letter to the local Archbishop on October 31st, because he knew that the church would be full on All Saints Day, and his letter would reach the greatest number of people. His actions sparked the Reformation movement which created the Protestant Church.

The **51st Annual Arts and Crafts Show and Sale** is just a week away! The excitement is building! Thank you to everyone who is working hard to make this event a huge success! Volunteers are still needed in some areas--- most particularly for the set up prior to Saturday and for the take-down after the sale closes. If you are able to help, or if you know of a student who is needing volunteer hours, a friend who just likes to help, or a willing family member----please contact Patti Martin.

On Thursday, October 29th the re-burial of the human remains found on church property took place. It was a beautiful autumn afternoon in the East Plains Cemetery. Members of the congregation who attended were joined by guests from Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive, The United Church of Canada Foundation, Burlington Historical Society, neighbouring local churches, representatives of Archaeological Research Associates Ltd., and others. Reporters from three local news providers were also in attendance, so keep an eye on The Hamilton Spectator, BurlingtonToday and InsideHalton for articles. BurlingtonToday and InsideHalton are both online news providers. There is a "Burlington Post" section included in InsideHalton.

Thank you to Pat Vollick and members of the Support Group, who provided refreshments for the reception which followed the service.

Janet Gardner, who has been leading the research through Archaeological Research Associates Ltd., spoke during the service. She provided some information about the research

process and also about the person whose remains were found. Janet shared that these are the remains of a non-Indigenous (the term used is "settler") female of middle age. She was probably buried in the location close to the church building before the cemetery was established. Probably around 1820-1830. Janet believes that her grave was disturbed initially, when the oil tank was put in, and then disturbed a second time as the tank was removed.

This person's remains are now buried within the cemetery proper. The next task is to place a marker at the grave. It is a tremendous relief to have the archaeological work and the burial completed. We can now move on to grading the affected area appropriately for good drainage away from the building. When that has been accomplished the new walkway can be paved!

The past sixteen months have been complicated and stressful. Thank you to Pat Vollick who, as Co-Chair of the EPUC Board of Trustees, has been the main liaison person with both Archaeological Research Associates Ltd. and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario. I cannot begin to guess how many hours Pat has spent on the numerous tasks this required. Thank you also to Gayle Burnison, Church Treasurer, who has managed all the donations received during the "Financial Challenge Campaign" as well as all the invoices for the research work required.

Thank you to Craig Boogers who acted as "Site Supervisor" for the removal of the oil tank and found himself involved in numerous other tasks related to moving earth, as the archaeological work began.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you to Morgan Perigo, Chair of EPUC Official Board for his leadership throughout this adventure!

Stay tuned for news as the next steps unfold!

Christmas is coming!! Advent Candle lighters will be needed for the four Sundays in Advent plus Christmas Eve. Please prayerfully consider whether this is something you would like to volunteer to do.

Mark your Calendar

Sunday, November 1st, 2026: All Saints/ Reformation Sunday

Saturday, November 7, 2026: The 51st Annual Arts and Crafts Show and Sale

Sunday, November 8, 2026: Remembrance/Peace Sunday

Sunday, November 15, 2026: Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, November 22, 2026: Reign of Christ Sunday (with Communion)

Sunday, November 29, 2026: First Sunday in Advent

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