Thornbury, Ontario

Grace United Church

Bold. Nurturing. Liberal. Christian.

November 8th, 2026

Find this service at www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live

Grace United Church – Rev. Dr. Brian Goodings
St. George's Anglican Church -
Rev. Canon Dr. Grayhame Bowcott
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church – Shirley Foster
Director of Music - Dr. Christopher Burton
Lay Reader - Debby Weale

Leader: regular font **~ All: bold font ~** ***Sung words: bold italics.***
Asterisk * Indicates when the congregation may stand if able.

PRELUDE:

A Selection of Hymns – C. Burton

Placing of Flags

National Anthem *"O Canada"* (Vu #524)

WELCOME:

OUR COMMITMENT to SAFER SPACE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of the LAND:

Grace United Church follows in Jesus' way of love and compassion. We are committed to being a safer spiritual home for people of all gender identities and sexual preferences. We do this by opening our hearts and listening to people's experiences.
In gratitude and respect, The United Church of Canada gathers, worships, and works on Indigenous lands across Canada.

LIGHTING the CHRIST CANDLE:

CALL to PEACE:

O God, how we would love harmony with creation and peace among us to reign throughout the world.

But children are terrorized, women are violated, men are killed and families are torn apart. Violence respects no boundaries.

We wage war because we cannot seem to find better solutions to confront evil…and the price we pay is very dear.

We dare to dream of a better world and in having faith of lasting peace in your future.

We dream and pray there comes a time when your kingdom values are taken to heart and practiced among us.

Set our lives on a creative path that leads away from violence and war.

We hear your call and seek to honour and reconcile our lives with the Way of Christ.

***HYMN: Vu #436 "*Abide With Me"**

1 Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O Christ, who changes not, abide with me.

3 I need your presence every passing hour;
what but your grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like yourself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

4 I have no fear with you at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
where is death's sting? Where, grave, your victory?
I triumph still, if you abide with me.

5 Hold now your cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Last Post

Moment of Silence

Lament (bagpipes by Eobhann Bruce)

Rouse

Act of Remembrance

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.

We will remember them.

SCRIPTURE READING: Micah 4:1-5 (Reign of God's Peace)

(New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's temple
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised up above the hills.
Peoples shall stream to it,

and many nations shall come and say:
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between many peoples
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more;
but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees,
and no one shall make them afraid,
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.
For all the peoples walk,
each in the name of its god,
but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God
forever and ever.

***<u>HYMN</u>: VU #684 "*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*"**

1 Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:
Refrain***:***
O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

2 Make me a channel of your peace:

where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
Refrain:
O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

3 Make me a channel of your peace:
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.
Refrain:
O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Reflection: Remembrance Day

In Flanders Fields
By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872-1918)
Canadian Army
Spoken by: Shirley Foster, St. Paul's Presbyterian

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,

Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields

CHOIR ANTHEM: "My Hope and Stay" - Jason Locke
Karen James on flute.

REFLECTION: Rev. Dr. Brian Goodings

PASTORAL PRAYER:
(Written by Chaplains of the Canadian Armed Forces)

Gracious God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, in memory and in hope, we come before you.
We bless you for your presence with us in our greatest joy and our most crushing sorrow.
We thank you for love and life; for friends and family.
Bless our remembering, O God.
God, be in our heads and understanding as we bring our memories into the light of your love.
On this Sunday of remembering, we offer prayers of thankfulness and care
for those who have gone before us, those who died that we might live,
who suffered and still suffer in defense of the dignity of all people.
We remember men and women who have struggled for peace, stood against evil,
sought justice with the sacrifice of their blood, their bodies, their minds, their futures, their lives -

in the European wars, in wars in Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Southern Africa, Latin America - wherever the human struggle for justice and hope has been fought with pain and sacrifice.

God, be in our hearts and thinking as we bring our memories into the light of your love.

And we remember that many throughout your world still live where war and terror,
violence and injustice, are part of daily life.
We remember those we do not know: children, men, women, and all your creatures
whose eyes have seen the darkness of war.
We ask your presence with them in struggles for justice and peace,
and with us as we try to discern how best to assist them.
For the healing of the nations, O God, we pray.

God, be in our heads and understanding as we bring our memories into the light of your love.

In memory of those who died in war, and in the firm and fervent hope of a just and lasting peace for all people, we ask that you pour your gift of healing grace upon us.
Comfort and strengthen those who suffer from oppression and natural disaster,
from hunger and isolation, from illness and sorrow.
And keep us all ever mindful of the peace that is more than the absence of war
the peace that is the presence of compassion and understanding, faith and hope, justice and love, throughout all creation.
Help us to build a world that has no room for hatred, no place for violence, a world in which love can live.

God, be in our hearts and thinking as we bring our memories into the light of your love and say together the words Jesus taught us to pray…Our Father who art in heaven… AMEN

INVITATION to the OFFERING:

God has laid a path before each of us. A path of caring for the least, of seeking justice for all, of faithfulness, compassion, forgiveness, and love. When you give a portion of what you have, freely and generously, you take another step on that path, which draws you closer to God. Let us be generous.

PRAYER of DEDICATION of OUR OFFERINGS:

Each gift given, on these offering plates, through Pre-Authorized Remittance, e-transfer, or any other way, is another step, as we walk your path, O God. As we draw closer to you, draw close to us. We do this and we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

DEDICATION HYMN: Hymn: VU #540

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.

Donate online: **www.graceunitedthornbury.ca**, *select "Donate" or contact the office by* ***email****: accounting@graceunitedthornbury.ca or* ***phone:*** *519-599-2438 to arrange a* ***cheque*** *pick-up, or an* ***e-transfer****.*
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Tap your debit card *at the door of the church, or Donate to Grace United Church Thornbury through* ***CanadaHelps.org****. Our account is set up with them now and it is easy to register. Tax receipts are given automatically at the time of giving.* ***Care, Prayer, Share***

News and Announcements from our participating churches

<u>CLOSING HYMN</u>: VU #806 *"O God Our Help in Ages Past"

1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

2 under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure,
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

5 Time like an ever-rolling stream
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

***<u>COMMISSIONING:</u>**

<u>BENEDICTION</u>: *"Go Now In Peace"

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day,
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, *within, around, above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen, amen, amen.
**alternate words: watching from above*

POSTLUDE: "Sheep May Safely Graze" - Bach/Burton

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Pastoral Prayer: *Written by Chaplains of the Canadian Armed Forces*

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Prelude: *Some Favourite Hymns – C. Burton*
Anthem: *"My Hope and Stay" - Jason Locke*
Postlude: *"Sheep May Safely Graze" - Bach/Burton*