EAST PLAINS UNITED CHURCH
Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost
November 15, 2026

Gathering In Community

Prelude

Choir Introit This Is the Day by M. Blankenship

Peace Greeting: Children of God, see the Spirit's presence in yourselves and in one another. Called to live as children of light, let us build one another up as we share signs of peace, and words of love.

The peace of Christ be with you,
And also with you

Opening Hymn God Is Here VU: 389

Territorial Acknowledgement Joyce Smith

Each part of creation reveals unique aspects of God the Creator, who is both in creation and beyond it. All aspects of creation, animate and inanimate, are related. All creation is good.
*We sing of the Creator, who made humans to live and to move and to have our being in God. In and with God, we can direct our lives toward right relationship with each other and with God. We can discover our place as one strand of the web of life.**
We acknowledge that we live, work, pray, and play on the Indigenous territory of the Anishinaabe Peoples, the Haudenosaunee Peoples, the Huron-Wendat Peoples, and the Mississaugas of the Credit Nation. With gratitude and respect for their stewardship of creation, we seek to live into right relationship with all.

*from *A Song of Faith*, The United Church of Canada, 2006.

Announcements Reverend Jan

Words of Welcome

Theme Introduction

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

We lift up our eyes to you, O God,
longing for a glimpse of your grace.
We watch for you---and wait,
trying to keep awake and aware,
trying not to fall asleep,
trying not to miss your presence,
trying not to miss our very lives.
Today, we come to you awake---
clothed in faith,
decked out in love,
wearing hope for all to see.
Come and meet us here, O God,
in your mercy and your grace.

Opening Prayer

Holy One, have mercy on us.
When we cannot take any more of this world,
we know that we must turn to you.
When our souls have had their fill of trouble and unease,
we seek your protection.
Help us put aside the ways of darkness
and live as children of light.
Amen

Hymn Open My Eyes, That I May See VU: 371

Seeking to Grow Spiritually

Prayer for Illumination Joyce Smith

Let us pray:
You, Beloved, do not live in darkness.
We will hear your Word as children of light.
When we live in Christ, we dwell in his light.
Let us wake from our slumber
and walk in the light of Christ.
Hearing God's Word,
may it move us to live aright.
Amen

Hebrew Testament Reading **New Revised Standard Version**
Judges 4: 1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord,
after Ehud died. 2 So the Lord sold them into the hand of
King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the
commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-
ha-goiim. 3 Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help,
for he had nine hundred chariots of iron and had oppressed
the Israelites cruelly twenty years.
4 At that time Deborah, a prophet, wife of Lappidoth, was
judging Israel. 5 She used to sit under the palm of Deborah
between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim,
and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. 6 She sent
and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in
Naphtali and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel,
commands you, 'Position yourself at Mount Tabor, taking
ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of
Zebulun. 7 I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army,
to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his
troops, and I will give him into your hand.' "

Gospel Reading **New Revised Standard Version**

Matthew 25: 14-30

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his
slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave
five talents, to another two, to another one, to each
according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the
one who had received the five talents went off and traded
with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way,
the one who had the two talents made two more talents.
18 But the one who had received the one talent went off
and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.
19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and
settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had
received the five talents came forward, bringing five more
talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents;
see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to
him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have
been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of
many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the
one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master,
you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two
more talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good
and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few
things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the
joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had received the
one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that
you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and
gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I
went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what
is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy
slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow
and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to
have invested my money with the bankers, and on my

return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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 Lord, Be with Us on This Day, by J. Althouse

Message Taking a Risk for God Reverend Jan

Hymn Take My Life and Let It Be VU: 506

Responding In Care

Minute For Mission Gail Lorimer

Invitation to the Offering Reverend Jan

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

Offering Prayer

Gracious God,

you have filled our lives with the protection of faith,

the guidance of love,

and the hope of salvation.

Take our lives, O God---

our time, our talent, and our treasure---

and use them to encourage the hopeless,

to build up the broken,

and to heal the wounded souls

in our world.

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 Go to the World VU: 420

Commissioning

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Postlude

Worship Resources: *Gathering Magazine Pentecost 2, 2026 Year A* (page 19, 31–39); *Abingdon Worship Annual 2026* (pages 232-236); *Feasting on the Word: Year A, Volume 4* (pages 308-313); *Texts For Preaching: A Lectionary Commentary Based on the NRSV – Year A* (pages 562–570). 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

FIRE SAFETY MEETING

Please be advised that a Fire Safety Meeting will be held immediately following the service today in the Gathering Place.

*<u>*All members of the congregation are welcome to attend*</u>*



<u>Jan's Journal</u>

Sunday November 15th is known as Children's Sunday. On this Sunday, we celebrate the gifts of young people in their own communities and around the world. We

also think of all the children who are suffering in war-torn regions and in refugee camps, around the world.

The week of November 13th to 19th is observed annually as Transgender Awareness Week.

This Sunday, we also think of the Transgender Day of Remembrance, which takes place annually on November 20th. On Friday, we will remember, honour, and mourn Transgender, 2-Spirit, non-binary, and gender-diverse individuals who have lost their lives through acts of anti-transgender violence, transphobia, and hate crimes. We also remember members of the transgender community who have died by suicide.

There will be a ***Fire Safety Presentation*** *following worship on Sunday. This is a requirement for all staff members, but will also be beneficial for everyone who uses the church building on a regular basis. Everyone is invited/encouraged to stay for the presentation.*

Last Sunday during the announcements in worship, Gayle Burnison announced the preliminary results of the 51st Annual Arts and Crafts Show and Sale--- $11,000 raised so far!! Wonderful! There will be more funds added this week as people claim silent auction items.

Halton Faith Network Advocating For the Unhoused *is conducting a Warm Winter Clothing Drive again this year. You may recall that East Plains participated last year. Donations of coats, hats, gloves, mitts and scarves plus warm wool socks are needed for those living on the streets to be warm this winter. Please bring your donations to the Gathering Place this week. Donations will be delivered to Port Nelson United Church on November 21st . Thank you to members of the Wider Work Team, who will make the delivery next Saturday morning.*

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 15, 2026:	*Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost*
November 13-19th:	*Transgender Awareness Week*
November 20th:	*Transgender Day of Remembrance*
Sunday, November 22, 2026:	*Reign of Christ Sunday (with Communion)*
Sunday, November 29, 2026:	*First Sunday in Advent*
Sunday, December 6, 2026	*Second Sunday in Advent*
Sunday, December 13, 2026	*Third Sunday in Advent*
Sunday, December 20, 2026	*Fourth Sunday in Advent*
Thursday, December 24, 2026	*Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m.*
Sunday, December 27, 2026	*First Sunday After Christmas Final Sunday in 2026*

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