September 20, 2026 – Order of Service with Guest Minister Rev. Lilian Patey

Light the Christ Candle

Introduction of Guest Minister: Rev. Lilian Patey

Welcome Thank you for your invitation to share your service, I look forward to meeting each of you. I am thankful for members of Palestinian Canadian Community Association, members that came with me this morning. You are welcome to visit with them after the service and get to know them.

Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory We are on the traditional territory of Indigenous peoples, the original caretakers of the land we are on. We honour their enduring connection to the land and acknowledge the history of colonialism and dispossession as a step towards reconciliation and building better relationships.

Call to Worship
L: May the love of Christ be with you as we gather now for worship.
P: And may the love of Christ be with you also in this service of praise.
L: Let our worship go beyond these walls in our caring for all we meet in need.
P: Let our hearts celebrate Christ as we serve God with gladness.
L: Let all we do for others bring glory and honour To Christ's name. Amen.

Gathering Hymn ***Open My Eyes, That I May See***, VU # 371

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.

Refrain
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wave notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Refrain

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Refrain

Prayer of Confession God of Justice, help us not to close our eyes on the suffering of people in our neighbourhood or in the world. We are reminded by the Psalmist in Psalm 55:4-5: "My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death have fallen upon me. Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overwhelms me". God have mercy on us, open our ears that we me hear Your loving call.

Words of Assurance There is forgiveness for all who accept the gracious gift of a loving God.
Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Offering & Prayer *-by Karen Boivin, Melville UC, Fergus, ON*
We offer these gifts today with a prayer for peace, especially in the lives of the world's children. Bring them the peace of a secure and loving home, where their needs can be met and their dreams can become reality. Amen.

Hymn ***What does the Lord Require of You***, VU # 701 (spoken)

What does the Lord require of you?
What does the Lord require of you?

Justice, kindness,
Walk humbly with your God.

To seek justice
And love kindness,
And walk humbly with your God.

Children's Ministry Children were asked if they ever had helped anyone, perhaps at school. Then Rev. Lilian retold the story of the Good Samaritan.

The Lord's Prayer

Children leave for Sunday School

Scripture Readings

Colossians 1:1-14 (NRSV)

The Word of God is bearing fruit in you, Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

Paul Thanks God for the Colossians

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 10:25-37 (NRSV) The Parable of the Good Samaritan

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbour as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Hymn ***How Great Thou Art***, VU # 238

O Lord my God,
when I in awesome wonder,
consider all
the works Thy hand hath made;
I see the stars,
I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout
the universe displayed.

Refrain
Then sings my soul,
my Saviour God to thee,
How great thou art,
how great thou art!
Then sings my soul,
my Saviour God to thee,
How great thou art,
how great thou art!

When through the woods
and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds
sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down
from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook
and feel the gentle breeze.
Refrain

But when I think, that God,
His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die,
I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross,
my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died
to take away my sin.
Refrain

When Christ shall come
with shout of acclamation
and take me home,
what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow
in humble adoration
and there proclaim,
'My God, how great thou art!'
Refrain

Reflection Dealing With Change

How do we deal with change? Change takes place in each of our lives whether we like it or not. Change can make us happy or it can make us sad. Often change takes place beyond our control.

Today I think of all that is going on in our world and the changes that are taking place. Every one of us has experienced some change in our life. Many of us had dreams on how we want our live to be but things happen

beyond our control. I would like to share with you some of the changes that took place in my family life as Palestinians.

When my parents got married, the lived in Haifa. My parents wanted children; my Dad had a plan: every time he had a child he would buy a plot of land. He was hoping that his children would get married and live close to each other. He never dreamt that we would lose everything he worked hard for and end up being a refugee in 1948! Eventually he was able to find work with the same bank that he worked with in Haifa but he had to work in Nablus while his wife and children lived on Mount of Olives at that time.

When I was young, my father used to take us from Jerusalem to Nablus, where he worked; when you drive the Roman road to Nablus, you drive a winding road around the mountain. It is very easy for thieves to stop your car and take everything you have.

Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan: A man was travelling; he was stopped by thieves, beaten up, and left on the side of the road. A Priest and a Levite just walked by and didn't stop to help the poor man. We can judge them as religious men who couldn't take the time to help the poor beaten man.

There is another aspect for the priest and the Levite for walking by and not helping the wounded man. It could have been that they were on their way to serve in the temple. They can defile themselves if they touch a wounded man; as far they see, he might have been dead. If they become unclean for touching the wounded man they would not be able to perform their duties to serve in the temple.

Remember the Samaritans and the Jews didn't want to have anything to do with each other. Jesus was telling the story to teach us that even the person we don't like, when we follow Jesus, loving and helping each other is doing what Jesus would want us to do. The Jews and the Samaritans were enemies at the time of Jesus. The enmity started when the Samaritans wanted to help build the temple in Jerusalem and the Jews refused to allow them to help.

By telling this story, Jesus is saying if we love God, we will love and help others, whatever nationalities they may be. Many Palestinians were like the Good Samaritan. When the Jews were running from persecution many countries wouldn't let them in but they came to Palestine where some Palestinians opened their homes and welcomed them.

Lately, I heard a Palestinian man tell his tory how he ended living in California: Before he was born his mother and father opened their home to a Jewish refugee family and invited them to live with them. All went well until the Palestinian man and his wife had to go to the hospital as they were expecting their first child. When they cam back home the locks on their home were changed and they could not go into their home. Whatever they did they could not go back in their own home; they became refugees. A terrible experience took place in their life.

Palestinians today in Israel suffer on a daily basis. Many of you heard about Gaza, 20,000 children killed. The children that are still alive, some anticipate their death, they now write their names on their arms and lefts to ensure if they are dismembered in death, those who come to bury them will know who they are and will put their parts back together.

The killing of children has been going on ever since I was a child. In 1948 by brother was carrying me as we ran for our lives. The Israeli soldiers were shooting and killing any Palestinian they could kill since they wanted our land. My brother jumped in a hole just as a bullet came by my earl. He said if he had not jumped in that hole I would have been killed. An hour before my brother died he was talking about how the Israeli soldiers were trying to kill us. He was a fast runner and was able to survive.

Over 750,000 Palestinians became refugees in 1948. Many villages were wiped out. Today, on a daily basis armed Israeli thieves go to Palestinian homes and kick the Palestinians out of their homes and take over their homes and possessions. We need people to speak out for human rights for all humanity. I am thankful for Jewish Voices for Peace who are speaking out for human rights.

The United Church is often relocated to speak out for the human rights of Palestinians. Around 1970 Al Forest, who was the editor of the United Church Observer Magazine, wrote the book ***The Unholy Land*** after living among the Palestinian refugees for about six months. After his book came out he was attacked by some clergy since some of them were given free tours by Israel to visit the so-called Holy Land. The Israeli government took them to places they wanted them to see. When they wanted to visit the Palestinians in refugee camps they told them it is dangerous. Those who left the group and went to visit the Palestinians refugee camps on their own found hospitality beyond their imagination; a much different picture that the Israelis were telling.

It is important that we learn from the refugees and listen to their stories. We need Good Samaritans who are willing to go the second mile. We can ask ourselves, "What would Jesus want me to do?" Jesus often stood with the poor and the oppressed. God calls us to work for justice and peace for all humanity and walk humbly with our God.

Thanks be to God. Amen

Prayers of the People -by G*ill Le Fevre, Walton Memorial UC, Oakville, ON*

Heavenly Father, be attentive to us we pray, as we share our hearts with you, our hopes, our fears, our joys, and our needs. Thank you for being an attentive God. And so today:

We pray for peace.

Loving God, we lament that there are so many parts of the world where violence endures. Comfort and restore the communities torn apart by bloodshed. Rescue all who are suffering the consequences of wars they did not start - poverty, famine, rape, torture - and grant each healing. May we remember that you taught us to reject aggression and seek reconciliation.

We pray for justice. Attentive God, we acknowledge that our world falls short of your desire for justice. Strengthen the resolve of all those who strive for justice for others. Guide our leaders that they may govern with wisdom and integrity. May we remember that your justice will one day prevail. Grant us mercy as we yearn for that day.

We pray for freedom. Liberating God, we give thanks for the freedoms and privileges we enjoy in Canada, and we mourn for the many places in the world where such freedom is restricted. We pray for all in Canada who do not experience the freedom and privileges to which they are entitled through our Canadian constitution.

Drive out judgment and oppression so that all your children may live whole and cherished lives. May we also remember that you have freed us from the burden of sin. May we respond by living in gratitude and renewal.

We pray for love. Glorious God, we give thanks for your abundant love, and the sacrifice of your son, Jesus the Christ, who shows us the enduring depth of your love. Inspire us to follow Jesus' example and help one another with compassion and caring. May we always remember that you taught us to love each other without judgment or reservation.

Heavenly Father, guide us to journey in the light of the Lord. Amen.

Parting Hymn ***I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry***, VU # 644

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light, you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in,
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

Benediction

Choral Amen

Extinguish the Christ Candle