October 25, 2026 - Peace Sunday with Denise Noddin leading Worship

Greeting/Welcome Welcome in the name of the Christ. Welcome to this place of worship, situated on the Traditional lands of the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation (an Anishinaabe community), Delaware Nation at Moraviantown, Munsee Delaware Nation (Lenape communities), and the Oneida Nation of the Thames (Haudenosaunee Confederacy). Welcome, you who are weary and in need of blessing. God will meet you here. Welcome, you who wonder what the point of all this is. God will meet you here. Welcome, you who rejoice at the abundance we have been given. God will meet you here! Amen.

Lighting of Christ Candle By lighting this candle, we remember who we are and whose we are in Christ, and we rejoice. Amen.

Ministry of Music ***Peace Like a River/Kum-by-Ya***

Gathering Prayer Holy and gracious God, we gather as seekers, lovers, disciples, and friends. We gather to give you thanks for the blessings of our lives and to replenish and refuel our spirits for the road ahead. We gather to learn the wisdom of your way and feel the warmth of your love. Bless our gathering as we join our hearts and minds together in worship. Amen.

Call to Worship -*written by David Sparks*

L: God is with us all the time: With us when the war clouds swirl;
P: with us, working for peace.
L: With us when there are fires and floods;
P: with us, enabling us to be helpers.
L: With us, meeting the needs of the lonely;
P: with us, giving an invitation to community.
L: With us when there is hard testing;
P: with us, encouraging patient endurance.
L: With us when the harvest fails;
P: with us, offering to share from our plenty.
L: With us when our faith is downplayed,
P: calling us to live out our Christianity, hour by hour and day by day.
L: When it seems the time of trial will never end,
P: in Christ, our hope is eternal. Amen.

Gathering Hymn ***Make Me a Channel of Your Peace***, VU # 684

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
Oh, 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.

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

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.

Children's Ministry -with Paul Donelan Paul is a drummer who leads our Drumming Circle
He told a story about God giving us each a drum – our heart. We can feel it and mimic the beating. Paul encouraged all of us to create a jellyroll (all standing in a line and wrapping around the first person in the line making layers like a jellyroll). We were asked to close our eyes and just listen to our own heartbeat. Then, as each was ready, was invited to start drumming like our heartbeat: thump-thump, pause. Amazingly even though there were 20 of us in the jellyroll, it didn't take long for everyone to be drumming to the same beat. Personal, whispered prayers were included as one liked.

Children's Prayer Heavenly Father, guide us in finding an inner peace that will spread into our every day lives making us stronger and more grounded members of our families, our communities and the world as a whole. Help us find peaceful meditations that will support our journey. Amen

The Lord's Prayer
Children leave for Sunday School

Offertory Prayer We seek to draw our circle wide, so that one day all will be fed, all will be safe, and peace and justice will flow for all God's creatures. Thank you, God, for these gifts, our way of sharing generously all that we have. May this offering bless the ministry of this community of faith. Amen.

Scripture Readings
John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
Micah: 6:8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.
Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Message *It is Peace Sunday*

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines peace as a state of tranquility a freedom from civil disturbance, from disturbances of people or noise. It's a state of order in the community. Peace is a freedom from oppression and a harmony in our relationships. It is a mutual accord between governments, an agreement to end hostilities.

Peace is a gift from God. In a perfect world, we would all live in harmony, embracing a peaceful existence, supporting justice and freedom for all. But this isn't a perfect world.

Like most of you, I watch the news. I'm troubled by the war between Ukraine and Russia; I'm horrified by the devastation in Gaza; I'm stunned to see fishing boats bombed in the Caribbean because the US suspects they're running drugs. I can't believe a Venezuelan leader could be kidnapped and oil from his country stolen. My heart aches for the people of Cuba, victims of greed, held hostage until they give up their sovereignty. The daily barrage of turmoil and political chaos weighs on my heart, as I'm sure it does for many of you. War, conflict, and violence are not the solutions!

The Dalai Lama said, "World peace begins with inner peace." It's the foundation for all other peace in the world to build." As one person I can't do much to change these international issues except to pray for peace and for level heads to prevail. I can support justice and work with others to maintain our social network of equality, mutual respect, and fairness to all. What I can do is work toward peace in my everyday life. Peace with God and my faith community; peace in my home and family relationships, and, most importantly, nurturing an inner peace within myself.

In our scripture readings this morning, John 14:27 Jesus says to his disciples, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." He reminds them that his gift of peace is not rooted in temporary solutions or based on circumstance, but in giving your anxieties over to faith, knowing that you are loved and protected. He reassures them that eternal peace will comfort them in the face of adversity. His peace is a deep, spiritual connection and we are reminded of God's unwavering presence. It's not about the absence of trouble and turmoil, but the assurance that you're not alone. Out comfort is in knowing God is with us – all the time!

The testimony of our lives is found in what we say, what we do, and how we live. In Micah 6:8 we read, "What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God."

Peace results from our faith. We hear God's call and we respond with action. We respond through our service; here, in our church, we find peace in our generosity: our givings to the Daffodil Auxiliary, West Elgin Community Health Centre, Harvest Hands, Grace Café, on top of supporting our faith community.

Our beliefs overcome discrimination and oppression, protecting the most vulnerable, and treating all people we meet with dignity and respect. Jimi Hendrix once said, "When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace." It's something we can all pray about. If we are at odds with our co-workers, our neighbours, or our family members, we need to work out our conflicts and choose to peacefully co-exist. Conflict is exhausting and solves little!

I like to think about the song ***Peace Like a River***. Imagine for a moment, the deep, relaxing waters rolling by, the resilience, the unstoppable strength of the water, the calm. This is where peace takes us, to a place of quiet and serenity, the place where we find nourishment, experiencing God's peace.

Here's a poem I found I want to share, called ***Finding Peace***, by Maya Anthony.

In the gentle morning breeze,
Peace whispers through the trees.
Birds sing a song so mild,
Nature's embrace, soft and wild.

In the quiet of the night,
Stars twinkle with soft light.
Moon's glow, calm and deep
In its arms our worries sleep.

With each breath, peace we find,
In heart, in soul, in mind.
Life's chaos slowly fades,
In serenity's gentle shades.

Today, on Peace Sunday, this is a reminder about who we are and who we are called to be. Let us all find the peace we need to live better, more meaningful and rich lives, the way God intended. Amen

Hymn *Let There Be Peace on Earth*, Songs for a Gospel People # 128

Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth,
the peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator,
Children all are we,
let us walk with each other
in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me:
let this be the moment now.
with every step I take,
let this be my solemn vow:
to take each moment
and live each moment
in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me.

Prayers of the People God our creator, our centre, our friend, we thank you for the circle of life inside which we are blessed. We thank you for your vision of peace and abundant life for all. We are grateful for those who are dear to us, for those who have died, and for all who have helped to form and shape us.
We take a moment now to remember those loved ones who are on our hearts this morning . . . (a time for silent prayer). Gracious God, most of all, we thank you for the faith that is in us, for our awareness of your presence, and for our hope in you and your ways. Keep us, we pray, ever thankful, faithful, and hopeful now and forever...

Benediction Go boldly into the world this week, confident that by the power of God's Spirit moving in you, you can make a difference, you can offer blessing. Let us share all that we are and all that we have so that the whole world might be blessed. Go now into your communities, demonstrating through your example that peace is the life we are called to.

Music Video ***The Blessing*** *-by Elevation Worship*

The Lord bless you and keep you
Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you
The Lord turn His face toward you
And give you peace
The Lord bless you and keep you
Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen, amen

May His favour be upon you
And a thousand generations
And your family and your children
And their children, and their children
May His presence go before you
And behind you, and beside you
All around you, and within you
He is with you, he is with you

In the morning, in the evening
In your coming, and your going
In your weeping, and rejoicing
He is for you, he is for you
He is for you, he is for you
Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen, amen

Choral Amen