

Glebe-St. James United Church

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026

Please note: the livestream camera only captures the chairs at the front of the church. Sitting in the pews or at the back will keep you off camera. During the theme conversation, only the backs of children's heads are shown. – The Worship Team

Gathered by God

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Be Thou My Vision

arranged by Dan Forrest and Douglas E. Wagner

Welcome

In the name of the Holy Mystery, who is Wholly Love,
we welcome you to Creator's House. Thanks be to God!

Good morning and welcome, everyone, to our worship service at Glebe-St. James United Church in downtown Ottawa on Sunday, July 5th.

My name is X and I am

We're so glad you're here today. Whether you're a first-time visitor or a longtime member, whether you are joining us in person or online, you are welcome and we hope you feel at home.

We are an Affirming Community of Faith in the United Church of Canada - a place of faith, love and community. We are committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment where people of all ages, backgrounds, and identities feel loved and supported.

Thank you for being here.

Announcements

DID613 – a peer support group for adults living with Dissociative Identity Disorder or Other Specified Dissociative Disorder – will meet July 8, 2026, 6 pm in the Art Room @ Glebe-St. James United. Contact Julia Hurrelmann for more information

Queer Space

Join us for Queer Space – every other Saturday at 6 pm in Lounge at Glebe-St. James United. We hope to see you on July 11th. Please enter through the Lyon Street door.

Roof Update

This week roofing materials, scaffolding, fencing, etc. was delivered to the Church. The real work will start on Monday. Hopefully less rain and lower temperatures are coming our way.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land where we gather in worship this morning is on traditional unceded Algonquin Territory. We recognize the two closest Algonquin First Nations communities: Kitigan Zibi and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan. We offer our gratitude for their stewardship of the land and water, the plants and the animals, through many generations. We also recognize that today Ottawa and the National Capital Region is a gathering place for First Nations, Inuit and Métis from across Canada.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Dance with the Spirit

MV 156

**Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-born-in',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.**

Call to Worship

You are invited to come with open hearts.

We come, held by God's patient and loving embrace of creation.

You are invited to learn more about how to live in the peace of Christ.

We come, knowing that the peace of Christ is among us.

You are invited to listen and learn, to sing and pray in Christ's name

We come, encouraged by the power of God's message of hope and all-encompassing love.

You are invited into deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice.

We are here, with hope, and trusting that Christ will meet us with compassion today and throughout our lives.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are united in worship.

Opening Prayer

God of loving welcome,

**You call us together in your name
to reflect on your word
and our life in your world.**

Be with us now as we sing and pray together,
That we may hear your voice and understand your way.
In the name of Jesus Christ, our hope and our strength. Amen.

Hymn Be Thou My Vision

VU 642

- 1 Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart
Naught be all else to me save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

- 2 Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever will thee and thou in my life.
Thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
Thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.**

- 4 Riches I need not, nor vain empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always,
Thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

Sign of Peace

Family of faith, God's grace is good news.
God's grace is worth celebrating!
So in the spirit of joy and abundant gratitude,
we are going to celebrate this gift by
passing the peace with our neighbours.

Friends, the peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you.

Hymn Peace for the Children

VU 639

**One more step along the world I go.
One more step along the world I go.
From the old things to the new
Keep me travelling along with you.**

Refrain

**And it's from the old I travel to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you.**

**Round the corner of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn
All the new things that I'll see,
You'll be looking at along with me. R**

**As I travel through the bad and good
Keep me travelling the way I should,
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way I know. R**

**Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough,
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me travelling along with you. R**

**You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me,
Ever old and ever new,
Keep me travelling along with you. R**

Listening for Wisdom

Theme Conversation

Love is Sharing

Today I will tell you a little story that I heard from Ralph Milten, a storyteller for the Mission and Service work in the United Church.

He saw a poor girl in an African village. She had two siblings and together with many others she was waiting in a long line-up for food and like the others, she was gaunt and had stick legs and arms and sad eyes. The relief worker could tell that without food the children would die soon.

The line of people waiting moved very slowly and the worker saw that soon they would not have enough food for all those in need. When the helper finally came to the little girl, all he had left was a single banana.

She accepted it with a quiet smile and thanked him. She walked with the two younger children to sit on a log, one on each side of her. She opened the banana, broke it carefully in two equal parts and gave half to one child and half to the other... and then she licked the peel. 'I swear', said the relief worker *that in that moment I saw the face of God.* '

Dear God, Thank you for showing us your way of love and sharing.
Please help me to be more grateful for all I have and to share with those in need. Amen.

Hymn Little by Little (*Verses 1 and 2*)

TLUS 134

**Little by little by little.
Little by little by little.
Little by little by little I know,
The tiniest seed will grow.**

**Habits of peace and justice,
habits of peace and justice,
habits of peace and justice:
tools to change our world.**

**Little by little by little.
Little by little by little.
Little by little by little I know,
The tiniest seed will grow.**

Prayer for Wisdom

Be with us, Loving Spirit,
inspire our hearts
as we lean into Scripture,
that we might understand
in a new and fresh way,
your Word of Life. Amen.

Scripture Romans 7:15-25a

Geoff McGuire

I do not understand what I do; for I don't do what I would like to do, but instead I do what I hate. Since what I do is what I don't want to do, this shows that I agree that the Law is right. So, I am not really the one who does this thing; rather it is the sin that lives in me. I know that good does not live in me—that is, in my human nature. For even though the desire to do

good is in me, I am not able to do it. I don't do the good I want to do; instead, I do the evil that I do not want to do. If I do what I don't want to do, this means that I am no longer the one who does it; instead, it is the sin that lives in me.

So I find that this law is at work: when I want to do what is good, what is evil is the only choice I have. My inner being delights in the law of God. But I see a different law at work in my body—a law that fights against the law which my mind approves of. It makes me a prisoner to the law of sin which is at work in my body. What an unhappy man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is taking me to death? Thanks be to God, who does this through our Lord Jesus Christ!

This is wisdom from Paul's Epistle to the Romans.

Gift of Music

What Does The Lord Require of Us ?

Micah 6:8

Reflection

Edith Gardell

How much is Enough?

Over millennia, story telling has become the art of reflecting on human nature, its triumphs and failures. From the Iliad saga to the Faust-Mephisto drama, they all speak of the fight between good and evil on the battlefield of the human soul.

The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Romans describes this inner struggle: The desire to the good is in us, but I am not able to adjust. The sin is in me. No matter how much we achieve in life and how much we think we need to make a difference compared with others, in the end we are all the same.

Leo Tolstoy, the great Russian storyteller, knows the depths of the human soul and tells us the gripping tale of Pachom, the farmer who was caught in Mephisto's devilish, seductive ploy through his greed.

As a hired farm hand, Pachom longed for a piece of land of his own. It just so happened that Mephisto, in merchant's disguise, passed by and spoke of opportunities for land purchase not far away. Pachom acted on that tip and was able to use his meager savings to work out conditions to own that land. At first, he was happy, but again a passer-by, again no other than the Devil, casually mentioned an available strip of very fertile land not far away. Pachom rapidly sold what he had and acquired the better acreage. For a short while he enjoyed the rich harvest from the land and the hired hand who now worked for him.

One day, a carpet seller passed by and mentioned large areas of rich lands for sale in the distant Bashkir province. The Bashkirs are stupid and sell their land very cheaply: Just bring a box of tea and some presents. The message stayed with him and awoke his desire to become a richer landowner, until he could not resist. He left the farm with his wife, took only his trusted servant with him and travelled seven days. He was determined to purchase the estate in the Bashkir province and become a land baron on wide, juicy meadows, with servants and a herd of cattle.

The Bashkirs welcomed him with open arms and liked him so much that they wanted to give him all the land he wanted for free. However, the Chief Elder had to be asked first. And the Elder was the devil disguised in a fox pelt hat to hide his horns. He clarified the conditions for the deal: Pachom would leave his money on the table and, in exchange, all the land that he could walk around in one day from sunrise to sunset would be his. The only condition: If he did not reach the hill by sunset, his money would be lost. They would meet early next morning on the village hill.

Pachom could not sleep that night, although his bed was soft and warm in the Bashkir yurt tent. He planned his next day and imagined how he could easily walk around 50 acres; he would sell the less valuable land and work the rich acreage; he would plough, buy new cattle, hire new farm hands and profit handsomely. Finally, when he fell into a light slumber he heard someone laugh loudly outside and looked: It was the Elder, who was sitting on the floor, holding his belly, laughing. And then he was no longer the village Elder, but the merchant, and then the carpet dealer and they all laughed and they became the Devil.

He woke up and brushed the silly dream aside. The contract was clear. He walked up the hill and saw the Bashkirs, just as the first sun rays appeared on the horizon. He and his servant walked briskly westward in morning breeze, taking in a long tract of rich valley land and dug a small hole as a marker. He turned but with a detour to get in a nice meadow, ideal for grazing cattle. It became hotter, he drank and took his shirt off. He now sweated profusely under the stinging sun. Far away he saw the ant-sized Bashkirs waving on the hill. He walked on, his steps became heavier and his breath more laboured in the heat. He placed another marker and decided to turn toward the hill, as the sun was sinking and he had still a long way to walk. He began to fear that he would be too slow and not reach the hill in time. But no, on the hill the sun would still be there, even as it was barely visible on the bottom. He collected all his strength and stumbled uphill. His breath rattled, he crawled the last steps up to the table and fell down, as he touched it. His eyes broke and in his death, he saw the Bashkir Chief was really the merchant and the carpet dealer, and the laughing face of Mephisto, the Evil One, who laughed and triumphantly grabbed the purse with the money.

Pachom's helper dug his grave, six feet deep, six feet long, and fitted him in; exactly the amount of earth he needed.

In Matthew 16, 26, the evangelist asks us: "Will a person gain anything if he wins the whole world but loses his life? Of course not!"

Paul is the first authentic writer and witness for Jesus' teachings. He learned directly from him and reminds us in the letter to the Romans of the divine Law, the Holy Spirit and the way we live this out in our lives. He confirms what Jesus knew from the prophet Micah that we are called "to do justice, and love kindness, and be humble before our God."

Our biblical tradition tells us that with bread to sustain and strengthen us, water to revive and refresh us, and our communion in compassionate faith we have enough for our life's journey.

Even in our weakness, with our sins and trespasses we are one with God through our faith. We make errors, we are imperfect, we stumble: However, Paul encourages us to remain strong in our faith. Through the grace of the Holy One and the Holy Spirit we can be just, kind and humble people before God.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Responding in Thanksgiving

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

**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.**

**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. R**

**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. R**

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.**

Invitation to Give

One of the ways we demonstrate our love as disciples of Christian faith is in responding through our collection. There are many ways of serving. Thank you for all your gifts, in the name of Jesus, our compassionate teacher. Amen

Offering Hymn We Give You But Your Own

VU 542

**We Give you but your own,
Whate'er the gift may be
All that we have is yours alne,
We give it gratefully.**

Offering Prayer

Loving Creator of All,
Your Holy Spirit calls us into service,
Into compassion and generosity.
We give what we can with open hearts
And inspired by our faith.
We pray that our offerings may reflect our faith in action
toward a world of love, justice, and humility,
In the name of Jesus, our Lord and teacher.
Amen.

O Holy, O Blessed, O God, hear our prayer.

O Holy, O Blessed, O God, hear our prayer.

Prayer of Jesus

Our Mother and 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, the power,
and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

Sent by the Spirit

Hymn I See A New Heaven

VU 713

Refrain:

I see a new heaven, I see a new earth,
As the old one will pass away,
Where the fountain of life flows
And without price goes
To all people who abide to the land

There , there on the banks of a river bright and free,
Yielding her fruit, firm in her root,
The tree of life will be. R

**There, there where death dies and our lives are born again,
Body and soul, struggling but whole
Like flowers after the rain. R**

**There, there where the darkness brings visions from above.
There where the night bearing new light
Reveals the promise of love. R**

**There, there where we work with the love of healing hands.
Labour we must, true to our trust
To build a promised new land. R**

Refrain:

**I see a new heaven, I see a new earth,
As the old one will pass away,
Where the fountain of life flows
And without price goes
To all people who abide to the land**

Commissioning

Go now out into this world with a growing and glowing love of Christ's message.

The world is waiting.

The world is waiting to see our kindness, our sense of justice and humility, and our actions.

And in all you do, do it inspired by the love of Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Saviour and our Hope.

And now let us sing:

Sung Amen

VU 974

Music to Send Us Forth

Postlude on "Hymn to Joy"

Jason D. Payne

End of Worship | Beginning of Service

Welcome to Glebe-St. James United Church.
Thank you for joining with us for our morning worship.

Please join us in Fraser Hall, following the service
for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

Musical Acknowledgements

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Summer services – 10 am

Once again, this summer we will join with St. Giles Presbyterian and Southminster United over the summer. Services will be held here at Glebe-St. James on

July 12th – Ruth Burnett-Cole presiding

July 19th – Joanne Tanner presiding

Southminster will host on July 26, August 2 & 9th and

St. Giles on August 16, 23 & 30th.

We are back at Glebe-St. James on September 6th.

Summer Hours

Jennifer will be in and out of the office during July. She is planning on working mornings, 9 am to 12 Noon. She will keep us updated in the e-updates. You can reach her by phone (613-236-0617, x 221) or by e-mail (admin@glebestjames.ca) throughout the summer.

Rev. Teresa is currently on Study leave and then will go on Holidays. She will return on Sunday, September 6th

Paul is around for the three summer services in July here at Glebe-St. James. You may see him puttering around in the garden as well.

There is no official Children's Church program during the summer. Kayla will return in September.

Lori continues to be here on Mondays.

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