

Glebe-St. James United Church

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 14, 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

Improvisation by Francis Armour

Welcome

Pam Fitch

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, June 14.

My name is Pam Fitch and I am Past Chair of Council and I sing in the choir.

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.

This means you are welcome here just as you are: no explanations, no needing to change yourself. **You** are welcome here – with all the complexities of who you are and where you've been. **You** are a beloved child of God and we thank you for joining us today.

Announcements

Paul Grose is away attending an out-of-town wedding. We welcome Francis Armour as our guest organist and choir director. Francis is a University of Ottawa student and Organ Scholar.

Strawberry Social – On June 21st during coffee hour we will celebrate the end of the Children’s Church until September. Enjoy strawberries, with biscuits and freshly whipped cream, coffee, tea or lemonade! By Donation, to raise funds for Outreach initiatives.

We will also be celebrating our staff on June 21st.

Summer services – Once again, this summer we will join with St. Giles Presbyterian and Southminster United at 10 am over the summer. Services will be held here at Glebe-St. James on July 5, 12 and 19th. 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.

Men & Friends’ Potluck – June 17th in the Art Room. A bit early in June as the backcountry calls. Let’s talk about our summer plans and I will explain why we need a Bunkie at Frank’s Lake for the grandkids! Please come for 5:30 pm. Dinner at 6:00 pm. Cleaned up and gone by 7:30 pm for those going to Council that evening.

Land Acknowledgement

Marsha Hay Snyder

In our culture we collectively, typically, think about the environment when we’ve created a problem to be solved. It becomes a thorny issue, addressed in the realm of politics or economics. Last Sunday as I listened to Wendy speak about the Ojibwe Spirit Horses and their connection to the people, to Indigenous knowledge and the land, I reflected on how profoundly differently Indigenous people relate to the environment.

During June, National Indigenous History Month, these connections will be highlighted in various ways. In the context of GSJ’s strawberry social, next Sunday, we’ll be reminded of the sacredness of the wild strawberry which represents love and community. We planted an Indigenous garden here at

GSJ, where we grow the sacred medicines of cedar, sage, sweetgrass and tobacco, as a measure of awareness and respect for Indigenous culture. We will listen to Indigenous speakers who will introduce themselves with their traditional names, often associated with nature or animals.

Indigenous people recognize an interdependency between humans and the environment. From this understanding that human and ecological well-being cannot be separated, flows a natural stewardship of the land and the creatures that inhabit it. Indigenous people keep creation in the forefront of their minds and daily activities through ceremony, stories, the arts and the names they are given when they come of age. How much easier it would be for us to respect and care for our environment if we too could develop a personal relationship with the life around us.

We acknowledge that we live and worship on the traditional unceded, unsurrendered land of the Algonquin First Nations and are grateful for the gifts shared with us by Indigenous people and their ancestors.

Candle Lighting 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

Come, people of God, from busy lives and crowded schedules.

We come seeking the presence of the One who sees us and loves us.

Jesus looked upon the crowds with compassion.

May we learn to see one another through eyes of compassion.

Christ saw people who were weary, burdened, and longing for hope.

We bring our joys and concerns, our hopes and our struggles.

Christ calls ordinary people to share extraordinary love.

We are called to be bearers of healing, justice, and peace.

In a world where many are excluded, God creates a community of welcome.

We celebrate the sacred worth and dignity of every person.

In a world where many are hungry, God calls us to share what we have.

We will seek to love our neighbours in word and action.

Come, let us worship the God of compassion, who equips us for the work of love.

Let us worship together with grateful hearts. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Compassionate God,

Jesus looked upon the crowds and saw people who were weary and burdened, longing for hope, healing, and belonging. As we gather this day, help us to trust that you see us in the same way—with love, understanding, and compassion.

Open our eyes to the needs of the world around us. Where there is hunger, move us to share. Where there is loneliness, move us to reach out. Where there is injustice, move us to seek change. Where there is fear, move us to embody your peace.

Remind us that your Spirit calls ordinary people into extraordinary acts of love. We are not gathered here simply to receive comfort, but to be equipped for service; not only to hear good news, but to become good news for others. Bless this community of faith. Strengthen us in our commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, to the full inclusion of LGBTQIA2S+ people, and to the work of building a world where all are treated with dignity and respect. May our words and actions reflect your dream of justice, compassion, and abundant life for all.

As we worship, quiet the noise within us. Renew our spirits. Inspire our hearts. And send us out more ready to follow the way of Jesus.

We pray in the name of the One who taught, healed, welcomed, and loved without measure. Amen.

Refrain:

**Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend
Oh a song must rise once again (again)
Singing out God's praises and glory,
the faithful voices blend,
Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend. (descend)**

- 1. From the mountains to the valleys,
from the desert to the sea,
a song must rise once again. (again)
From the voices of our leaders,
the voice of you and me,
a song must rise for the spirit to descend.**

- 2. From poverty and riches,
from the voice of young and old,
a song must rise once again. (again)
From the free and the imprisoned,
the timid and the bold,
a song must rise for the spirit to descend.**

- 3. From ev'ry house of worship,
in ev'ry faith and tongue,
a song must rise once again. (again)
From the villages and cities
a new song must be sung,
a song must rise for the spirit to descend.**

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

MV 149

1. **Peace for the children, peace, peace.
Peace for the children we pray.
Following the path of One of peace,
we work for healing, we work for peace;
peace for the children today.**

7. **Peace for the planet, peace, peace.
Peace for the planet, we pray.
Following the path of One of peace,
We work for healing, we work for peace,
Peace for the children today.**

Listening for Wisdom

Theme Conversation Seeing with Kind Eyes

Leader: Good morning, friends!

I have a question for you. Can you show me your eyes?

(Children point to their eyes.)

What do your eyes help you do?

(Take a few answers: see, look, find things, etc.)

That's right! Our eyes help us see.

But today we're going to talk about another kind of seeing.

Leader: Suppose you see someone sitting all alone on the playground.

What could you do?

(Take answers.) Yes! You could say hello. You could invite them to play.

Suppose you see someone who is sad. What could you do?

(Take answers.) You could smile, give a hug if they want one, or ask if they're okay.

Suppose you see someone who is hungry. What could we do?

(Answers.) We could share food. We could help collect food for people who need it.

Leader: In our Bible story, Jesus looked at lots and lots of people.
When Jesus looked at them, he didn't just see faces.
He saw people who needed love.
He saw people who needed help.
He saw people who needed friends.
And Jesus wanted to help them.
Then Jesus asked his friends to help too!

Let's practice.
When I say, "What did Jesus see?" you say, "People to love!"
What did Jesus see?
Children: People to love!
What did Jesus see?
Children: People to love!
What did Jesus see?
Children: People to love!

Leader: That's our job too.
At school.
At daycare.
At home.
At church.
When we see people, we can remember:
God loves everyone.
Can you say that with me?
God loves everyone.
Again!
God loves everyone.

Prayer

Dear God,
Thank you for our eyes.
Help us see people the way Jesus did.
Help us notice when someone needs a friend.
Help us share, help, and be kind.
And remind us that everyone is loved by you.
Amen.

**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 Matthew 9:35-10:8

Donna-Fay Mailhot

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.”

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his

brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

This is wisdom from the gospel of Matthew.

Gift of Music

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

African-American Spiritual,
Arranged by Wendall Whelum

I'm gonna live so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Reflection Seeing What Jesus Sees

Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole

One of the great spiritual questions is this:

What do we see when we look at other people?

Do we see strangers or neighbours?

Problems or possibilities?

Labels or beloved children of God?

The answer matters, because what we see shapes how we live.

In today's gospel, Matthew tells us that Jesus traveled through towns and villages, teaching, proclaiming good news, and healing. But then the story pauses for a moment. Jesus stops and looks at the crowds.

And what he sees changes everything.

Matthew writes, "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

Jesus looks at people and sees their struggles.

Not their achievements.

Not their social status.

Not whether they are worthy or unworthy.

He sees their humanity.

And he responds with compassion.

That word "compassion" is important. It is much stronger than sympathy. Sympathy says, "I feel sorry for you." Compassion says, "Your pain touches me, and I am moved to respond."

Compassion is love that gets up from the chair.

Compassion is love that takes action.

That is the heart of Jesus' ministry.

And perhaps it is the heart of ours as well.

The challenge is that compassion requires us to see what is really there.

That is not always easy.

We live in a world that encourages us to look away.

When we see someone sleeping in a doorway, we look away.

When we hear about another tragedy in the news, we turn the page.

When we encounter suffering that feels overwhelming, we tell ourselves there is nothing we can do.

Sometimes looking away feels easier than looking closely.

Yet Jesus keeps looking.

He sees the crowds.

He sees people exhausted by systems that do not care for them.

He sees people carrying burdens they were never meant to carry alone.

And if Jesus were walking through our communities today, what might he see?

He might see families struggling with the cost of groceries and rent.

He might see seniors living in isolation.

He might see young people anxious about climate change and an uncertain future.

He might see Indigenous communities still living with the consequences of colonial policies, broken promises, and intergenerational trauma.

He might see LGBTQ+ youth wondering whether they will be accepted for who they are.

He might see people grieving losses that nobody else notices.

And Matthew tells us that Jesus would not turn away.

He would be moved with compassion.

The question for us is whether we are willing to see what Jesus sees.

Then Jesus says something remarkable:

"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few."

Often we hear this as a plea for more volunteers in the church.

And perhaps it is that.

But I think Jesus is saying something even deeper.

The harvest is plentiful because there are so many opportunities to share God's love.

There are so many people longing for hope.

So many people searching for belonging.

So many people waiting for someone to tell them that they matter.

The need is enormous.

Not because people are spiritually empty, but because they are spiritually hungry.

And then Jesus does something surprising.

He gathers twelve ordinary people and sends them out.

Notice who they are.

Not religious experts.

Not political leaders.

Not wealthy benefactors.

Just ordinary people.

People with strengths and flaws.

People who often misunderstand Jesus.

People who will make mistakes.

In other words, people very much like us.

This is one of the most encouraging aspects of the gospel.

Jesus does not wait for perfect people.

If he did, there would be no disciples.

And there would be no church.

Instead, Jesus calls ordinary people and invites them to participate in extraordinary work.

The work of healing.

The work of reconciliation.

The work of hope.

The work of love.

Sometimes churches imagine that ministry belongs to clergy.

Or to committees.

Or to people with special gifts.

But in this story Jesus sends everyone.

The ministry belongs to the whole community.

The person organizing food-bank donations is doing ministry.

The person visiting someone who is lonely is doing ministry.

The person advocating for Indigenous justice is doing ministry.

The person standing beside a transgender teenager and saying, "You are loved exactly as you are," is doing ministry.

The person offering kindness to a struggling neighbour is doing ministry.

The person who reaches out with a friendly call is doing ministry.

Jesus sends ordinary people into ordinary places to do extraordinary things.

Then he gives them a simple mission:

"Proclaim the good news. Cure the sick. Raise the dead. Cleanse the lepers. Cast out demons."

At first glance that sounds impossible.

Most of us have never raised the dead.

Most of us do not think of ourselves as miracle workers.

But perhaps Jesus is describing a way of living rather than a set of supernatural accomplishments.

Whenever we bring hope where there is despair, we participate in resurrection.

Whenever we help restore someone's dignity, we participate in healing.

Whenever we challenge forces that diminish human life, we confront the demons of our own age.

Whenever we create communities of welcome and belonging, we proclaim good news.

The church's mission is not simply to talk about God's love.

It is to embody God's love.

To make it visible.

To make it tangible.

To make it real.

And then Jesus says one final thing:

"You received without payment; give without payment."

In other words, remember where everything begins.

The love of God is a gift.

Grace is a gift.

Forgiveness is a gift.

Life itself is a gift.

We do not earn these things.

We receive them.

And because we have received them freely, we are invited to share them freely.

That is what this congregation does every time it gathers food for the food bank.

That is what happens every time we welcome people without asking them to prove their worthiness.

That is what happens every time we choose generosity over scarcity, inclusion over exclusion, compassion over judgment.

We become signs of God's gift to the world.

The story begins with Jesus looking at the crowds.

Perhaps that is where discipleship begins as well.

Looking.

Paying attention.

Refusing to turn away.

Seeing people not as problems to solve, but as beloved children of God.

And then responding with compassion.

Because compassion is where the gospel starts.

Compassion is where ministry begins.

Compassion is how God's love becomes visible in the world.

May God give us eyes to see what Jesus sees.

And hearts courageous enough to respond. Amen.

Responding in Thanksgiving

Hymn Open My Eyes, That I Might See

VU 371

- 1** 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.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

- 2** Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

- 3** 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.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Invitation to Give

One of the ways we demonstrate our courage in responding is through our collection. To say we are a community that supports flourishing life, means we must create space in our community for difference, for healing, for generosity. The ushers may now come forward to collect our tithes and offerings. Thank you.

Offering Meditation

Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein

Johann Sebastian Bach

- 1 Your work, O God, needs many hands
to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve
unless our gifts we share.**

- 2 Because we love you and your work,
our offering now we make:
be pleased to use it as your own,
we ask for Jesus' sake.**

Offering Prayer

Compassionate God,
You have looked upon the world with love and entrusted us with the work of
sharing that love with others.

We bring these gifts, grateful for all that we have received. Bless them, and
bless us, that together they may become signs of your healing presence in the
world.

Use these offerings to feed the hungry, comfort the lonely, support the
vulnerable, and strengthen the work of justice and reconciliation. May they
help build communities where all are welcomed, where diversity is
celebrated, and where every person is treated with dignity and respect.
As Jesus sent the disciples to share good news, send us also. May we offer
not only our money, but our compassion, our courage, our voices, and our
hands in service to your kin-dom of love and peace.

In the spirit of Christ, who freely gave and freely loved, we pray.
Amen.

Prayers of the People O Holy

Pat Mayberry

**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 Draw the Circle Wide

MV 145

Refrain: Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

1. God the still point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms.
2. Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call.
3. Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door.

Sending Forth

Go now into the world with the compassion of Christ.

We will seek to see others as God sees them.

Go to those who are weary and burdened.

We will offer kindness, hope, and companionship.

Go places where injustice wounds God's children.

We will work for healing, reconciliation, and peace.

Go to those who hunger—for food, for dignity, for belonging.

We will share what we have and advocate for a more just world.

Remember that you do not go alone. The Spirit of God goes before you, beside you, and within you.

We go in faith, trusting God's love to guide us.

May the God of compassion strengthen your hearts, the Christ who sends disciples inspire your steps, and the Holy Spirit empower you to be bearers of good news wherever you go.

And so we sing...

Sung Amen

VU 974

Music for the Journey Litanies

Jehan Alain

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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Glebe-St. James United Church

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