

Glebe-St. James United Church

Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 7, 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

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (Prayer of St. Francis)

Welcome

Marsha Hay Snyder

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 7.

My name is Marsha Hay Snyder and I am a member of Church Council.

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

The loan documents have been signed and roof repair work should start in early July. Please note that there will be NO parking in the Church parking lot in July & August. All will be kept updated through the e-update and the website.

Some upcoming events:

- June 8th The Mad Hatters Tea Party, 4:45 in the Sanctuary
- June 10th Inaugural meeting of DID613, 6 pm in the Art Room
- June 13th Puzzle Sale, 2-4 Fraser Hall
- June 17th Men & Friends, come at 5:30 for dinner at 6 Council – in-person, 7:30 pm
- June 21st Strawberry Social following worship

Land Acknowledgement

Wendy Bergeron

Each Sunday, prior to our worship service, we formally recognize that all the spaces in which we gather – whether for worship, work or play – are situated on unceded and unsundered territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe peoples. At Glebe-St. James, we have expanded this practice beyond a simple statement of acknowledgement to a learning opportunity so we can deepen our knowledge of Indigenous cultures and worldviews.

Anyone who knows me knows of my deep love for horses – my happy place is working with horses on the days I spend volunteering at a therapeutic riding program outside of Ottawa.

Now imagine a time when horses roamed the traditional lands of Turtle Island - which they did freely for thousands of years before other horse breeds were introduced by Europeans.

Throughout their long-shared history, Indigenous Peoples have enjoyed a harmonious spiritual and working relationship with Ojibwe Spirit Horses, Canada's only Indigenous horse breed. In the early 1900s, thousands of Ojibwe Spirit Horses could be found in Indigenous communities across Ontario. However, colonizers viewed the horses as a nuisance for eating their crops and ruining their fields and they were hunted almost to extinction – at

one time, only 4 horses were left. But through the efforts of a few Indigenous communities, their numbers are now being lovingly revitalized through dedicated stewardship and care and the herd now numbers close to 200.

Known for their intelligence, resilience, and deep connection to people, Ojibwe Spirit Horses carry generations of Indigenous knowledge and relationship with the land. Their distinctive features, including iron-hard hooves, thick manes, protective nose flaps, and hairy ears help them to move with ease across snowy, rocky, and forested terrain and to withstand Canada's harsh winters.

If you would like to know more, come meet these incredible relatives at Madahoki Farm outside of Ottawa.

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, all who are seeking hope and healing.

We come, trusting that God's love welcomes us.

Come, all who have known exclusion, judgment, or rejection.

We come, trusting that there is room for us at Christ's table.

Come, all who hunger—for bread, for justice, for belonging.

We come, trusting that God will nourish us.

Come, all who carry grief, worry, or weariness.

We come, trusting that Christ will meet us with compassion.

Come, people of every age, culture, identity, and story.

We come, for we are all beloved children of God.

Let us worship the One who desires mercy, not sacrifice; welcome, not exclusion; life, not death.

Let us worship God together!

Opening Prayer

Loving and welcoming God,
You call us by name, just as Jesus called Matthew.
You see us as we are, and you invite us into your love.
When we feel unworthy, remind us that your grace is greater than our fears.
When we are tempted to judge others, teach us the way of mercy.
When we build walls, help us become builders of bridges.

We pray for all who long to belong:
for those who have been excluded because of who they are,
for Indigenous peoples seeking justice and healing,
for LGBTQ+ people seeking safety and affirmation,
for those struggling with poverty, loneliness, illness, or grief.

Open our hearts to your Spirit,
that this congregation may be a place of welcome,
a table where all are fed,
a community where all are valued,
and a witness to your inclusive love.
As we worship today, renew our faith,
strengthen our compassion,
and send us out ready to follow Jesus
into a world hungry for hope and healing.
In the name of Christ, who welcomes us all, we pray. Amen.

Hymn Make A Joyful Noise

MV 30

**Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song!**

- 1 Know that your God has made you.
Know it's to God we belong.
And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.
Worship your God with a song! R**

**2 Enter these gates, thanks giving.
Enter these courts with praise.
Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy Name.
Worship your God with a song!**

**Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song!**

**3 Ages through endless ages,
seasons of endless years,
the love of our Maker ever shall endure.
Worship your God with a song! R**

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 Who Can Come to the Party?

Leader: Good morning, friends! I have a question for you. Who likes parties?

(Let children answer.)

Me too! What do you like at parties? Cake? Games? Balloons?

(Take a few answers.)

Now, suppose I was having a party. If I said, "Only children wearing blue can come," would that be fair?

(Children: No!)

What if I said, "Only children who can jump really high can come"?

(Children: No!)

What if I said, "Only children with curly hair can come"?

(Children: No!)

That's right! A good party is one where everyone is welcome.

In our Bible story today, Jesus was having dinner with lots of different people. Some people thought, "Jesus shouldn't spend time with them."

But Jesus said, "Yes, I should!"

Because Jesus knew something very important.

Can you say it with me?

"Everyone belongs."

(Children repeat.)

Let's try it again, nice and loud:

"Everyone belongs!"

(Repeat.)

Jesus welcomed people who were lonely.

Jesus welcomed people who were sick.

Jesus welcomed people who had made mistakes.

Jesus welcomed people who felt left out.

And Jesus welcomes us too.

Let's make a big circle with our arms.

(Children stretch their arms out.)

Look how big that circle is!

Jesus' love is even bigger than that.

Whenever we see someone sitting alone, we can help them feel welcome.

Whenever we share with someone, we can help them feel welcome.

Whenever we are kind, we can help them feel welcome.

Let's practice one more time. When I say, "Who belongs?" you say, "Everyone belongs!"

Who belongs?

Children: Everyone belongs!

Who belongs?

Children: Everyone belongs!

Who belongs?

Children: Everyone belongs!

That's exactly what Jesus wants us to remember.

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us.

Thank you for welcoming us.

Help us welcome others,

share your love,

and remember that everyone belongs.

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 9:9-13, 18-26

Ruth Burnett-Cole

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that moment. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread through all of that district.

This is wisdom from the gospel according to Matthew.

Gift of Music The Prayer *with* Lead Us, Lord

arr: Tom Fettke

[The Prayer]

*We pray You'll be our eyes, and watch us where we go,
And teach us to be wise in times when we don't know.*

*Let this be our prayer when we lose our way.
Lead us to a place, guide us with Your grace
To a place where we'll be safe.*

*We pray we'll find Your light,
And hold it in our hearts
As darkness falls each night,
Remind us where You are.*

*Let this be our prayer
When shadows fill our day.
Lead us to a place, guide us with Your grace.
Give us faith so we'll be safe.*

[Lead Us, Lord]

Lead us, Lord, lead us in Your righteousness;

Make Your way plain for us to see.

Lead us, Lord, lead us in Your righteousness;

Make Your way plain for us to see.

[The Prayer]

*We pray we'll find Your light, and hold it in our hearts
as darkness falls each night, remind us where You are.*

*Let this be our prayer, just like every child
Needs to find a place, guide us with Your grace.
Give us faith so we'll be safe.*

*Lead us to a place, guide us with Your grace,
To a place where we'll be safe.
Lead us, Lord.*

Reflection A Table Big Enough

Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole

There is a phrase that runs through this gospel reading, even though it is never spoken aloud. The phrase is this:

"There is room for you."

Jesus says it to Matthew the tax collector.

He says it to the people eating around Matthew's table.

He says it to the woman who has suffered for twelve long years.

He says it to the grieving father whose daughter has died.

Again and again, Jesus says, "There is room for you."

And perhaps that is a word many people still need to hear today.

Matthew's story begins simply enough. Jesus sees him sitting at a tax booth and says, "Follow me."

Now, we have heard this story so many times that we can miss how shocking it really is.

Tax collectors were not popular. They worked for the occupying Roman government. They collected money from their own people on behalf of the empire. Many became wealthy by charging more than required.

Matthew was exactly the kind of person many respectable religious people would have preferred Jesus avoid.

Yet Jesus sees him.

Not his reputation.

Not his mistakes.

Not the labels attached to him.

Jesus sees a human being.

And then Jesus does something even more radical. He sits down to eat with Matthew and his friends.

Sharing a meal in the ancient world was never just about food. It was about belonging. It was about deciding who was "in" and who was "out."

The religious leaders are scandalized.

"Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

It's a question people still ask in different forms.

Why spend time with people like them?

Why welcome people like them?

Why listen to voices like theirs?

Every generation has its own list of people who are considered outsiders.

In Canada, Indigenous peoples have too often been treated as outsiders in their own land. For generations, churches—including our own denomination—participated in systems that attempted to erase Indigenous languages, cultures, and spiritual traditions.

Many Indigenous people learned through painful experience that church doors were not always signs of welcome.

Likewise, many LGBTQ+ people have been told, explicitly or implicitly, that there was no place for them at Christ's table. They were expected to change, hide, apologize, or remain silent before being accepted.

So, too, have the homeless and those who are struggling in our economic circumstances, been made to feel awkward at the doors of our churches.

Yet when we look closely at Jesus, we find someone who consistently moves toward those who have been pushed aside.

Jesus does not begin with exclusion.

He begins with relationship.

He begins with invitation.

He begins with grace.

That doesn't mean Jesus ignores injustice or harmful behaviour. But he understands that transformation begins not with rejection but with encounter.

"I desire mercy, not sacrifice," Jesus says.

Mercy.

Compassion.

Relationship.

The Pharisees are focused on protecting boundaries. Jesus is focused on healing people.

And then Matthew tells us two stories of healing.

A religious leader comes to Jesus desperate because his daughter has died.

As Jesus follows him, a woman in the crowd reaches out and touches the fringe of his cloak.

For twelve years she has suffered from bleeding. For twelve years she has been isolated by illness and religious purity laws. For twelve years she has likely heard people explain why she should remain on the margins.

Imagine twelve years of being avoided.

Twelve years of loneliness.

Twelve years of feeling forgotten.

Yet she believes that even touching Jesus' garment might bring healing.

And Jesus stops.

In a crowd pressing around him, he notices her.

He sees her.

He calls her "daughter."

That word matters.

He does not define her by her illness.

He defines her by relationship.

"Daughter, take heart; your faith has made you well."

How many people today long to hear those words?

People struggling with mental health challenges.

People grieving.

People living in poverty.

People who have been rejected because of who they are.

People carrying wounds inflicted by family, society, or church.

"Daughter, take heart."

"Son, take heart."

"Beloved child, take heart."

There is room for you.

Then Jesus continues to the leader's house.

The mourners have already arrived. Everyone assumes the story is over.

Death has the final word.

But Jesus sees possibilities where others see only endings.

He takes the girl's hand.

And she rises.

This is not simply a miracle story. It is a declaration of God's vision for the world.

Again and again, God brings life where people expect only death.

Hope where people expect despair.

Community where people expect division.

Justice where people expect oppression.

And resurrection where people expect defeat.

That promise matters today.

We live in a time when many people are anxious about the future. We see rising poverty, growing loneliness, and deep social divisions. We hear painful stories from Indigenous communities still seeking justice. We witness renewed attacks on the dignity and safety of LGBTQ+ people.

Sometimes it can feel as though exclusion and fear are winning.

But this gospel reminds us that Christ is always moving toward healing.

Always moving toward reconciliation.

Always making the circle wider.

That is why what congregations do matters.

Every time we gather food for the local food bank, we are participating in Jesus' ministry of welcome.

We are saying to neighbours who may be struggling, "There is room for you."

Every time we advocate for justice for Indigenous peoples, we are participating in Christ's work of healing relationships broken by colonialism.

We are saying, "There is room for you."

Every time we affirm the full dignity and sacred worth of LGBTQ+ people, we bear witness to the expansive love of God.

We are saying, "There is room for you."

Every time we choose compassion over judgment, mercy over exclusion, and relationship over fear, we follow the path Jesus walks in this gospel.

A tax collector.

A suffering woman.

A grieving father.

A dead child.

People others overlooked.

People others dismissed.

People others thought were beyond help.

Jesus gathers them all into the embrace of God's love.

And the good news is that the story includes us too.

Whatever burdens we carry.

Whatever doubts we bring.

Whatever wounds we bear.

Christ still looks at us and says:

"Follow me."

"Take heart."

"There is room for you."

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

Responding in Thanksgiving

Hymn There Is Room for All

MV 62

**There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;
there is room for all, sheltered in God's love.
And I rejoice and sing,
"My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."
There is room for all, there is room for all!**

Repeat

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 Hymn Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands

VU 537

**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

Generous and welcoming God,
Just as Jesus welcomed Matthew to the table,
welcomed the woman who reached out in hope,
and brought comfort to a grieving family,
you continue to welcome us into your love.

With grateful hearts, we offer these gifts,
and we offer ourselves as well.
Use them to feed the hungry,
support those in need,
bring healing where there is hurt,
and help build communities where all are valued and all belong.

Bless our ministries, our partnerships, and our sharing with the food bank.
May these offerings become signs of your mercy, justice, and compassion in
the world.

In the name of Jesus, who taught us that there is room for everyone at God's
table, 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 Because Jesus Felt

MV 186

1. **Because Jesus felt a woman touch his coat,
and said, "Your faith has made you well,"
I know that God takes notice,
and knows my name, and loves us all:**

Refrain:

**So thank you, thank you, God. Thank you, God!
Thank you, thank you, God. Thank you, God!**

2. **Because Jesus ate with people who'd gone wrong,
and said, "You are forgiven now,"
I know that God forgives me,
and hears my name, and loves us all: R**
3. **Because Jesus went to heal a little girl,
and said, "Get up, and have some food,"
I know God cares about me,
and speaks my name, and loves us all: R**
4. **Because Jesus sat with children on his knee,
and said, "I'm glad to meet you all,"
I know God thinks I'm lovely,
and sings my name, and loves us all: R**

- 5. Because Jesus lived and died, and lives with God,
and says, “I’m with you all the time,”
I know that God is near me,
and calls my name, and loves us all:
So thank you, thank you, God. Thank you, God!
Thank you, thank you, God. Thank you, God!**

Sending Forth

Go now in the way of Christ.

Go to the places where people feel unseen, and see them.
Go to the places where people feel excluded, and welcome them.
Go to the places where people are hungry, and share what you have.
Go to the places where people are hurting, and offer compassion.

Remember that Jesus calls us not to build bigger walls, but longer tables;
not to guard God's love, but to share it.

As you go into the week ahead, may your words bring encouragement,
your hands bring help,
and your lives bear witness to the good news that there is room for everyone
in God's beloved community.

And may the blessing of God—Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit—
go with you, remain with you, and shine through you,
today and always.

And so we sing...

Sung Amen

VU 974

**Music to Send Us Forth
Sing a New Song**

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.

This week's Music

Today's organ prelude and postlude are both settings by Douglas E. Wagner of contemporary hymns. "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" was published in 1967 by South Africa-born UK-based composer and BBC broadcaster Sebastian Temple with lyrics historically attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi (but first appearing anonymously in the French magazine La Clochette in 1912). "Sing a New Song" was published in 1972 by American hymn writer Dan Schutte and appears in Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, and Methodist hymn books.

Today's choir anthem is a medley of the pop-classical fusion hit "The Prayer" by Canadian songwriter David Foster and the 1861 hymn "Lead Me, Lord" by Samuel Sebastian Wesley.

Musical Acknowledgements

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