# Glebe-St. James United Church

## Remembrance Sunday November 8, 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**

"Now Thank We all Our God"

**Welcome**

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

Good morning and welcome, everyone, to our worship service at Glebe-St. James United Church in downtown Ottawa on All Saints' Day, November 1st.

My name is ??? 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, we hope you feel at home. Please remember to wear a name tag if you are here in person – it's so much easier to feel part of a community when we can greet each other by name. Name tags are available at the entrances to the sanctuary.

We are an Affirming Community of Faith in the United Church of Canada - a place of faith, love and community. You are welcome in our sanctuary. If you are looking for a place where your soul can breathe, sit back and listen to the inspirational music. If you are looking for community and connection, this is a place of acceptance, friendship and support. If you are looking for somewhere where you can make a difference in your community, this is a place where you can help to feed those struggling to make ends meet. 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**

Today is Remembrance Sunday, and we will watch again on Wednesday as Canada marks the 11th hour of the 11th day at the National War Monument and in cities and towns across the country. Canadians will stand again to remember the horrific sacrifice ordinary citizens gave.

Glebe-St. James Goes Out for Dinner – we are looking for an additional host for either November 14th. If you are interested, please speak with Margaret Ford or David Brown.

DID613 meets on Wednesday at 6 pm in the Art Room. Questions, please speak with Julia Hurrelmann

Queer Space meets on Saturday, 6 pm in the Lounge. Questions, please speak with Zoë Fortier.

The Women's Intergenerational Group meets next Sunday for a potluck and a presentation by Debbie Charbonneau, a certified Labyrinth facilitator. Judy will have the Labyrinth open at the end of the meeting through to 5 pm.

And now, let us remember the holy land upon which this sanctuary stands.

**Land Acknowledgement** Rebecca Dalton

Hello, my name is Rebecca
We acknowledge that we are gathering on the unsurrendered territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people. Ottawa and the National Capital Region is a gathering place for First Nations, Inuit and Métis from across Canada and they contribute to our society and well-being.

### The Hunt for the Great Bear

In Algonquin tradition, autumn is marked by a mythical hunt that takes place in the sky. The Great Spirit, accompanied by celestial hunters, tracks an enormous bear. This Great Bear, living among the stars, is a powerful and majestic being. According to the legend, when the bear is wounded during the hunt, its blood flows from the sky and spreads over the trees on Earth, thus dyeing the leaves a deep red. The bear's fat droplets, falling on the vegetation, give the leaves shades of yellow and gold.

This story symbolizes the Algonquin's connection to the cycle of life and death, as well as to the changing nature around them. The hunt for the celestial bear is a reminder that, just like the seasons, everything in life is a cycle, with death and rebirth always in balance.

As we gather today and witness the changing of the season—as the leaves fall, the days grow shorter, and the earth prepares for a period of rest—we pause to offer our gratitude to this land and to the teachings of our brothers and sisters.

**Candle Lighting** Live Into Hope VU 699

**Live into hope of captives freed**
**from chains of fear or want or greed.**
**God now proclaims our full release**
**to faith and hope and joy and peace.**

**Call to Worship**

We gather longing for wisdom and truth as we live these days:
**"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."**
We come with grief amidst the losses and tragedies in our lives and world.
**"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."**
We gather with lament and fear for the violent language and actions accepted in our society.
**"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."**
In gathering we listen in silence, story and song to be reassured and renewed.
**"Blessed are those who remember for through them light will shine from the past into the future"**
As we worship may be know the blessing and peace of God.

**Hymn O God Our Help in Ages Past (Psalm 90)** VU806

**O God, our help in ages past,**
**our hope for years to come,**
**our shelter from the stormy blast,**
**and our eternal home:**

**Under the shadow of thy throne**
**thy saints have dwelt secure,**
**sufficient is thine arm alone,**
**and our defense is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood,**
**or earth received its frame,**
**from everlasting thou art God,**
**to endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in thy sight**
**are like an evening gone,**
**short as the watch that ends the night**
**before the rising sun.**

**Time like an ever-rolling stream**
**soon bears us all away;**
**we fly forgotten, as a dream**
**dies at the opening day.**

**O God our help in ages past,**
**our hope for years to come,**
**be thou our guard while troubles last,**
**and our eternal home.**

**Opening Prayer (unison)**

**Holy God, we need the energy of your love and peace as we live these days. We need the vision of your peace amidst so much conflict and violent discourse. We need the power of your hope as we seek to be true to the values of dignity and compassion for all. May your Spirit be within and among us that this time may be holy and important. Inspired by Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

**Sign of Peace**

**Hymn** Shout for Joy! VU 482, v 4

**Praise the Maker, praise the Maker's Son,**
**praise the Spirit, three yet ever one;**
**praise the God whose food and friends avow**
**heaven starts here! The kingdom beckons now!**

# Act of Remembering

**In Flanders Fields**

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
between the crosses row on row,
that mark our place; and in the sky
the larks, still bravely singing, fly
scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
loved and were loved, and now we lie
in Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
to you from failing hands we throw
the torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
we shall not sleep, though poppies grow
in Flanders fields.

## Names of those who Died in WWI and WWII [42 names] as listed on the Memorial Plaques in Glebe-St. James United Church

### 1914-1918 Glebe Presbyterian (chronological on date of death)

Daniel Stoddart
David Wood
Douglas Hanley Calhoun
Robert Osborne Smith
Herbert Dow Grant
Thomas Campbell Low
George Robert Russall
James David MacKenzie

### 1939-1945 Glebe United

Charles W. Mason
Warren Slack
J. Edwin Gardiner
Douglas J. Arneil
G. Arnold Booth
Gregory Bourdon
G. Edwin Coldrey
Harry H. Cowan
Joseph L. Engler
Donald M. Eastman
William M. Foster
Leonard N. Fresque
Harold A. Healey
George L. P. Kermack
Edwin H. Kingsland
John Macintyre
W. H. Morehouse
David Eric Roberts
Arthur D. Livingston
Colin S. MacDonald
George L. MacDonald
Alexander I. McFarlane
Bruce Murchison
Frank Orme
John R. Patterson
Howard P. Ralph
William F. Runge
G. Douglas Spencer
James Towers

### 1914-1918 St. Paul's Methodist

Allan G. Dow
Berton Hurlbert
John W. Milks
Earle A. Reid
Lyle Spense

**Act of Remembrance**

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.
**We will remember them.**

**Laying of the Wreath** Wayne MacWhirter and the Children

The "Last Post" signifies the end of the day in the military. We play it today as it represents death – the end of the soldier's final day. Then we will observe silence for those who have served so bravely. "Eternal rest grant unto them, O God, and may perpetual light shine on them. May the souls of the righteous, through your mercy, rest in peace. Then we will hear "Reveille" played. Reveille signals the beginning of the day in the military. It reminds us that the memory of the soldier lives on and that life triumphs over death.

**Last Post** Geoff McGuire

**The Silence**

**Reveille** Geoff McGuire

**Hymn** Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands MV 173, vs 1-3

**Put peace into each other's hands**
**and like a treasure hold it,**
**protect it like a candle flame,**
**with tenderness enfold it.**

**Put peace into each other's hands**
**with loving expectation;**
**be gentle in your words and ways,**
**in touch with God's creation.**

**Put peace into each other's hands**
**like bread we break for sharing;**
**look people warmly in the eye:**
**our life is meant for caring.**

**Theme Conversation** Kayla Cseh

**Hymn** Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands MV 173, vs 4, 5

**Give thanks for strong – yet tender-hands,**
**held out in trust and blessing.**
**Where words fall short, let hands speak out,**
**the heights of love expressing.**

**Reach out in friendship,**
**stay with faith in touch with those around you.**
**Put peace into each other's hands;**
**the Peace that sought and found you.**

# Listening for Wisdom

**Prayer for Wisdom**

God of Truth and Love, we need your wisdom for the living of these days. May we hear anew comfort and challenge as we engage with the words of scripture and with the reflections of our minds and hearts. May your grace enable each of us to know your presence and your peace as we remember who we are and who we are called to be. Amen.

**Scripture** Barb Coyle

Psalm 78: 1-7 (responsive)

Give heed to my teaching, O my people,
Turn your ears to the words of my mouth
**I will open my mouth in a parable;**
**I will reveal the hidden meaning of things in the past.**

What we have heard and known, what our parents have told us,
we will not hide from their grandchildren,
**but declare to the next generation**
**the testimony that you gave to Jacob**
**and the law you appointed in Israel**
**which you commanded them to teach their children,**
that the next generation might know them, children yet unborn,
and these in turn should arise and tell their children
**that they should put their trust in you,**
**and not forget your great deeds**
**but keep all your commandments.**

Philippians 4: 4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

This is wisdom from our ancestors in faith.

**Gift of Music**

"Song of Peace (Iculo Lokuthula)"

This is my song, Oh God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my sacred shrine.
But other hearts in other lands are beating,
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

O, hear my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

Ngine culo livela kuwe Baba,
Lokuthula emhlabeni wonke
Emazweni lapho sihlala khona
Yiza Baba uhlale nathi.
Nanti culo, iculo lokuthula,
Lokuthula kwezizwe zonke.

O, hear our song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace, a song of peace for all!

**Reflection - "Through them light will shine from the past into the future"**
**– Rev. Paul Dillman**

In the call to worship this morning, the words of response were drawn from the Beatitudes. In response to some of the realities of our world, those words reminded us that the blessing of the Holy is gifted to us as we seek to live with intention as followers of the way and love of Jesus.

Now in the call to worship, those who may have memorized the Beatitudes for a star in the memory certificate in Sunday School or who remember them being read last Sunday, may have noticed that one of the responses was not part of the usual list: "Blessed are those who remember for through them light will shine from the past into the future".

A number of years ago on Remembrance Sunday, the Beatitudes were the reading and so in the service I invited the congregation that I was serving to imagine a new beatitude beginning with "Blessed are those who remember …" The challenge of the exercise was to develop the second half of the beatitude. What is the promise or gift for those who remember? There were various ideas and comments made, and then a couple of days later I had an email that said, how about completing the beatitude "Blessed are those who remember" with "for through them light will shine from the past into the future."

Today, we have shared in an Act of Remembrance, as we await Remembrance Day on Wednesday. We remember the horror and sacrifice of war in the past and we also remember that too many wars continue to be fought as powers and principalities resist the path of peace and use domination and oppression to force others to bow down to their ideology or idolatry. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, there are currently approx. 130 active armed conflicts involving around 60 countries and non-state groups being fought now.

It is important to remember, for through remembering light will shine from the past into the future as we seek the will and courage to be channels of peace.

Earlier in today's service the names of those who died in World War 1 and World War 2 connected to this congregation were read. It has been a while since I have worshipped in a congregation whose history traces back to those times of war. As well as those names, I know that many of us have names in our hearts and family histories that we bring to mind and remember. If we were to collect those names, I imagine that the list might be quite long.

Remembrance Day is important to me because it is a time to remember my great grandfather – James Howard Tupper – who was killed in 1916 during World War 1. Before he left for the war, he wrote letters to his two sons, which were to be given to them when they turned 12. My grandfather received his letter 3 months before his father died, and then my great uncle received his a few years later. Those letters have become like scripture in our family for they convey his values, wisdom, courage and faith. A few years ago, I was pleased to learn that he had also written letters to his two daughters, although they were not as long or detailed as the other two. Both of the sons became United Church ministers and their father's influence was important in shaping who they were.

In the letter to my grandfather, James Howard Tupper begins by expressing his love and then trying to articulate the choice he has made to go to war and then he wrote: "Be a true boy. There are things to be true too. First, be true to your "God". Second, be true to yourself. Third, be true to your country." He then elaborates on each of those themes with the most words given to the theme of be true to yourself.

In the summer of 2011, Elizabeth and I and our three children had a sabbatical trip to Europe and one of the most significant days was when we visited James Howard Tupper's grave in Albert, France. I was surprised by the intensity of emotion that overcame me. At his graveside, I read to my children the letter written to my grandfather. They heard the words of their great, great grandfather for the first time.

In the reading from Psalm 78, we heard the words:

*"What we have heard and known, what our parents have told us,*
*we will not hide from their grandchildren, but declare to the next generation …*
*… that the next generation might know them, children yet unborn,*
*and these in turn should arise and tell their children that they should put their trust in you, and not forget your great deeds but keep all your commandments."*

One of the things that we noticed in the Albert Community Cemetery Extension was that while my great grandfather was 42 years old when he died, the ages of the others buried there were mostly between 19 and 22. I doubt they had children to know their stories, let alone great grandchildren to be preaching and telling the story 110 years later.

Ten years ago, the descendants of James Howard and Leticia Tupper, gathered in the Annapolis Valley of NS, to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of his death. Most of his 14 grandchildren were present, as well as great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren. On Wednesday night, the descendants will gather for the 7th year on Zoom for what has become an important Remembrance Day tradition of connection and commemoration. There will likely be four generations connected by Zoom from across Canada and other parts of the world. One of the things that we will do on Wednesday evening is to celebrate the great, great, great grandchildren that have been born since last year's gathering.

Each year we give thanks for the legacy and influence of James Howard Tupper, a man who none of us ever met. *"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of*

*praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them …"*

Blessed are those who remember for through them light will shine from the past into the future. The importance of remembering is not just for these days close to November 11th. The importance of memory and telling stories of truth and wisdom is important at all times.

We live in a world with a short attention span. The news cycle has conditioned us to move from one story to another without the depth of attention that many realities need. I imagine that we might have a hard time bringing to mind the 130 active armed conflicts being fought this day. The light of wisdom and of peace needs to shine from the past into the future because we see ideologies and disguises of evil such as authoritarianism becoming popular anew. We need the light of the past to remind us to uphold the dignity of each human being and all creation, to not be threatened by the diversity of humanity and recommit to do the things that will work for peace.

In the letter that my great grandfather wrote to my grandfather, he elaborated on the instruction to be true to your country by saying, ""It is not always necessary to die for your country to serve her. You can live for her, only do your duty as you see it you will be fulfilling your obligations."

In remembering, we have responsibility to live for the values and truth that invite us deeper into meaning and broader in our view of the world, as God's creation and laboratory of love. Blessed are those who remember for through them light will shine from the past into the future. May the light of peace, of dignity, of hope shine through us lest we forget the future of this earth. Amen.

## Responding in Thanksgiving

**Hymn God! As with Silent Hearts** VU 527

**God! As with silent hearts we bring to mind**
**how hate and war diminish humankind,**
**we pause, and seek in worship to increase**
**our knowledge of the things that make for peace.**

**Hallow our will as humbly we recall**
**the lives of those who gave and give their all.**
**We thank you, God, for women, children, men**
**who seek to serve in love, today as then.**

**Give us deep faith to comfort those who mourn,**
**high hope to share with all the newly born,**
**strong love in our pursuit of human worth:**
**"lest we forget" the future of this earth.**

**So, God of Peace, disarm our trust in power,**
**teach us to coax the plant of peace to flower.**
**May we, impassioned by your living Word,**
**remember forward to a world restored.**

**Invitation to Give**

As we gather this day we remember and we give thanks for God's grace and love which continues to be revealed in many ways. May we respond to the gift of life and love, with an offering of our gifts.

Our gifts are offered in countless ways and as we collect offerings given now, we also know that donations are made in a variety of ways. All those gifts are symbolized by the gifts we present now.

**Offering Hymn** Shout for Joy! VU 482, v 4

**Praise the Maker, praise the Maker's Son,**
**praise the Spirit, three yet ever one;**
**praise the God whose food and friends avow**
**heaven starts here! The kingdom beckons now!**

**Offering Prayer**

God of Love, Energy of Hope, we offer these our gifts as we seek to be faithful to the call to be your community of peace. May we strive to celebrate your

presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others and to proclaim the love and vision of life revealed to us through Jesus, Amen.

**Prayers of the People** The Kingdom of God MV 146

**The kingdom of God is justice and peace**
**and joy in the Holy Spirit.**
**Come, God, and open in us**
**the gates of your kingdom.**
*Repeat*

**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** **Faith of our Fathers** VU 580

**Faith of our fathers, living still**
**in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;**
**O how our hearts beat high with joy,**
**whene'er we hear that glorious word:**
**faith of our fathers, holy faith,**
**we will be true to you till death.**

**Faith of our mothers, daring faith,**
**your work for Christ is love revealed,**
**spreading God's word from pole to pole,**
**making love known and freedom real:**
**faith of our mothers, holy faith,**
**we will be true to you till death.**

**Faith of our sisters, brothers too,**
**who still must bear oppression's might,**
**raising on high, in prisons dark,**
**the cross of Christ still burning bright:**
**faith for today, O living faith,**
**we will be true to you till death.**

**Faith born of God, O call us yet;**
**bind us with all who follow you,**
**sharing the struggle of your cross**
**until the world is made anew.**
**Faith born of God, O living faith,**
**we will be true to you till death.**

**Sending Forth**

Blessed are those who remember for through them light will shine from the past into the future. May we go forth into this week, into this community and world with renewed purpose and hope that we may live for the values of love, peace and hope.

And may the God of Truth and Love be with each of us this day, each day and forever more. Amen.

**Sung Amen** VU 968

**Music for the Journey**

"Festival Prelude on 'Old 113th'"

# *End of Worship | Beginning of Service*

Thank you to those who have joined us this morning for worship.

We invite those here to join us in Fraser Hall, follow the service, for a time of fellowship & refreshments.

**Musical Acknowledgements**

- This week's organ prelude is by Gilbert M. Martin (b. 1941), an American composer of organ, choir and piano works. It is an arrangement of "Old 113th," a hymn tune from the landmark Protestant hymn book Strassburger Kirchenamt of 1525.
- The anthem is based on the tune FINLANDIA by Jean Sibelius, an orchestral work composed in 1900 in wordless protest against Russian censorship of the Finnish press. This choral arrangement by Gary Fry incorporates Lloyd Stone's poem "This Is My Song" in both English and Zulu.
- The postlude, based on the tune NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, is by John A. Behnke (b. 1953), an American composer, organist and director of choral and handbell choirs. The tune was composed around 1636 in the midst of the devastating Thirty Years' War in Germany.

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