

The Glebe-St. James United Church

Word Food Day

October 26, 2025

Gathered by God

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

Prelude in E flat from Miniature Suite for Organ

Healey Willan

WELCOME

Susan Palmai

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 October 26 , the day we mark World Food Sunday

My name is Susan Palmai and I am active in Outreach here at Glebe-St. James.

We're so glad you're here today. Whether you're a first-time guest or a longtime member, whether you are joining us in person or online, we hope you feel at home. This is a place of faith, love, and community. Glebe-St. James is an Affirming Community of Faith in the United Church of Canada 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.

Friends, note who is seated near you and extend our hospitality. If you want more information about Glebe-St. James, green cards are available near the entrances and during coffee hour. Just fill one out and place it on the offering plate or give it to one of the greeters and they will pass it into the office.

Today's worship service bulletin can be found on the GSJ website, along with a link to this week's announcements and a "donate" button to make your offering. If you are here in person, you can share your offering in the service, either in the collection plate, by e-transfer or through our website - the QR code, on the back of the pews, will take you to the website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is a busy community, and lots is going on. You will find the announcements of activities on our website and scrolling on the screens here in the sanctuary before and after our service. In the interests of time, I will highlight just three..

Our congregational givings target for 2025 is \$230,000. With two months left in 2025, we need to pick up the pace! Let's position ourselves for success next year with a balanced budget in 2025.

Our next congregational meeting is Wednesday, November 5th starting at 7:15 p.m. Our conversation will be about shaping our future together. Your voice matters – we hope you will join us.

Finally, the photographer will be here for the new Photo Directory November 7, 8, & 10th. All adherents, members, and occasional attendees are welcome to participate. They will photograph you and your family, your pets, grandchildren etc. The photo session is of no cost to you, however, photo packages will be available for purchase.

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

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Pam Fitch

This morning we gratefully acknowledge the Algonquin people who have stewarded the land on which this church stands, since time immemorial.

Indigenous writer, Richard Wagamese, once wrote, "The Land is a Feeling", a feeling that he described simply as "home". For many First Nations, October is a time for harvesting crops and hunting game in preparation for winter, and for honoring ancestral relationships with the land. This morning, as we mark World Food Day and consider our responsibilities to the land, to our food sources, and all those who feed us, let us honour the wisdom of the Algonquin people. They have always known that in order to eat, in order to survive, we must respect the land, the water, the seasons and our place in the world with intention and humility.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE I Am Sending You Light

TLUS 99, *chorus only*

**I am sending you light to heal you, to hold you.
I am sending you light to hold you in love.
I am sending you light to heal you to hold you.
I am sending you light to hold you in love.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sometimes, God, we need to gather to lament.

We come ready to trust you with our grief.

Sometimes, God, we need to gather to rage.

We come ready to trust you with our anger.

Sometimes, God, we need to gather to witness and to weep.

We come ready to trust that you will comfort us in our time of need.

Sometimes, just need to be here together and sit in the pain,

And so we come ready to just be, together, and to trust you with all of who we are.

Let us worship the God who loves the whole of us beyond measure and without exception.

HYMN Amazing Grace

VU 266

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me,
this word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

OPENING 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 for the road ahead.
We gather to learn the wisdom of your way and feel the warmth of your love.
Bless this gathering as we join together in wholehearted worship. Amen.

INVITATION TO HEALING

Every being seeks to be whole; seeks to be complete,
this is the longing behind the prayer for healing:

PRAYER FOR HEALING

**Gracious God, as people called to be your presence in the world,
We search our hearts, and ask for your forgiveness:
for opportunities not taken,
for care not given,
forgive us, we pray.**

**For sorrow not share,
for joy not celebrated,
forgive us, we pray.**

**For love not offered,
forgiveness not extended,
forgive us, we pray.**

**For those failings we cannot speak aloud,
forgive us, we pray.**

**Gracious God,
we seek your healing grace,
and ask your blessing in the name of Jesus, Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

Don't Be Afraid

MV 90

**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger**

and I have promised, promised to be always near.

SIGN OF PEACE

One of the hallmarks of faithful living is concern for others –
we pray for better conditions for people here and in war zones.
We seek to build peace in our homes and workplaces,
and on the national and international stages.
It is in remembering this sacred duty that I say to you:

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

HYMN Peace for the Children

MV 149

**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.**

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

Listening for Wisdom

THEME CONVERSATION *based on* Have You Filled a Bucket Today?

Carol McCloud

PRAYER FOR INSIGHT

God, as we prepare to hear the wisdom of your word,
Help us to be receptive.
Help us to be curious about what you might want
us to hear, to feel, and to understand anew. Amen.
This is wisdom from our ancestors in faith.

GIFT OF MUSIC

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Mark Hayes

Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho.
Joshua fit the battle of Jericho
And the walls come tumblin' down.

You may talk about your man of Gideon,
You may talk about your man of Saul.
There's none like good ol' Joshua
At the battle of Jericho.

Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho.
Joshua fit the battle of Jericho
And the walls come tumblin' down.

Up to the walls of Jericho
He marched with spear in hand.
"Go blow them rams' horns," Joshua cried,
"Cause the battle is in my hand."

Then the lamb ram sheep horns begin to blow,
The trumpets begin to sound.
Joshua commanded the children to shout,
And the walls come tumblin' down.

Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho.
Joshua fit the battle of Jericho
And the walls come tumblin' down.

READING Luke 16:19-31

Barb Coyle

A CONVERSATION

Dennis Hansen with Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole

Responding at Table

HYMN When A Poor One

VU 702

When a poor one who has nothing shares with strangers,
when the thirsty water give unto us all,
when the wounded in their weakness strengthen others,
then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

When at last all those who suffer find their comfort,
when they hope though even hope seems hopelessness,
when we love though hate at times seems all around us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing,
when our lips can speak no words other than true,
when we know that love for simple things is better,
then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance,
when we learn how to make peace instead of war,
when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbour,
then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

INVITATION TO GIVE

Love is generosity. The risk of love, because every relationship is a risk, is ours to take. We choose to act and share our time, talents, and treasures. We choose to step with God into the obstacles so that love and justice becomes the path to walk. Let us now share our offering.

OFFERING GIFT OF MUSIC Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

*Lead me Lord in thy righteousness, make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou Lord only that makest me dwell in safety.*

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

**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

May these gifts of our time, talents, and resources help us to keep these doors open that this community can stand as a place where justice matters. May these gifts remind people that we follow the God of Jesus, who has something to say in our much-traumatized world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Your Will Be Done

**Your will be done, be done on earth
Your will be done, be done on earth.
Your will be done, be done on earth.
Your will be done on earth.
Your will be done on earth.**

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 Go to the World

VU 420

**Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptising as the sign of our rebirth.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the Word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant Church, you follow Christ's own way.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you 'til the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry 'Amen!'
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

SENDING FORTH

Go now with each breath, sharing the unending love of your Creator.
Know that the very mystery of the universe holds you
and molds you now and always.
Rely on that love to reveal itself in you,
in your hopes and dreams,
thoughts, feelings, and actions.

May we know that we are One with all of Creation,
tend to it and be tended to by it
for friends, we are never alone!
We go with God the Source of love,
Jesus, the Love in Human Love,
And the Holy Spirit, God's love and sustenance.

SUNG AMEN

Merritt in G

MUSIC TO SEND US FORTH

Finale in E flat from Miniature Suite for Organ

Healey Willan

End of Worship - Beginning of Service

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Today we welcome Dennis Hanson from the Centretown Community Food Centre. Dennis will be joining us for Coffee Time following the service. Please join us in Fraser Hall.

We also thank those who participated in the service today and those who attended, in-person or on-line.

More information on the following events is available in our e-update or contact Jennifer (admin@glebestjames.ca) The e-update is available online or you can sign up to get it by e-mail.

Monday Crafts @ Judy's, 1-4 pm

Monday Meditation, weekly at 8 pm on zoom

Check Mates – weekly on Tuesdays, 10 am

Nattering Knitters – weekly on Tuesdays, 1:30 pm (Lounge)

Men & Friends' Potluck, October 29th, 5:30 (Fraser Hall)

Women's Intergenerational Group, Nov 16th (Fraser Hall)

Come walk the Labyrinth, Nov 16th, 3-5 pm (Fraser Hall)

Photo Directory – Photo Days: Nov 7,8, 10th

We look forward to having you included in our new photo directory! [Book Online](#) or call 1-888-769-7339, Ext 1 for Brenda.

Congregational Meeting – November 5th

Please save the date - November 5, starting at 7:15 pm, for our next in-person Congregational Conversation. Details in the e-update.