

# **The Glebe-St. James United Church**

**Worldwide Communion Sunday**

**October 5, 2025**

## **Gathered by God**

### **PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP**

Aria

Flor Peeters

### **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 5 – Worldwide Communion Sunday.

My name is Susan Palmai and I am involved 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.

### **Photo Directory**

Something you can do for us! Help GSJ have a complete photo directory of our Church 'people'. Adherents, members, occasional attendees are all welcome to participate! Just come and have your picture taken for inclusion in our directory. This is at no cost to you. Universal Photos will be in the church on October 7, 8 and 9 between the hours of 12 noon and 9:00 pm. They will photograph you and your family, pets, grandchildren, and display them for you immediately. The photo session is at no cost to you, however if you wish to purchase any pictures there is a cost. You may submit your own photo but there will be a \$25.00 charge if you would like a directory.

Check the posters around the church and call Brenda at 1-888-769-7339, Ext 1 to book your appointment. If you have any difficulty and need assistance, Jennifer, in the office, can help you.

Everyone is invited to participate – whether you have been coming to Glebe St. James for 50 years or 50 days, join in to make our Directory as complete as possible!

### **2025 Walk for the Centre (Centretown Community Food Centre)**

#### **Sunday, October 5, 2025 at 1:30 – 2km or 4km**

Join us for a walk along the Scenic Rideau Canal Pathway beginning and ending at Canadian Martyrs church, 100 Main Street.

CCFC is a project of the Centretown Churches Social Action Committee (CCSAC)

This is a yearly major fundraising event of CCSAC. Margo has created a GSJ Team at <https://www.centretownchurches.org/walkathon/> for ease of donations.

### **The Nattering Knitters are back!**

Come and join us for knitting, crocheting, needlepointing or just nattering! Every Tuesday at 1:30 we put on the tea pot and enjoy a little company. Newcomers are very welcome And now, let us remember the holy land upon which this Sanctuary stands.

## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

David Brown

**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**

Eternal God, you are great indeed.  
**Praise God, O my soul.**  
You spread heaven like a tent and make the winds your messengers.  
**Praise God, O my soul.**  
You fix the earth on its foundations so that it can never tremble.  
**Praise God, O my soul.**  
You've designed the world for blessing and have blessed us without limit.  
**Praise God, O my soul.**  
Come, let us bless one another and God with our worship.

**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! R**
3. **Ages through endless ages,  
seasons of endless years,  
the love of our Maker ever shall endure.**

## **Worship your God with a song! R**

### **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.**

### **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    Luke 12:32-34**

“So don’t be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kin(g)dom. Sell what you have and give to those in need. This will fatten your purses in heaven! And the purses of heaven have no rips or holes in them. Your treasures there will never disappear; no thief can steal them; no moth can destroy them. Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be.

#### **PRAYER FOR INSIGHT**

Holy One,  
as we listen once more to the wisdom of your Word,  
may we be fed both in mind and body.  
Help us open to your revelation of love  
and to receive your blessing with grace.

**GOSPEL** Psalm 104:1-13, 24a

Liz Elton

Bless the LORD, O my soul.  
O LORD my God, you are very great.  
You are clothed with honor and majesty,  
wrapped in light as with a garment.  
You stretch out the heavens like a tent;  
you set the beams of your chambers on the waters;  
you make the clouds your chariot;  
you ride on the wings of the wind;

O LORD, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.

This is wisdom from our ancestors in faith.

#### **REFLECTION**

Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole

Psalm 104 paints a picture. You can imagine the canvas being filled in as it moves along: the waters flowing through the mountains and the valleys; teams of fish swimming in it; animals drinking off to the side; the birds singing while they circle and make nests; the cattle in the distance grazing; trees providing shade; a sunset; people working together peacefully, making wine, bread, and oil.

The scene is so picturesque, so perfect that the psalmist’s heart is stirred. “I will sing to the Lord as long as I live” (v. 33), he declares.

Surely, we've all had such heart-stirring moments. Canoeing in the impossibly blue water of Clear Lake in Northern Ontario was one of those times for me. Getting a first glimpse of Stonehenge was another. Visiting Mississagi Lighthouse in Meldrum Bay – the farthest Western part of Manitoulin Island. So many times I've looked at God's good creation and my heart has been blown away—or blown open.

In his writings, Plato said that contemplating and wondering at the cosmos leads the soul to God because all of creation is a reflection of the beauty of the Divine. When we wonder at creation and are charged with the glory of God through it, our soul transcends time and space. We are totally present to the moment. Wonder transports us to the deep.

"Teach Me, God, to Wonder" (VU 299), the song goes.

Wonder is a portal to the Divine. Maybe that's why Jesus talked about the extraordinariness of seemingly ordinary things. Why he took bread and turned it into communion. Why he took fish and turned it into revelation. Why he took a cross and turned it into redemption. Why he took a child—and all of the wide-eyed amazement that filled the child—onto his knee and said "For it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs" (Matthew 19: 14). Why he gathered a group of people like you and me together and called us disciples.

Teach me, God, to wonder. That's my prayer.

Yearning to wonder for me isn't escapist. It's not about escaping my inbox, my to-do list, my housekeeping. Sigh. It's about being faithful. I want to wonder so that I can be more engaged. How can any of us love something we don't wonder about? We are never moved to care about something we keep at arm's length.

Psalm 104 not only wonders at the creativity of God, but it also connects God's creativity with our own ability to be creative. The psalm says that God causes the plants to grow and we cultivate them. We make the wine and bread and oil. It's a team effort. We are united with God in a mission or dream to cultivate the wonder. To ensure the world is wonder-full. To resist diminishing wonder by putting a price on it, restricting it, harming it, polluting it.

Teach us God, to wonder.

When we join with God's dream in our personal lives, together as a congregation and as a worldwide church, we are saying that the beauty, bounty, and peace in the picture Psalm 104 paints—the waters flowing through the mountains and the valleys, the teams of fish swimming, the animals drinking off to the side, the birds singing while they circle, the cattle in the distance grazing, the people working together making bread and oil—is for everyone.

Over the next few weeks of our stewardship campaign, we are going to contemplate wisdom on the journey and what it means to live a meaningful, God-filled life. We are going to listen to the wisdom of the Psalms in our sermons, those great Psalms that have accompanied us for hundreds of years.

Why? Because Psalm 104 and the others we are going to hear aren't just quaint words we can imagine hung on a wall. They represent a vision for our lives and for the world.

God's wonder is for everyone. Teach us, God, to wonder.

Verse 31 of Psalm 104 reads: "May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works."

You get the sense here of how deeply the psalmist longs for God, the divine artist, to sit back from the canvas of the world and say "Yes! This is how I envisioned it. Yes! It is good. It is very good."

On the seventh day, the story goes, God rested. But then what? Well, we know how artists roll. Michelangelo didn't stop at the Pieta. He went on to create David. After Da Vinci's Last Supper, there was the Mona Lisa.

Artists never stop creating. It's in their bones.

Likewise, God never stops creating. God's spirit beckons us into other wonder-filled visions of the world. Dreams of lions lying down with lambs, of promised lands, of a new heaven and new earth. Wonder upon wonder to stir our hearts.

Allow yourself to be wonder-struck. Allow your heart to be stirred by the beauty of God. Allow your wonder to transport you to the deep places where the waters of mission baptize, cleanse, and refresh you to live your mission.

Let God teach you to wonder.

There's wonder to realize. Wonder to actualize. Wonder to share.

There's wisdom in the sharing. Amen.

## **Responding at Table**

**HYMN**     I Have Called You By Your Name

MV 161

1. I have called you by your name, you are mine;  
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.  
I will not abandon you;  
all my promises are true.  
You are gifted, called, and chosen;  
you are mine.
2. I will help you learn my name as you go;  
read it written in my people, help them grow.  
Pour the water in my name,  
speak the word your soul can claim,  
offer Jesus' body given long ago.
3. I know you will need my touch as you go;  
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.  
Like the woman reaching out,  
choosing faith in spite of doubt,  
hold the hem of Jesus' robe,  
then let it go.
4. I have given you a name, it is mine;  
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.  
With my wonder in your soul,  
make my wounded children whole;  
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

#### INVITATION TO GIVE

Moved by your love of us, and grateful for our blessings,  
let us take up our offering with joy and a generosity of spirit. Amen.

#### OFFERING HYMN What Can I Do

MV 191

What can I do? What can I bring?  
What can I say? What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy. (I'll sing with joy. ) I'll say a prayer.  
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

*Repeat*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, we pray that our offering this morning will multiply our blessings so that our neighbours next door and across the globe might be nourished in body, mind, and spirit. We pray that your reign of love and justice be made tangible and visible and that no one be left out of the banquet. Amen.

# The Sacrament of Communion

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Holy One is here.

**God's Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

It is indeed good and right

to give you thanks and praise,

O God of many names.

You made a covenant with Noah

and caused nations, in their amazing diversity,

to spread over the face of the earth.

As of old you led your people

out of a land of enslavement to a land of promise,

so, too, you led our ancestors, and some among us,

into new lands of possibility—there to find you anew.

In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus,

in every aspect human as we are.

He grew up in a small town in Galilee,

far from the seat of religious and civil power.

He spoke with a distinct accent.

He learned of the breadth of your grace

from a Gentile mother.

Beside Jacob's well,

he was moved by an encounter with a minority woman

and disclosed his messianic identity.  
Therefore, with these and our other ancestors in the faith,  
both named and unnamed,  
who through the ages and all over the world  
have borne courageous witness to the hope within them,  
we praise you, singing:

**O holy, holy holy God,  
O God of time and space.  
All earth and sea and sky above  
bear witness to your grace.  
Hosanna in the highest heav'n,  
creation sings your praise.  
And blessed is the One who comes  
and bears your name always!**

MV 203

On the last night he spent with his friends,  
Jesus took an age-old tradition of his people  
and transformed it into something new.  
He took bread, staple food of his land,  
blessed and broke it, and gave it to those around him saying,  
"Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you.  
Whenever you do this, remember me."  
After supper he took a cup of wine, common drink of his people,  
and gave it to them, saying,  
"Drink this, all of you, this is the new covenant in my blood.  
Each time you do this, remember me."  
By remembering Jesus in this way now,  
we claim our common heritage  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!  
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!**

MV 204

Send, O covenant God, your Holy Spirit  
upon us and what we do here,  
that we and these gifts, empowered by your Spirit,  
may become signs of shalom

to one another and to all peoples of the earth.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory is yours everywhere, now and forever.

MV 205

**Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!**  
**Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!**

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Your Will Be Done

MV 151

#### **PRAYER OF JESUS**

#### **BLESSING THE BREAD AND CUP**

O God, Redeemer of all things,  
with grateful thanks we offer this bread and cup,  
fruits of your earth and of our labour,  
signs of your redemptive purpose for our lives  
and for all your creation.

This is Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.  
This is Jesus Christ, the True Vine.

### **Sharing Communion**

#### **GIFT OF MUSIC**

Come to the table

Allen Pote

Come to the table  
and bring your joy,  
bring all your gladness and  
come to the table.

Eat the bread,  
drink the cup,  
come rejoice in the Lord.

Bring all your sorrow,  
bring all your pain,  
bring all the heartaches you bear.

Bring who you are  
and hope to become,  
come to the table to share.

Come to the table,  
remember Christ,  
remember His love when you  
come to the table.

Come in faith,  
come to serve,  
come rejoice in the Lord.

Share in the bread,  
share in the cup,  
share in the risen Lord.

Share as a family,  
one in community,  
one in the name of the Lord.

Come to the table  
to follow Christ  
forgiven and free, you must  
come to the table.

Come in faith,  
come in love,  
come, rejoice in the Lord.

## **Sent by the Spirit**

### **PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION**

Eternal and gracious One,  
though we live in a world of need,  
**here we have tasted your goodness  
and hungered for a world more just.**

Though afflicted by brokenness and division,  
**here we have heard your call  
to be a people of healing community.**  
Though daily we touch our limits,  
**here we have received  
the fullness of your grace.**  
Send us forth, O God,  
**in faith, in hope, and in love. Amen.**

**HYMN** May the God of Hope Go With Us

VU 424

- 1 May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

**Praying, let us work for peace,  
singing, share our joy with all,  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

- 2 May the God of healing free the earth from fear,  
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.  
May the God of love keep our commitment clear  
to a world restored, to human life renewed. R**

### **SENDING FORTH**

Go into the world this week knowing you are anointed and blessed without limit.  
Share the blessing of God with friends, neighbours, even strangers.  
Reach out, extend yourself, and let God surprise you.  
Be blessed and be a blessing this week and all your days.  
Friends, we are never alone for  
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**

## **End of Worship - Beginning of Service**

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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Thank you to all who participated in today's service – you stand among the saints of GSJ! Please join us in Fraser Hall following the service for coffee and fellowship.

**...At Glebe-St. James**

**...At Glebe-St. James**

Monday Meditation, weekly at 8 pm on zoom

Women's Intergenerational Group, October 19th (Fraser Hall)

Come walk the Labyrinth, October 19th, 3-5 pm (Fraser Hall)

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

Check Mates – weekly on Tuesdays, 10 am

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

### **GSJ Goes Out to Dinner Fall Edition**

Saturdays in October

If you would like to host a dinner or to attend a dinner, please speak with David Brown or Margaret Ford.

### ***Our Ministry Team...***

Coordinating Minister: Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole, ex 24; [Revtbc.gsj@gmail.com](mailto:Revtbc.gsj@gmail.com)

Children's Church Leader: Kayla Cseh, ex 22; [Childschurch.gsj@gmail.com](mailto:Childschurch.gsj@gmail.com)

Minister of Music: James Caswell, ex 25; [music.gsj@gmail.com](mailto:music.gsj@gmail.com)

Minister of Music Emeritus: Robert Palmai

Accounts: Lori Stinson, ex 23; [accts.glebestjames@gmail.com](mailto:accts.glebestjames@gmail.com)

Church Administrator: Jennifer Reid, ex 21; [admin@glebestjames.ca](mailto:admin@glebestjames.ca)

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**Glebe-St. James United Church**  
**650 Lyon St. S.,**  
**Ottawa, ON K1S 3Z7**

[admin@glebestjames.ca](mailto:admin@glebestjames.ca)

[www.glebestjames.ca](http://www.glebestjames.ca)

613-236-0617, x 21