

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

**UN International Day of Peace**

**September 21, 2025**

## **Gathered by God**

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

Liturgical Improvisation No. 2

George Oldroyd

### **WELCOME**

Wendy Bergeron

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! My name is Wendy Bergeron and I am Chair of Council 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 the 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 a few.

The Women's Intergenerational Group is back after the summer break with its first potluck lunch and get together after church today. As a special treat, after our time of fellowship over lunch, those who are interested will be offered the chance to learn more about our beautiful sanctuary with a tour led by our very own tour guide, Liz Elton. Please join us and don't worry if you didn't bring a lunch – there is always plenty to go around.

Men & Friends is also gearing back up – the next supper date is this Wednesday, September 24th. All are welcome to join in to share food and fellowship. Doors open at 5:30 with supper at 6:00. Contact is Dudleigh Coyle – see him for more information.

For those who are interested, Universal Portraits will be here at Glebe-St. James on October 7, 8, and 9th to take photos for inclusion in our new Photo Directory.

And lastly, I am sorry to bring you the sad news that after 6½ years, James has taken the decision to step down as Minister of Music at the end of December. I know this was not an easy decision for James to make but respect his need to move forward. We will miss him terribly. His passion and vision for the music program at GSJ, his ability to make both the piano and the organ sing and dance, and his leadership skills as a Choral Director are second to none and will serve as inspiration for the next Minister of Music. I know you join me in wishing James nothing but the best. We look forward to some amazing music from James and the choir over the next few months.

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

## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Edith Gardell

For time immemorial, the Algonquin First Nations have been the guardians and protectors of the Ottawa River, which is a large watershed. Since the 1940s, they opposed the Nuclear Reactor building in Chalk River that was constructed without their consent and has produced two major nuclear reactor accidents in 1952 and 1958.

Canada has now a law, the UNDRIP-Act that forces us to respect the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and demands free, prior informed consent.

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), has granted permission to Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) to construct a huge near-surface nuclear waste facility sloping close toward to the Ottawa river to store up to 1 million cubic meters of nuclear legacy waste for hundreds of years, with grave danger from radioactive contamination and threats to environmental and human health.

Therefore, the small Kebaowek First Nation closest to Chalk River has courageously taken the CNSC to Federal Court - and in a ground-breaking decision, it won. Sadly, the CNSC and CNL have appealed and the Appeal will be heard on October 8 in the Ottawa Federal Court.

The Ottawa River is the source of drinking water for ca. 5 million people in the Ottawa-Gatineau-Montreal Region. Kebaowek is fighting for everyone to prevent radioactive contamination of the Ottawa River that threatens water safety.

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 at 90 Spark Street, please come to the rally in solidarity with the Algonquin First Nations and join Kebaowek in their brave fight for justice. Please show that we acknowledge Indigenous Rights. If you are unable to attend, please consider donating to Indigenous Raven Trust organisation Kebaowek First Nation - Raven Trust in support of the court case.

As Kebaowek Chief Lance Haymond points out "What we do to the Earth, we do to ourselves"

**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**

Sisters and brothers,

Enter into this space together to worship the Holy One.

Let us rejoice, for God offers us freedom through our Lord Jesus Christ  
and gives us the Spirit to be children of God  
and to live free from fear and insignificance.

**We come to walk with Jesus;**

**in the same way Jesus walked down the streets of Jerusalem**

**and throughout the countryside,**

**we come to remember the simple act of walking**

**as defiance against oppression,**

**and the simple act of writing**

**as calling attention to injustice;**

**each creates the peace and love that Jesus teaches us.**

**God we come!**

## VOICES 1

I'm too young / It's someone else's turn / I'm too old / There will always be war

**HYMN** Healer of our Every Ill

VU 619

**Healer of our every ill,  
light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear,  
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

- 1 You who know our fears and sadness,  
grace us with your peace and gladness.  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. R**
- 2 In the pain and joy beholding,  
how your grace is still unfolding.  
Give us all your vision, God of love. R**
- 3 Give us strength to love each other,  
every sister, every brother.  
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. R**
- 4 You who know each thought and feeling,  
teach us all your way of healing.  
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. R**

## OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, Creator and Spirit of Life  
We thank you for the gift of this day  
And this gathering of your people.  
We have come with our joys and our brokenness.  
We have come with our certainties and our confusion.  
We have come with our insignificance and our power.  
Teach us. Reach us. Nourish us.  
Then set us forth  
To walk, to talk, and write,  
To live your message of peace in our corner  
And through all the lands. 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

Eternal God,  
Save us from weak resignation to violence  
And jar us from the persistent underestimation  
Of our abilities to help others.  
Help us to remember that the faceless ones  
And our enemies  
**Eat food the same as us**  
**Are hurt by weapons the same as us**  
**And have children with dreams the same as ours.**

**Forgive our excuses**  
**Forgive our indifference**  
**Forgive our lack of solidarity**

*(silent prayer of mediation)*

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

Hear the good news: Christ is our peace.  
Christ has united those who were separated.  
Christ has broken down the walls of hostility.  
Christ has given wings to our steps on the path of justice.  
Rejoice in the Lord, the kin(g)dom is at hand! 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.**

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 The Brave Little Parrot

Once a little parrot lived happily in a beautiful forest. But one day without warning, lightning flashed, thunder crashed, and a dead tree burst into flames. Sparks, carried on the rising wind, began to leap from branch to branch and tree to tree.

The little parrot smelled the smoke. "Fire!" she cried. "Run to the river!"

Flapping her wings, rising higher and higher, she flew toward the safety of the river's far shore. After all, she was a bird and could fly away.

But as she flew, she could see that many animals were already surrounded by the flames and could not escape. Suddenly a desperate idea, a way to save them, came to her.

Darting to the river, she dipped herself in the water. Then she flew back over the now-raging fire. Thick smoke coiled up, filling the sky. Walls of flame shot up, now on one side, now on the other. Pillars of fire leapt before her. Twisting and turning through a mad maze of flame, the little parrot flew bravely on.

Having reached the heart of the burning forest, the little parrot shook her wings. And the few tiny drops of water that still clung to her feathers tumbled like jewels down into the flames and vanished with a hiss.

Then the little parrot flew back through the flames and smoke to the river. Once more she dipped herself in the cool water and flew back over the burning forest. Once more she shook her wings, and a few drops of water tumbled like jewels into the flames. Hissssss.

Back and forth she flew, time and again from the river to the forest, from the forest to the river. Her feathers became charred. Her feet and claws were scorched. Her lungs ached. Her eyes burned. Her mind spun dizzily as a spinning spark. Still the little parrot flew on.

At that moment some of the blissful gods floating overhead in their cloud palaces of ivory and gold happened to look down and see the little parrot flying among the flames. They pointed at her with their perfect hands. Between mouthfuls of honeyed foods, they exclaimed, "Look at that foolish bird! She's trying to put out a raging forest fire with a few sprinkles of water! How absurd!" They laughed.

But one of those gods, strangely moved, changed himself into a golden eagle and flew down, down toward the little parrot's fiery path.

The little parrot was just nearing the flames again, when a great eagle with eyes like molten gold appeared at her side. "Go back, little bird!" said the eagle in a solemn and majestic voice. "Your task is hopeless. A few drops of water can't put out a forest fire. Cease now, and save yourself before it is too late."

But the little parrot continued to fly on through the smoke and flames. She could hear the great eagle flying above her as the heat grew fiercer. He called out, "Stop, foolish little parrot! Stop! Save yourself!"

"I don't need some great, shining eagle," coughed the little parrot, "to tell me that. My own mother, the dear bird, could have told me the same thing long ago. Advice! I don't need advice. I just" cough, cough "need someone to help!"

Rising higher, the eagle, who as a god, watched the little parrot flying through the flames. High above he could see his own kind, those carefree gods, still laughing and talking even as many animals cried out in pain and fear far below. He grew ashamed of the gods' carefree life, and a single desire was kindled in his heart.

"God though I am," he exclaimed, "how I wish I could be just like that little parrot. Flying on, brave and alone, risking all to help, what a rare and marvelous thing! What a wonderful little bird!"

Moved by these new feelings, the great eagle began to weep. Stream after stream of sparkling tears began pouring from his eyes. Wave upon wave, they fell, washing down like a torrent of rain upon the fire, upon the forest, upon the animals and the little parrot herself.

Where those cooling tears fell, the sparks shrank down and died. Smoke still curled up from the scorched earth, yet new life was already boldly pushing forth shoots, stems, blossoms, and leaves. Green grass sprang up from along the still-glowing cinders.

Where the eagle's teardrops sparkled on the little parrot's wings, new feathers now grew: red feathers, green feathers, yellow feathers, too. Such bright colors! Such a pretty bird!

The animals looked at one another in amazement. They were whole and well. Not one had been harmed. Up above in the clear blue sky they could see their brave friend, the little parrot, looping and soaring in delight. When all hope was gone, somehow she had saved them.

"Hooray!" they cried. "Hooray for the brave little parrot and for this sudden, miraculous rain!"

Sometimes it takes just one of us to have an idea that can make a big difference. Sometimes God sees what we're doing and sends others to help out.

Dear God,  
When I get an idea  
I feel all alone,  
but you send others  
to work with me  
and I'm not alone. Amen.

#### **PRAYER FOR INSIGHT**

God, the words you speak have power:  
power to create,  
power to disturb,  
power to heal.  
Help us to hear your Word for us today. Amen.



Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:

This is wisdom from our ancestors in faith.

**GIFT OF MUSIC**

If ye love me

Thomas Tallis  
Text: John 14:15-17

If ye love me,  
keep my commandments,  
and I will pray the Maker,  
and he shall give you  
another comforter,  
that he may bide  
with you forever,  
ev'n the spirit of truth.

**REFLECTION**

Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole

Grant us peace that will BREAK our silence in the midst of violence  
then prophetic voices shall resonate  
Grant us peace that will PULL US DOWN from the steeples of our pride  
then we'll learn to wash each other's feet  
Grant us peace that will EMPTY us of hate and intolerance  
then we'll turn guns into guitars and sing  
Grant us peace that will DISTURB us in our apathy  
then we'll dance together under the sun.

## **Responding at Table**

**HYMN** Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands

MV 173

**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.**

**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.**

### **INVITATION TO GIVE**

Peace is generosity, not a silence. The 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 peace becomes the path to walk. Let us now share our offering.

**OFFERING HYMN** Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands

VU 537

**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 resource help us to keep these doors open that this community can stand as a place where peace matters. May these gifts remind people that we follow the Prince of Peace, who has something to say in our much-traumatized world. Amen.

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE    Your Will Be Done**

**MV 151**

**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.**

**Whosa:**

**Ma-ye-nzi-we 'nta-ndo ya-kho.  
Ma-ye-nzi-we 'nta-ndo ya-kho  
Ma-ye-nzi-we 'nta-ndo ya-kho  
Ma-ye-nzi-we 'nta-ndo ya-kho  
Ma-ye-nzi-we 'nta-ndo ya-kho**

#### **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** When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides

MV 169

**When hands reach out beyond divides  
and hope is truly found,  
each chain of hate will fall away  
and bells of peace shall sound,  
and bells of peace, of peace shall sound,  
and bells of peace shall sound,  
each chain of hate will fall away  
and bells of peace shall sound.**

**When fear no longer guides our steps  
and days of war are done,  
God's dream for all shall live anew;  
our hearts will heal as one,  
our hearts will heal, will heal as one,  
our hearts will heal as one,  
God's dream for all shall live anew;  
our hearts will heal as one.**

**When race and creed blind us no more,  
a neighbour's face we'll see,  
and we shall dance the whole world round,  
for love will set us free,  
for love, yes love will set us free,  
for love will set us free,  
and we shall dance the whole world round,  
for love will set us free.**

## **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**

Minuet in Classical Style

C. Armstrong Gibbs

## **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**

Monday Meditation, weekly at 8 pm on zoom  
Women's Intergenerational Group, Sept 21<sup>st</sup> (Fraser Hall)  
Come walk the Labyrinth, Sept 21<sup>st</sup>, 3-5 pm (Fraser Hall)  
Men & Friends' Potluck, Sept 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 (Art Room)  
Quilting Retreat, September 26-28<sup>th</sup>, Gracefield  
Check Mates – will resume September 30<sup>th</sup>, 10 am  
Trustees Meeting, September 30<sup>th</sup> (Art Room)  
Nattering Knitters – will resume October 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm

### **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.

## **Photo Directory**

Universal Photos will be in the church on October 7, 8 and 9<sup>th</sup> 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 is a slight cost to do so.

Check the posters around the church and call Brenda at 1-888-769-7339, ex 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!

### **Your Directory Team**

Rebecca Dalton [gregroger1902@gmail.com](mailto:gregroger1902@gmail.com)

Barb Coyle [barb.coyle@rogers.com](mailto:barb.coyle@rogers.com)

Susan Palmai [palmaisusan@gmail.com](mailto:palmaisusan@gmail.com)

## ***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; [Childrenchurch.gsj@gmail.com](mailto:Childrenchurch.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

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