

Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge
Carlisle United Church
Sunday, September 13, 2026, 11am

Worship Leader: Rev. Gayle MacDonald
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WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome & Acknowledgement of the Land

We begin this time of worship by acknowledging that we are meeting on the land of the the Neutral, Haudenosaunee, Anishinabek, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, who continue to cry out for justice. As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn, and work to right the wrongs of the past and present.

The Life and Work of the Church
(Announcements & Celebrations)

Lighting the Christ Candle:

Jesus said: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."
The light of Christ is in our midst.

Gathering Song: MV 14 – Where Two or Three Are Gathered (3x)

Words & Music: Bruce Harding 2002

This clip from a concert with other singer-songwriters and hymnists at Orleans United Church in Ottawa features Bruce and Cheryl Harding leading Bruce's hymn in canon.
[Cheryl and Bruce Harding - Where Two or Three](#)

Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.

Call to Worship:

This is no ordinary place:

this is the house of God.

This is the place where the prophets cry out
for peace and justice and righteousness.

**It is the place where God reaches down
into the corners of our lives
to offer us the mystery of holy love.**

This is no ordinary gathering.

This is no ordinary place: this is the house of God.

Opening Prayer:

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires, known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: VU 396 – Jesus Stand Among Us

Words: vv. 1 & 2 William Pennefather 1873, v. 3 Lydia Pedersen 1995; Music: Friedrich Filitz 1847

The Hillside Singers give an a cappella performance of this short hymn conducted by Raymond Smith, former Director of Music of Hillside Methodist Church in the village of Brinscall, Lancashire, UK. The first two verses were penned by William Pennefather (1816-1873), an Irish Anglican minister who became well known for his and his wife Catherine's series of conferences on interdenominational missionary work.

JESUS STAND AMONG US IN THY RISEN POWER.

- 1 Jesus, stand among us in your risen power;
let this time of worship be a hallowed hour.
- 2 Breathe the Holy Spirit into every heart;
bid the fears and sorrows from each soul depart.
- 3 Lead our hearts to wisdom till our doubting cease,
and to all assembled speak your word of peace.

Prayer for Illumination:

Eternal God, in the reading of the scripture, may your Word be heard;
in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known;
and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.

Responsive Psalm 143: VU 865

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

Reconciliation in the community of faith

18:15 "If your brother and sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one.

18:16 But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

18:17 If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax

collector.

18:18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

18:19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.

18:20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Response:

The Word of God spoken among us.

Thanks be to God.

Theme Conversation – Tree/History

Table Groups

Hymn: VU 601 (vv. 1, 3, & 5) – The Church of Christ in Every Age

Words: Fred Pratt Green 1969; Music: James William Elliott 1874

Accompanied by Director of Music and pianist Alberto Santos, this hymn is sung by the lead soloists of Mountainside United Church, which worships at Birks Heritage Chapel on the McGill University campus in Montreal, on the ancestral territory of the Anishinabeg and Kanien'kehá:ka Nations.

VU 601 - The Church of Christ in Every Age

- 1 The church of Christ in every age,
 beset by change but Spirit led,
 must claim and test its heritage
 and keep on rising from the dead.

- 3 Then let the servant church arise,
 a caring church that longs to be
 a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
 and clothed in Christ's humanity.

- 5 We have no mission but to serve
 in full obedience to our Lord:
 to care for all without reserve
 and spread Christ's liberating word.

Reflection: We Are Here

Table Groups

Offertory: MV 191 – What Can I Do?

Words & Music: Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy; arr. Alan C. Whitmore 2005

Inspired pianist Christopher Moore and singers perform this offertory at St Paul's United

in Golden Valley, ON.

What Can I Do

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

Offering Prayer:

God of all peoples and God of all places,
we present these offerings,
that they may be used to extend your liberating reign.
With them, we offer our varied ministries,
that each of us may be part of your answer
to the cries of the world. Amen.

Table Grace

Lunch

Music

Prayer for the Day

Options/Possibilities

Table Groups *(only if needed)*

Prayer for Discernment

Lord's Prayer: *(alternative from New Zealand)*

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Commissioning & Benediction

Online Postlude: Piano Meditations with Jason – The Songs of Bruce Harding
Jason Locke is the Minister of Music at Islington United, an Affirming church in Etobicoke, Toronto. In the spring of 2020, at the start of the global pandemic, he recorded a series of improvised piano sessions offered as "a soothing balm," "a vehicle for quiet meditation," and inspiration for "moments of hope, peace and joy" for all. This particular session is an improvisation on pieces by Canadian church musician, composer, and church music scholar Dr. Bruce Harding. Please see the YouTube description for the list of hymn titles.

[Piano Meditations with Jason - The Songs of Bruce Harding](#)