Little Current United Church Pastoral Charge
www. littlecurrent-sheguiandah-unitedchurch .org
Box 254, Little Current ON P0P 1K0 368-2941
Minister: Rev. Whitney Bruno - lcucpc@gmail.com
Music Ministry: Ruth McDonald, Judith Mosher, & Choir
**** an invitation to stand in body or spirit in the service**
~ BOLD PRINT- Congregational Participation

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost– October 4, 2026
10:00 am – Creation 5 – Blessing of the Animals

WELCOME: a special welcome to guests worshiping with us today. Please sign guest book as you enter the sanctuary.

Gathering & Prelude
Announcements - The Life & Work of the Church

We Approach God

Centering:

Water Acknowledgement

All life needs water. Nibi (water) is life. So we thank the North Channel for the gift of life. We thank Lake Huron for the gift of life. We thank the Anishinaabe-kwe who care for our sister and lead Water Walks. We thank the elders who teach Anishinaabeg and settler both to love water. We thank Creator for the gift of water - the gift of life – and we commit to protecting water.

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Remembering the 1998 Apology

The 1998 Apology

To former students of United Church Indian Residential Schools, and to their families and communities:

From the deepest reaches of your memories, you have shared with us your stories of suffering from our church's involvement in the operation of Indian Residential Schools. You have shared the personal and historic pain that you still bear, and you have been vulnerable yet again. You have also shared with us your strength and wisdom born of the life-giving dignity of your communities and traditions and your stories of survival.

In response to our church's commitment to repentance, The Right Rev. Bill Phipps spoke these words of apology on behalf of the General Council Executive on Tuesday, October 27, 1998:

"As Moderator of The United Church of Canada, I wish to speak the words that many people have wanted to hear for a very long time. On behalf of The United Church of Canada, I apologize for the pain and suffering that our church's involvement in the Indian Residential School system has caused. We are aware of some of the damage that this cruel and ill-conceived system of assimilation has perpetrated on Canada's First Nations peoples. For this we are truly and most humbly sorry.

"To those individuals who were physically, sexually, and mentally abused as students of the Indian Residential Schools in which The United Church of Canada was involved, I offer you our most sincere apology. You did nothing wrong. You were and are the victims of evil acts that cannot under any circumstances be justified or excused.

"We know that many within our church will still not understand why each of us must bear the scar, the blame for this horrendous period in Canadian history. But the truth is, we are the bearers of many blessings from our ancestors, and therefore, we must also bear their burdens.

"Our burdens include dishonouring the depths of the struggles of First Nations peoples and the richness of your gifts. We seek God's forgiveness and healing grace as we take steps toward building respectful, compassionate, and loving relationships with First Nations peoples.

"We are in the midst of a long and painful journey as we reflect on the cries that we did not or would not hear, and how we have behaved as a church. As we travel this difficult road of repentance, reconciliation, and healing, we commit ourselves to work toward ensuring that we will never again use our power as a church to hurt others with attitudes of racial and spiritual superiority.

"We pray that you will hear the sincerity of our words today and that you will witness the living out of our apology in our actions in the future." *—The Right Rev. Bill Phipps General Council Executive 1998, - UCC*

O Great Spirit, Create a Pure Heart in me and renew my spirit that keeps me looking at you. (Psalm 51:10 FNV)
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Lighting the Christ Candle

Jesus is our fresh water, our daily food, our protective shepherd, our guiding light. We light this candle to remind ourselves Jesus is our stable centre in an ever uncertain world. -**Light the Christ Candle.**

Call To Worship:

From all things that breathe
you may learn the wonders of God's love.

From the swallows
you may learn the ecstasy of God's love.

From the dolphins
you may learn the fluidity of God's love.

From the bulldogs
you may learn the tenacity of God's love.

From the squirrels
you may learn the playfulness of God's love.

From the whales
you may learn the immensity of God's love.

From the coyotes
you may learn the loneliness of God's love.

From brothers, sisters, parents, friends
you may learn the nearness of God's love.

From all things that breathe
you may learn the wonders of God's love. ***(+1)***

Invocation (unison)

God, we come at your loving call to learn. Teach us through your creation! Amen.

Opening Hymn: VU 217

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

Learning Time for All Ages:-

- Blessing of the Animals -



God created us and all animals, sharing the spirit of life with us and all creatures;therefore, let us praise God, saying:

All: How wonderful are the works of your hands, O Creator.

We thank you, God, for the gift of life; for the beauty and wonder of creation, and for our own life, which comes from you.
All: How wonderful are the works of your hands, O Creator.

We thank you for the richness and variety of animal life: for fish and birds, insects, reptiles, and mammals.
All: How wonderful are the works of your hands, O Creator.

We thank you for the animals who give us faithful companionship, joy when we are happy and comfort when we are sad.
All: How wonderful are the works of your hands, O Creator.

We thank you for animals who are our partners in daily life and work: for seeing-eye dogs, rescue and police dogs, animals that pull ploughs, wagons, and sleighs.
All: How wonderful are the works of your hands, O Creator.
We thank you for allowing us to care for animals and pets.
May we learn love and respect for all living things.
All: How wonderful are the works of your hands, O Creator. Amen.

Listening

Hymn of Illumination *(TLUS 62) vs1 + refrain*

In all times past, in present ones,
the griefs of history take flight
before the rising Sun of love – God's victory

Refrain:

Beloved friends, lift up your hearts,
the reign of God perceive:
from desert wastes a paradise
will bloom abundantly.

Scripture Reading.

Isaiah 5:1-7
Matthew 21:33-46

May God's spirit shape our understanding of these words.
And may they awaken in our hearts

Sermon: "The fruit of justice and righteousness"

Learning Hymn: *"Called by Earth and Sky"* **MV 135**

M4M – Your Generosity Matters.

Pasture Valley Children's Home
Mike and Gail Messick

Responding to the Word

Invitation to Commitment:

- **Rev Whitney** ***(The offerings are brought forward)***

*****Offertory Hymn:*** ***VU (540)***
Grant us God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.

Prayer of Commitment **(*unison)***

Righteous and Just God, let these offerings and commitments do your work of love for all creation. Let us be the tenants of Earth who labour in your Eden bringing about justice and righteousness. Blessings we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People:

Loving God, there are times we look in the mirror or run our hands across our skin and gasp.
We discover worry lines mixed with laugh lines. We discover telltale scars marking and marring our skin.
When we surreptitiously take note of others, we notice the same kinds of stories written by living life.

Teach us to love ourselves even when scarred, lined, and wrinkled.
Teach us to love one another even when wounded or wounding.
Journey with us as we become all you have created us to be.

(a time of silent prayer)

When we are greeted by our dog with the joyful wagging of a gleeful tail, when our cat deigns to grace us with cuddles and purrs, when our birds sing to us the harmonies of life lived with joy, when our

teddies comfort us as we struggle to drift off to sleep, we know the touch of grace.

Your forgiving grace, God, is just as unconditional, just as complete, just as willing to stay with us through the journey of our transformation.

In gratitude for all creation around us; in trust you will not ever let us go; we pray with all creatures great and small the prayer Jesus taught us saying (+3) … **"Our Creator, Mother/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, and the power and the glory, forever and ever." AMEN**

Going Forth Into The World

Closing Hymn: *"God of The Sparrow"* ***VU 229***

Benediction & Carrying Out the Light:

Go now, you with wheels and you with paws - go and do justice.
Go now, you with shoes and you with fins - go and do righteousness.
Go now, you who sing and you who quietly rest - go and be kindness.
Go now, you who live short and you who live long - go and be charity.
Go now, children of God, of all forms, and be yourselves: children of God. Amen!

Light is extinguished, ***(we carry the light in our hearts)***

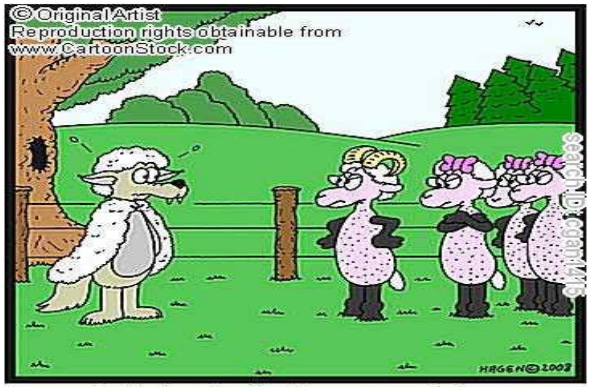
Choral Benediction: **105 TLUS May You Be Held**

May you be held,
may you be held
in the love,
in the love of God.

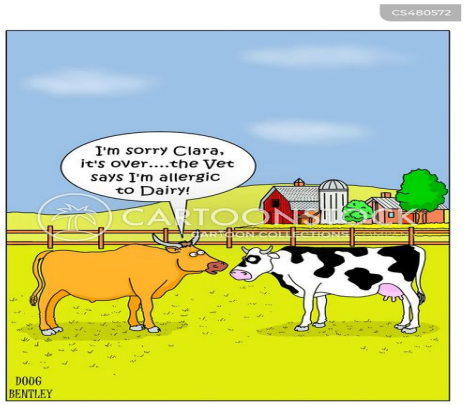
Go now in the peace and Love of Christ!

Resources Sourced: Used with permission
(+1) - Gregory Grace, Langruth, Man. Gathering Summer-Autumn 1994
(+2) - Doreen Lankshear-Smith, Thunder Bay, Ont -. Gathering, Pentecost 1, 2017.
(+3) - Revised from Gord Dunbar, Kincardine P.C., Kincardine, Ont. 2023
And Rev. Whitney Bruno.





Suddenly, the flock became suspicious:
How come the newcomer wasn't shorn?



pinterest.com

Little Current United Church PC

Welcome

To Worship



lookaside.fbsbx.com

"Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost"
October 4, 2026
Creation 5,
Blessing of the Animals

Hymns – Oct 4, 2026 for Little Current United Church

#1 VU 217 *All Creatures of Our God and King*

1.All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing***:*** hallelujah, hallelujah!
Bright burning sun with golden beam,
soft shining moon with silver gleam,
sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

2. O rushing winds and breezes soft,
O clouds that ride the winds aloft, sing praises, hallelujah!
O rising morn, in praise rejoice;
O lights of evening, find voice:
sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

3.Earth, ever fertile, day by day
brings forth rich blessings on our way: sing praises, hallelujah!
The flowers and fruits that verdant grow,
let them God's glory also show:
sing praises, hallelujah! hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

4. And everyone of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part: sing praises, hallelujah!
All who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and yield up all your care:
sing praises, hallelujah! hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

5.Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness: sing praises, hallelujah!
Praise God eternal, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one:
sing praises, hallelujah! hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

~ ~ ~

#2 MV 135 "Called By Earth and Sky"

Refrain: Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

1.Precious these waters, endless seas,
deep ocean's dream,
waters of healing, rivers of rain,
the wash of love again. ***Refrain***

2.Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
wind born and free.
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,
our gathering and our grace. ***Refrain.***

3.Precious these mountains, ancient sands;
vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,
Creation's faithful song. ***Refrain.***

4.Precious the fire that lights our way,
bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone,
our faith and justice one. ***Refrain.***

~ ~ ~

#3. VU 229 "God of the Sparrow"

1.God of the sparrow, God of the whale,
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise.

2. God of the earthquake, God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save.

3. God of the rainbow, God of the Cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks.

4. God of the hungry God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life.

5. God of the neighbour God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace.

6. God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do our children say Joy
How do your children say Home.