

The Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

Gathering Music *“Just As I Am”* (VU # 508)

Welcome

Earth Day



Announcements



Erin United Church

invites you to our

DRIVE-THRU HAM DINNER

SATURDAY
MAY 9, 2026

All Tickets - \$25 each

5:00 pm
until
7:00 pm

YOU WILL ENJOY HAM-ON-THE -BONE, SCALLOPED POTATOES,
MIXED VEGGIES, COLESLAW, ROLL, AND A SWEET CHOICE OF A HOMEMADE DESSERT

Tickets are limited and must be pre-ordered by calling
Colleen Hawes at (519) 994-1923 no later than May 4th.
PICK-UP at the back of church - 115 Main St., Erin - watch for signs.
Payment can be made by E-transfer or cash at pick-up.

Bible Study



Christian Living

All are
welcome !

Thursday

April 23

@ 7:00 pm

By Zoom

Each session is a complete unit,
so you can join anytime.

Light the Christ Candle



**With hope in our hearts at this and every promise of new life, we kindle the Christ light in the name of the One who is glorified !
Amen.**



Prelude

“Blessed Assurance”

Call to Worship

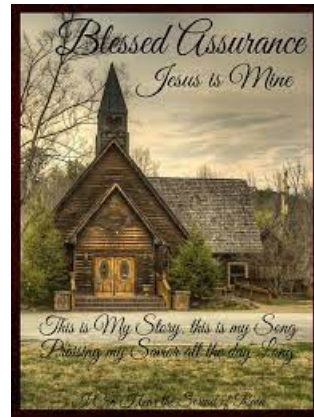
**Rain comes after drought. Spring manifests
rebirth. The cycle of seasons is unending.
Energy never dies. It transforms.
Time is infinite.
The universe is infinite.**

God's love abounds. Its fount is never dry.
God beckons us to drink.
Come, let us worship God.

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine !
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

Refrain

**This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.**



2 Perfect submission, perfect delight !
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.

3
Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love. *R*

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, you are our Eternal Sabbath. For it is in you that we find rest. And yet at times we may not seek that rest as we should.

Tied up in the busyness of our lives, and convinced of our own abilities, we may seek to impose our will on your world, rather than resting in Sabbath praise, and giving Creation time to rest.

May you help us and remind us that this rest is good, that we are good, that Creation is good, and that you are our Good God.

Help us to remember to spend time with you, seeking your will and resting in your care, so that the Earth and all Creation may also rest. Amen.

Words of Assurance

We are confident: The Earth and all that is in it is of God, and we are of this Earth and we are of God also. God embraces all the Earth and calls all of it good. God's assurance of unconditional love, shown through Christ, is eternal.

Praise God ! Thanks be to God. Amen.



Time with the Young People

led by Cathy H.

Children Song

“What a wonderful World”



We Offer Our Gifts

Musical Offering 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

Offering Prayer

**O God, we bring these offerings to you to sustain
your Creation. We give these in hope for
compassion where it is needed, where healing is
called for, and where righteousness may be
obtained. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*(The children may now proceed with their guardians
to have sharing time.)*

The Scriptures

read by Lynda W.

First Reading

Jeremiah 2:4-8

Hear the word of the LORD, you descendants of Jacob, all you clans of Israel. This is what the LORD says: "What fault did your ancestors find in me, that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves. They did not ask, 'Where is the LORD, who brought us up out of Egypt and led us through the barren wilderness, through a land of deserts and ravines, a land of drought and utter darkness, a land where no one travels and no one lives?' I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. But you came and defiled my land and made my inheritance detestable. The priests did not ask, 'Where is the LORD?' Those who deal with the law did not know me; the leaders rebelled against me. The prophets prophesied by Baal, following worthless idols.

Second Reading

Colossians 1:15-20

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all Creation. For in him all things were created: things in Heaven and on Earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the Body, the Church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on Earth or things in Heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the Cross.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

We give thanks for inspiration.

Choir Anthem *"The Unicorn"*

(After Verse 1)

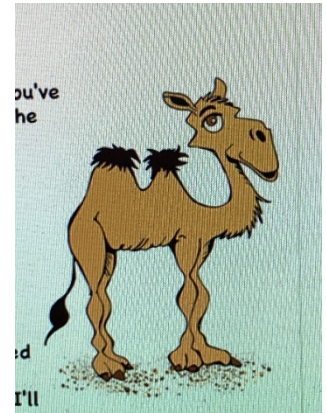
**There was green alligators and long-necked geese
Some humpty back camels and some chimpanzees
Some cats and rats and elephants, but sure as
you're born**

The loveliest of all was the Unicorn

(After Verse 2)

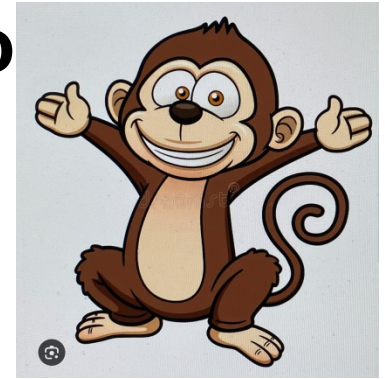
**Green alligators and long-necked geese
Some humpty back camels and some chimpanzees
Some cats and rats and elephants, but sure as
you're born**

Don't you forget my Unicorn



(After Verse 3)

**I got you green alligators and long-necked geese
Some humpty backed camels and some
chimpanzees
Some cats and rats and elephants, but Lo
forlorn
I just can't see no Unicorn**

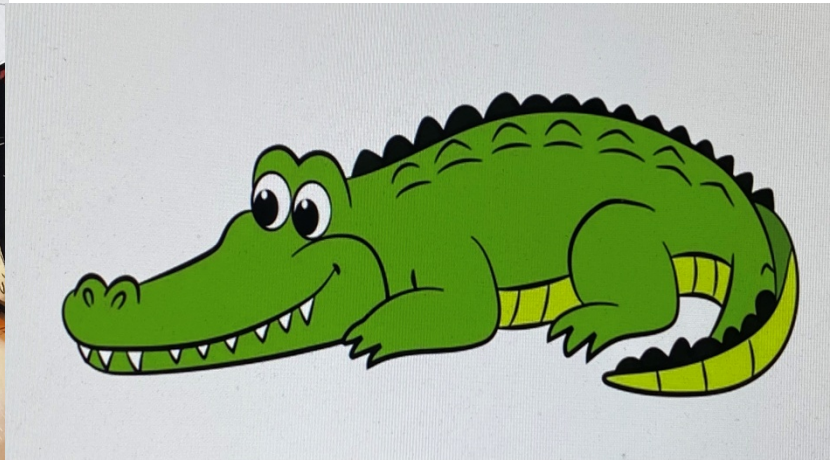


(After Verse 4)

**There was green alligators and long-necked geese
Some humpty backed camels and some
chimpanzees
Noah cried, "Close the door, 'cause the rain is
pourin'**

(After Verse 5)

**You'll see green alligators and long-necked geese
Some humpty backed camels and some
chimpanzees
Some cats and rats and elephants, but sure as
you're born
You're never gonna see no U...ni....corn**



PROTECTING OUR PLANET STARTS WITH YOU



BIKE MORE DRIVE LESS



EDUCATE

When you further your own education, you can help others understand the importance and value of our natural resources.

Volunteer!



Volunteer for cleanups in your community. You can get involved in protecting your watershed too!



reduce REUSE recycle

Cut down on what you throw away. Follow the three "R's" to conserve natural resources and landfill space.

CONSERVE WATER



The less water you use, the less runoff and wastewater that eventually end up in the ocean.

choose sustainable



Learn how to make smart seafood choices at www.FishWatch.gov.



Buy less plastic and bring a reusable shopping bag.



Long-lasting light bulbs - ARE A - BRIGHT IDEA

Energy efficient light bulbs reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Also flip the light switch off when you leave the room!

Trees provide food and oxygen. They help save energy, clean the air, and help combat climate change.



PLANT A TREE



Don't send chemicals into our waterways.

Choose nontoxic chemicals in the home and office.



oceanservice.noaa.gov

Message

by Rev. Yun-Hee

The items of e-waste

Laptops and PCs

Mobile phones and tablets. ...

Batteries, both rechargeable and single use.

Cables, chargers, transformers.

Printers, copiers, scanners and cartridges, fax machines.

Televisions, monitors, projectors, DVDs and consoles.

Small Household Electronics (calculators, hair dryers, irons, mixers, toasters, electric tools such as saws, drills, trimmers and shears, light bulbs et cetera.)

Why should we dispose of them properly ?

Because of the risks to human health; those items of e-waste contain cadmium, lead, mercury and chemicals which are hazardous to health. And then there are gold, copper, and rare earth elements, which are valuable.

Because of the risks to the environment; those items can leach their hazardous chemicals into the soil and water.

Because lithium batteries especially can cause fires. In regard to both health and the environment, most e-waste has a large amount of plastics.



#WORLD
NEWS

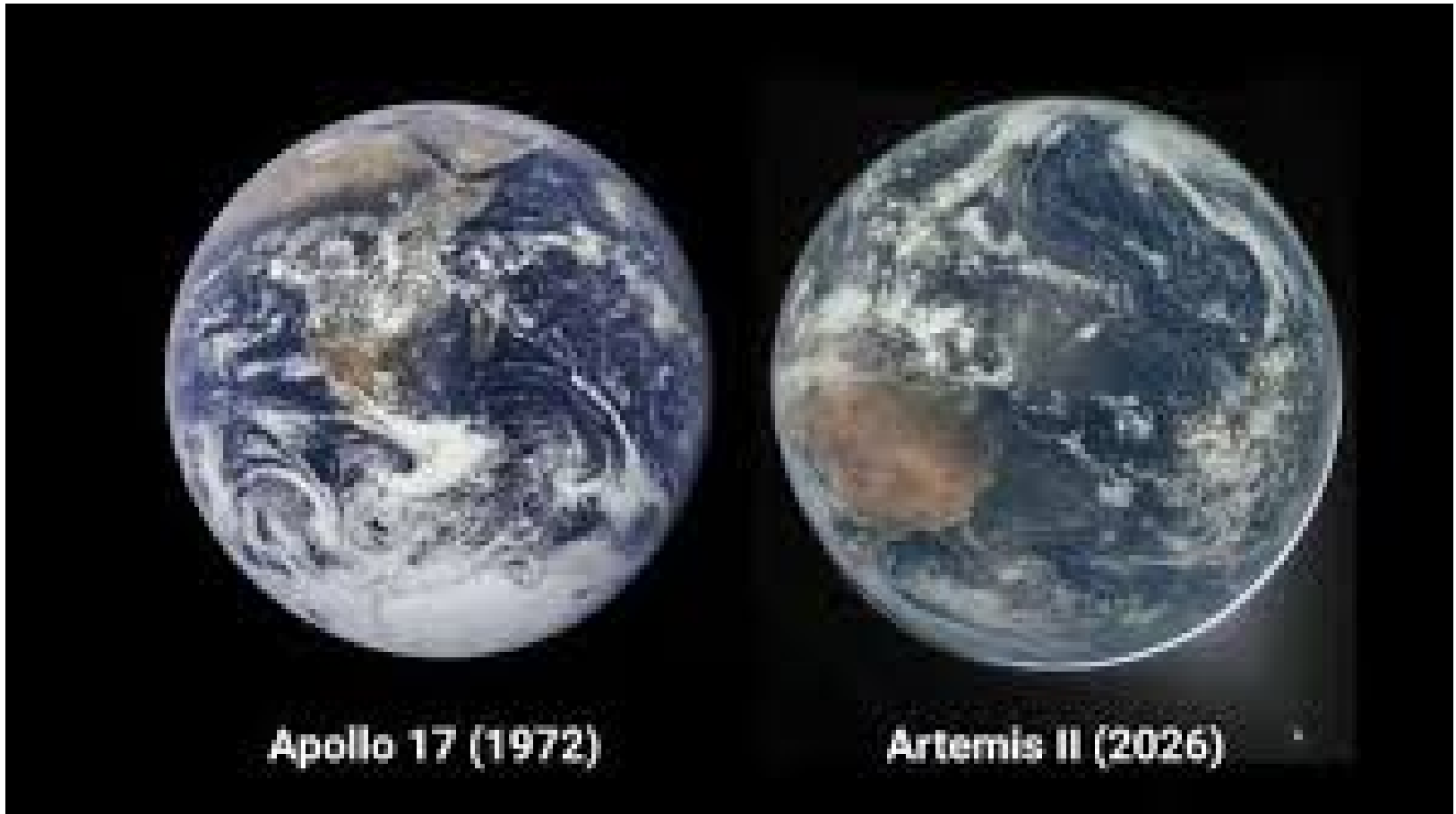
Plastic Super Islands floating in the Earth's seas



The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a huge region in the North Pacific Ocean



A plastic island - twice the size of the biggest continental state in America.



Artemis II just captured Earth from 244,000 km away — humans hadn't seen this view in 54 years.



Artemis II crew snaps stunning portrait of Earth

Hymn VU # 291 *“All Things Bright and Beautiful”*

Refrain

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
in love, God made them all.**

1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours,
God made their tiny wings.



Refrain

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
in love, God made them all.**

2 The purple headed mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky; *Refrain*

Refrain

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
in love, God made them all.**

3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them every one. ***R***

4 **The rocky mountain splendour,
the lone wolf's haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies,
the forest in the fall; *R***

Refrain

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
in love, God made them all.**

5 God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God our maker,
who has made all things well. ***R***



Minutes for Mission

by Donna Metcalfe



Prayers of the People

Holy Love, Ancient of Days, we join our hearts and minds to give thanks and praise. As the sun and moon continue their age-old dance in the heavens and electrons their endless dance within every molecule of every being, we struggle and thrill at the wonder, the vast scale, of all that is. We pray in the name of Holy Love. May Love reign.

We give thanks for life itself, miraculously created and sustained on planet Earth, searching always for ways to reproduce itself, to share in the joy and mystery of Creation with you, Creator, to exult in the water world or land or air, sometimes even reaching for the heavens to tread on other worlds. We pray in the name of Holy Love. May Love reign.

You have sent a diversity of people, young people and elders, forever to teach, to inspire, sometimes even enduring the worst, waiting and working for a better day. In an obscure corner of the world, in an all-too-ordinary time of oppression, Jesus of Nazareth received the Call, the Call to rise above, to delve within, to build unshakeable bonds of love and friendship.

As the song of Easter lingers in our hearts, we celebrate His life with all our being. We experience His whisper of forgiveness, His laughter of new beginnings, His call to come to the table of love, for all is ready, all are welcome, all is holy.

Let us find the Christ in our time, in this place, inside each of us, we pray. Let us live lives of joyous affirmation, of fervent forgiveness, of radical hospitality. We pray in the name of Holy Love. May Love reign.

We gather up all our prayers this morning, like a bouquet of precious flowers, and place them in Living Water, even as we sing in Christ's own words,





VU#960

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowéd 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

- 1 Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

3

Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my
power.

4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

5

Great God of Heaven, after victory won,
may I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's
sun !

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.



Blessing

Rain comes after drought. Spring manifests rebirth. The cycle of seasons is unending. Energy never dies. It transforms. Time is infinite. The universe is infinite. God's love abounds.

With the breath of the Spirit, we extinguish the flame of the Christ candle but the flames of the Spirit in our hearts are burning with gratitude and dedication.

Let us go forth sharing the loving light of God.
Amen.

Commissioning

An aerial photograph of a large waterfall, likely the High Falls of the Niagara River. The water is a vibrant blue-green color as it cascades over a concrete dam. The surrounding landscape is a mix of green trees and brown, bare trees, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. In the background, a tall tower and other structures are visible on the horizon.

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true.

Know God will guide you in all you do. Go now in love and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there within, around, above.

Go now in peace, in faith and in love. Amen, amen, amen.

**God, we thank you for being with us.
And
thank you Congregation for worshipping today
in person and by Zoom !**

(adapted from the United Church of Canada's Resources, 'Gathering' and Images from the public domain)

