***St. Andrews***

***United Church***



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Ministers: The people of St. Andrew’s

Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Bolton

Ministry of Music: Merna Edison

**September 21, 2025**

**Creation 2: The Land**

**WE GATHER**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

We light this candle to remind us of the light of Christ—

shining over land and sea,

warming fields and gardens,

guiding our steps on the journey of faith.

The light of Christ is here.

**Acknowledging Our Kinship**

Long before those of us who are settlers and those who are descendants of settlers came to this land to live, there were people here. We acknowledge that many Nations of Indigenous people have lived on the land. We give thanks to this land, the territory of the Chonnoton, Haudenosonee, Ashinabwe and Lenee-Lenape. Today, we know our indigenous neighbours as the Munsee-Delaware Nation, Oneida of the Thames and Chippewa of the Thames First Nationsand we commit to the shared stewardship of this land.

**Call to Worship**

Leader: God has planted us in the richness of the earth.

**People: We are rooted in God’s love.**

Leader: God waters us with streams of mercy.

**People: We are nourished by God’s Spirit.**

Leader: God gathers us like a harvest of joy.

**People: We are called to bear fruit for the world.**

Leader: Let us worship the Creator of soil, seed, and harvest.

**Gathering Hymn - We Plough the Fields and Scatter - 520 VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

**God of the soil,
we confess that we forget our connection to the land.
We have polluted rivers and poisoned the ground.
We have taken more than we needed,
and ignored the cries of creation.
Forgive us, O God.
Turn our hearts back to the earth,
that we may learn to live gently,
to restore what has been broken,
and to walk humbly on the land you entrust to us.**

**Words of Assurance**

Hear the good news: As rain falls and seeds sprout, so God’s mercy renews us.
We are forgiven, restored, and made new.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

**All God**’**s Children - Good Soil**

**Hymn - Touch the Earth Lightly - 307 VU**

**LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Scripture Reading -**

* **Genesis 2:4–7, 15** – Humanity formed from the dust, placed in the garden to till and keep it.
* **Psalm 65:9–13** – God cares for the land, enriching it abundantly.
* **Mark 4:1–9** – The parable of the sower and the soils.

**Ministry of Music**

**Meditation *- “Grounded in God’s Abundance"***

**Hymn - For the Fruit of All Creation - 227 VU**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering -** As the land yields its fruit, so we share the fruits of our lives with God. Let us bring our gifts with gratitude.

**Offering Hymn - For the Gift of Creation VU538**

 **For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,**

 **and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,**

 **we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.**

 **May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

**Dedication -** Bless these gifts, O God,

as signs of our thanksgiving.

May they be used to sow seeds of justice,

to nurture hope,

and to care for your good earth.

Amen.

**A Moment for Concerns and Celebrations**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

God of earth and sky,
we give you thanks for the gift of land.
For fertile fields and garden plots,
for forests and wetlands,
for mountains and valleys,
we praise you.

We pray for farmers and gardeners,
for those who till and those who harvest,
for all who labour to bring food to our tables.
Bless their work and give them strength.

We pray for the land itself—
for places scarred by drought, flood, or fire,
for soil depleted by misuse,
for communities without access to safe food or water.

We pray for our neighbours—
those who hunger, those who struggle,
those who long for justice and hope.

Ground us in your love, O God,
that we may be good soil where your Word can grow.

Together we pray in the words Jesus taught us:
*Our Father, who art in heaven…*

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn - Let All Things Now Living - 242 VU**

**Blessing and Commissioning**

Leader: Go now, grounded in God’s love,

rooted in God’s abundance,

and growing in God’s grace.

**People: We go as people of the soil,**

**called to care for the earth and one another.**

Leader: And may the blessing of Creator, Christ, and Spirit

be with you this day and always. Amen.

**Choral Amen**

***Announcements***

**Upcoming**

**September 25th-Ministerial Association Luncheon (basement)**

**September 25th – Euchre-1:30pm**



**Euchre is starting again on September 25th at 1:30pm. All are welcome to this afternoon of fun and fellowship.**

**On October the 5th it will be worldwide communion Sunday! Don’t miss this wonderful service.**



