

**Hybrid Worship for November 20, 2022  
Children and Youth Sunday**

**Territorial Acknowledgment and Announcements**

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is situated upon traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron - Wyandot, the Haudenosaunee and later the Mississauga of the Credit First Nations. The territory is mutually covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibway and other allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

Today, this remains the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in their community, and to share and respect Mother Earth.

**Centering Music: “Open Our Hearts” MV 21**

Open our hearts, open our minds.  
Open our lives to you O loving God.  
Open our hearts, open our minds.  
Open our lives to you O loving God.

**Call to Worship and Opening Prayer**

One: God calls us God’s own children,  
*Two: and gathers us in diverse families of faith,*  
**All: where we can learn, grow, and flourish.**  
One: God calls us beloved,  
*Two: and values each of us regardless of age or stage,*  
**All: knowing that we always need God’s guiding and inspiring touch.**  
One: God calls us into respectful relationships,  
*Two: and encourages us to listen deeply to each other,*  
**All: where we can find wisdom and hope in the voices  
of children and youth, our elders, and even the stranger.**  
One: God calls us God’s own children,  
*Two: and gathers us into this time of worship.*  
**All: As family, as children of God, we worship together.**  
One: Let’s lift our voices in prayer together:  
**All: God of young and old and in-between,  
we thank you for the gift of relationships  
between all ages, and especially for the voices  
of our children and youth.  
Help us to hear their hopes and concerns for our world  
and for our community, and guide us to listen for their wisdom.  
We pray in the name of the one who came to us as a tiny child,  
and who welcomed and honored the youngest – Jesus Christ. Amen**

**Opening Hymn: “It’s a Song of Praise to the Maker” MV 30**

It’s a song of praise to the Maker,  
the thrush sings high in the tree.  
It’s a song of praise to the Maker,  
the gray whale sings in the sea,  
and by the Spirit you and I can  
join our voice to the holy cry  
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It’s a call of life to the Giver  
when waves and waterfalls roar.  
It’s a call of life to the Giver  
when high tides break on the shore,  
and by the Spirit you and I can  
join our voice to the holy cry  
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It’s a hymn of love to the Lover;  
the bumblebees hum along.  
It’s a hymn of love to the Lover;  
the summer breeze joins the song  
and by the Spirit you and I can  
join our voice to the holy cry  
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It’s the chorus of all creation;  
it’s sung by all living things.  
Its’ the chorus of all creation;  
a song the universe sings,  
  
and by the Spirit you and I can  
join our voice to the holy cry  
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

**Prayer for Reflection and Revelation** A Prayer for Transgender Remembrance Day

Introduction: November 20 is International Transgender Day of Remembrance. It began in the late 1990s to commemorate the life of an African-American trans woman named Rita Hester who was brutally murdered. In the past year, at least 327 trans and gender-diverse people have been murdered around the world, as reported by TGEU. We know that this number is likely far lower than the actual number of deaths.

While we acknowledge that violence happens for many unjust reasons, today we honour the lives of those who were victims of violence because of their gender identity and gender expression. Due to the widespread ignorance and erasure of the experiences of trans people, this day is an important opportunity for us to intentionally bear witness to the hardships of the trans community.

Today on this International Transgender Day of Remembrance, we set this time apart in our worship to remember and mourn all those trans people who have been victims of homicide, honour the lives of those who might otherwise be forgotten and become more aware of who is most vulnerable in our communities.

One: Our God, whom we call by many names, but who calls each of us “Beloved,”  
We come in gratitude for the richness, the diversity,  
the great abundance of unique souls in this world.  
Thank you for the very complexity that distinguishes each one of us.  
May all people find those who will love and accept them,  
will value their distinctive beauty and spirits.  
May we each feel the presence of your transcending mystery,  
may we know that we are part of a process of life that is rooted  
in divine, emanating love,  
and may we feel the comfort of knowing that every one of us  
is cherished by God.

Two: Today, God, we offer our heartfelt prayers for the trans community,  
as they remember those they have lost to violence, as they continue to  
battle transphobia, ignorance, and their own fears.  
Help us to celebrate all your beloved children, God,  
and lead us to action that will bring inclusivity,  
acceptance and justice for everyone.  
Amen

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Prayer part one by Joanna Fontaine-Crawford*

**Sung Response: “Jesus, Remember Me” VU 148**

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom,  
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

**Scripture Readings:**

Deuteronomy 11:18–21 *The Inclusive Bible*

Put my words in your heart, and on your body. Tie them as a symbol on your hand, and fix them as a symbol on your forehead. Instruct your children in these things, discussing them at home or on the road,

before you go to bed and when you get up in the morning. Write beside the doors to your homes, carve them on your gates, so that your life and the lives of your children may grow long in the land that YHWH promised to your ancestors, days as numerous as the days the heavens are above the earth.

Matthew 18:1–5, 19:13–15     *The Inclusive Bible*

The disciples came up to Jesus with a question, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” Jesus called for a little child to come and stand among them. Then Jesus said, “The truth is, unless you change and become like little children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Those who make themselves as humble as this child are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes a child like this in my name welcomes me.”

Then small children were brought to Jesus so he could lay hands on them and pray for them. The disciples began to scold the parents, but Jesus said, “Let the children alone – let them come to me. The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” And after laying his hands on them, Jesus left that town.

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Choir:** "Alleluia, Praise to God" MV 59

**Reflection:** A conversation with Applewood Youth

**Hymn:** “What Can I Do?” MV 191

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.

## **Stewardship**

### **Invitation to the Offering**

One: God is always up to something. God’s creation of a kin-dom of peace and justice is so close. We are invited to be part of it. In the way we live, the way we care, the way we give. So, let’s live boldly and care generously and give extravagantly.

### **Gift of Music:**

**Hymn of Dedication:** “Grateful” MV 182 (chorus only)

Grateful, for the life you give us,

thankful, for your Holy Son,

joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of Love.

Grateful for the Bread of Heaven, thankful, for your Holy Word,

joyful, in your mercy flowing ,  
we will praise you.

**Offering Prayer:**

**All: Bless our gifts, God, that your will may be done in and through all that we offer.  
Bless our giving, God, that as we give our hearts are expanded  
and our purpose made more clear.  
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen**

**Prayers of the People**

One: Loving God, today we bring our thanks and our grateful hearts to you.

Two: *We thank you for the people who teach us, and who have taught us,  
and for the people who take time to listen and learn from us.*

Three: *We say thank you for teachers and leaders at school, and at church  
in organizations like Scouting and Guiding, and coaches in team or individual sports.*

One: We are grateful, God, for professionals with a passion for teaching,  
but also for the volunteers who help us to grow in body, mind and spirit.

Two: *We thank you for the people who truly see us and accept us as we are,  
and encourage us to try new things or learn in a new way .*

Three: *We thank you for all the opportunities we have to gain skills and knowledge,  
discover more about ourselves and the world, and thrive in what we do .*

One: We know, God, that not all people have the same opportunities to learn,  
to be taught, to be heard and acknowledged, or to be nurtured in their faith.

Two: *So we pray, God, for children in refugee camps with no chance to go to school,  
and for young people whose schools or universities have been destroyed by war.*

Three: *We pray, God, for children and youth who are ill and cannot attend classes,  
and those who are still separated from classes and classmates.*

One: We pray, Compassionate God, for families in countries where education is not  
widely available, or where resources are scarce.

Two: *We pray for families and individuals who are worried about warm clothing for winter,  
or how they will pay for their groceries or their rent.  
We pray for people who are often unseen and unheard –the homeless, the lonely,  
our indigenous people, members of the LGBTQ+ community.*

Three: *We pray for people who are sick and in hospital, or sick and staying in their homes.  
We pray for anyone who is suffering with mental illness, or people who are waiting for tests  
and treatments. We pray for everyone who is infected and fighting any illness today,  
and for the families that love them.*

One: Help us to learn how best to be your church, to share your love and do your justice, God.

Two: *Keep us praying, God, and keep us growing in faith and following your way through our actions  
and our choices.*

Three: *Hear our prayers, God –and through Jesus our Light,  
the Spirit our guide, and in your love, answer them.*

**The Lord's Prayer – A Paraphrase**

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

One: Eternal Spirit, Life-giver, Pain-bearer, Love-maker,  
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.

**All: Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

One: The way of your justice be followed  
by 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.

**All: Give us this day our daily bread.**

One: With the bread we need for today, feed us.

**All: Forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

One: In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

**All: And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.**

One: In the times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

**All: For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever.**

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

**All: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: "I'm Gonna Live so God Can Use Me" VU 575**

I'm gonna live so God can use me,  
anywhere Lord, any time!  
I'm gonna live so God can use me,  
anywhere Lord, any time!

I'm gonna work so God can use me,  
anywhere Lord, any time!  
I'm gonna work so God can use me,  
anywhere Lord, any time!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me,  
anywhere Lord, any time!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me,  
anywhere Lord, any time!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me,  
anywhere Lord, any time!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me,  
anywhere Lord, any time!

### **Blessing**

One: God be in our heads

**All: and in our understanding of children's needs.**

One: God be in our eyes

**All: and in the way we behold the wonder of children and youth.**

One: God be in our mouths

**All: and in our speaking to and on behalf of younger ones.**

One: God be in our hearts and in our love for all youth and children.

**All: God be in our hands and in our support of the youngest.**

One: God be in your feet and in your walk with children and youth.

**All: Amen.**

### **Commissioning**

One: Go with God,

*Two: who, in love, sang the universe into being.*

One: And with Jesus Christ

*Two: Who is God's love song to the world.*

One: And with the Holy Spirit

*Two: who sings God's love into each and every heart,  
each and every day.*

*Amen*

### **Sung Amen VU972**

**Reflection**     *The Reflection for today's worship will be a live conversation with some of our youth, centered on these questions:*

- 1) *What is important to you at Applewood United Church?*
- 2) *Name a person, a place or a situation that helped you learn about God, Jesus and/or your faith.*
- 3) *How do you live a faithful life, and is that important to you?*