

Applewood United Church
An Affirming Community
Hybrid Worship for November 5, 2023
Remembrance/Peace Sunday

(*please stand in body or in spirit; **bold** print is for all)

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: "Give Peace to Ev'ry Heart" MV 86

Give peace to ev'ry heart,
Give peace to ev'ry heart,
Give peace God,
Give peace God.

* Call to Worship: *(responsive)*

One: On this Remembrance Sunday we gather to pray

All: for a world where no one will learn war anymore.

One: On this day when we remember that
the guns once fell silent,

All: we gather to pray for peace to reign in every heart, home and nation.

One: On this day of hope,

**All: we come before you, God,
to remember all those who gave their lives so we could be free.**

One: In this time of story, song, and prayer,
help us to catch a vision of how the world could live together.

**All: And so, let echo the old prayers—
make us channels of your peace.**

One: In that spirit, let us join our hearts in song.

* **Opening Hymn:** "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" VU 684

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Opening Prayer: *(responsive)*

One: Almighty God,

**All: Grant that we who gather here today
may pay fitting tribute and honour
to the memory of those who have died
in the service of their country.**

One: May we be so inspired by the spirit of their love and courage that, forgetting all selfish and unworthy motives,

All: we may live only to your glory and to the service of your people. May we who desire peace be willing to work for justice. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Time of Remembrance

Choir: "In Flanders Fields"

A Moment of Silence

Words of Remembrance:

One: They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old.

**All: Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.**

One: At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them.

All: We will remember them.

Laying our Poppies in Respect and Remembrance

Scripture readings:

Micah 4:1-5

But at the end of days, the mountain of YHWH's Temple will be established as the most important mountain and raised above all other hills—all nations will stream toward it.

Many people will come and say: "Come, let us climb YHWH's mountain to the Temple of the God of Jacob, that we may be instructed in God's ways and walk in God's paths." Instruction will be given from Zion and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem. YHWH will judge between many peoples and arbitrate between mighty and distant nations; They will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation will not raise the sword against another, and never again will they train for war. People will sit under their own vines and fig trees with no one to make them afraid. The mouth of YHWH Omnipotent has spoken.

Though all the nations walk in the names of their own gods, we will walk in the name of YHWH our God forever and ever

John 15:9–17

As my Abba has loved me, so have I loved you. Live on in my love.

And you will live on in my love if you keep my commandments, just as I live on in Abba God's love and have kept God's commandments.

I tell you all this that my joy may be yours, and your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

And you are my friends if you do what I command you.

I no longer speak of you as subordinates, because a subordinate doesn't know a superior's business. Instead I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learned from Abba God. It was not you who chose me; it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit.

Your fruit must endure, so that whatever you ask of Abba God in my name God will give you.

This command I give you: that you love one another.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Music for Reflection

Reflection: Bringing Peace

* Hymn: "My Soul Cries Out" MV 120 verses 1 and 4

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.

You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,

and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.

This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

Introduction to the Offering

Offering of Music

*** Hymn of Dedication: "We Give You But Your Own" VU 542**
We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be.
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

* Prayer of Dedication:

**All: Giving and sustaining God,
we bring our very selves to you.
Bless these gifts of our hearts and hands,
of our struggles and our hopes.
May they further the call for your peace and love
to be shared in the world.
Amen**

Choir: "Come, Be Fed"

* Closing Hymn: "When Hands Reach Out" MV 169

When hands reach out beyond divides
and hope is truly found,
each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace, of peace shall sound
and bells of peace shall sound,
each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound.

When fear no longer guides our steps
and days of war are done,
God's dream for all shall live anew;
our hearts will heal as one,
our hearts will heal, will heal as one,
our hearts will heal as one,
God's dream for all shall live anew;
our hearts will heal as one.

When race and creed blind us no more,
a neighbour's face we'll see,
and we shall dance the whole world round,
for love will set us free,
for love, yes love will set us free,
for love will set us free,
and we shall dance the whole world round,
for love will set us free.

* Commissioning/Benediction

* Sung Amen VU 973

*Parts of our service today were written in collaboration by United Church of Canada military chaplains Captain
(Rev.) Audrey Brown and Captain (Rev.) Tyler Powell*