Sydenham Street United Church

Reverend Catherine Elsdon
12 October, 2025
Thanksgiving Sunday
11:00 am

For thousands of years, Indigenous Peoples have cared for the land on which we live and worship. We gratefully acknowledge their stewardship and we recognize what was taken from them. We too are called to live with respect in creation: to honour the Creator; to protect the land, the water, and all living beings; to find, together, a path of peace, justice, and reconciliation.

Welcome
As an Affirming ministry,
Sydenham Street United Church is committed to
following the way of Jesus,
seeking justice,
and nurturing inclusive community.

Land Acknowledgement

Call to Worship
One: In worship God bends down to the dust,
and we are formed anew.
Many: We breathe in the divine breath and remember
that we are living beings.
In worship we give thanks for the wonders of
God's creation:
flowing waters and fruit-filled trees,
animals of the field, and birds of the air.
In worship we gather with each other,
our helpers and partners in this life of faith.
Let us give thanks for this time of worship.
Let us receive God's breath of life.

Hymn Voices United 227 "For the Fruit of All Creation"

Theme Introduction
Candle Lighting
Introit Harvest Festival – Healey Willan
O Lord, how manifold are thy works:
In wisdom hast Thou made them all the Earth is full of thy riches.
Thou visitest the Earth and blessest it: thou makest it very plenteous
Opening Prayer

Scripture
Genesis 2:4–23
For wisdom and good news,
thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn Voices United 296 "This Is God's Wondrous World"

Connecting & Contributing

Prayer of Dedication

Lavish God, the riches you have given us
in creation are overwhelming.
We are in awe of all that you have formed,
of the life that courses through this world.
We are humbled to be part of your creation,
and honored to participate in the divine life.
Receive these gifts we offer as signs of our gratitude
and as one small way we choose to work with you
to bring peace to all of creation. Amen.

Anthem We Plough the Fields, And Scatter – arr. John Rutter

We plough the fields, and scatter The good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand;
He sends the snow in Winter, The warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine, And soft refreshing rain:
All good gifts around us Are sent from heav'n above,
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, For all his love.
He only is the Maker Of all things near and far.
He paints the wayside flower, He lights the evening star.
The winds and waves obey him, My him. him the birds are fed;
Much more to us, his children, He gives our daily bread:
We thank thee then, O Father, for all things bright and good;
The seed time and the harvest, Our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer For all thy love imparts,
But that which thou desirest, Our humble thankful hearts

***Seeking Peace Together* Fall Sermon Series**

Peace with Creation – "God Tends a Garden"

Hymn More Voices 135 "Called by Earth and Sky"

Prayers of the People

For dust and stones, for rivers and streams,
we give you thanks, O God.
For seeds and their growth, for trees and
their fruit,
we give you thanks, O God.
For all that you have formed with your hands

and enlivened with your breath,
we give you thanks, O God.
For every animal of the field, for all birds of the air,
we give you thanks, O God.
For each person created in your image,
our helpers and partners,
we give you thanks, O God.
Let us name aloud the prayers of this community.
Hear our prayer, O God.…
These are the joys and concerns of our hearts.
Hear our prayer, O God.
On this Thanksgiving Sunday,
let us appreciate the beauty of your creation.
Hear our prayer, O God.
Let us share in the nourishment your earth provides.
Hear our prayer, O God.
Let us live out our gratitude in acts of compassion and care.
Hear our prayer, O God.
Let us embody our thanks by living with joy
and reverence on the land.
Hear our prayer, O God. Amen.

Prayer of Jesus (sung)

Our Father, our Mother,
loving God in whom is heaven,
may your name be made holy,
may your reign come.
May your will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us today the bread we need
and forgive us our debts
as we have forgiven our debtors.
And do not put us to the test
but free us from evil,
for yours is the dominion
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Words: United Church of Christ USA, 1995, adapted.
Music: Wendy Edey, 2002

Hymn Voices United 242 "Let All Things Now Living"

Blessing
Passing the Peace

Sydenham Street United Church strives to
follow in the way of Jesus,
seek justice and
nurture inclusive community.

Affirm | S'affirmer
UNITED | ENSEMBLE

In need of prayer or support? Contact our Circles of Companionship or Rev. Catherine at 613-546-9616 ext 203 or minister@sydenhamstreet.ca

*This worship service is a public event livestreamed on YouTube – please be advised that you may be photographed or videorecorded while in attendance

Thank You for Talents Shared Today:
Reverend Catherine Elsdon, Minister
Howard Lopez, Music Director
Sydenham Street Choir
Peter Goheen, Reader

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613-542-9616
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Online Sunday Services: www.youtube.com/user/SydenhamStreet

Thank you for your financial support!

There are many ways to financially contribute to the ministries at

Sydenham Street United Church

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For further information:
https://sydenhamstreet.ca/ssuc1/donate/