

# Sydenham Street United Church



Reverend Catherine Elsdon  
February 1, 2026  
11:00 am

The lands on which we are meeting today are the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Peoples. We acknowledge their enduring presence on this land, as well as the presence of Métis, Inuit and other First Nations from across Turtle Island. We deeply respect the many generations of people who have cared for this land, and whose spiritualities, teachings and ways of knowing are closely tied to it. We seek to build right relations with these Peoples, to learn from them, and to live together on this land with respect and gratitude.

February 1, 2026

## 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** by George Allan, from *Gathering*  
God calls us to this place,  
**to sing and pray,**  
to listen and receive the word,  
**to remember and to share  
in the holy meal Christ prepares for us.**  
Thanks be to God!

**Hymn** Voices United 402 “We Are One”

## Theme Introduction

### Candle Lighting

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed:

**“Arise, shine, for your light has come;  
and over you the glory of God has dawned.”**

Jesus the Christ explained:

**“I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will have the light of life.”**

Let us worship and walk in the light.

**Sung Response** More Voices 82, verse 1

Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator,  
let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.  
Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life’s wounding,  
showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.

## Prayer for Illumination

## **Scripture**

Psalm 46, Voices United page 770 (refrain 1)

God offers to us,  
through prophets and apostles,  
words of life which in faith become the Living Word.

**We give thanks for the Living Word. Amen.**

**Series Hymn** More Voices 42 “Praise God for This Holy Ground”

## **Connecting & Contributing**

### **Prayer of Dedication**

Receive our gifts, O God.

May they be used to show forth to the world  
the greatness of your love.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

**Anthem** Kyrie Eleison      Music by Brian Lewis

**Sermon Series** Half Truth: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves

**Hymn** Voices United 460 “All Who Hunger”

### **Communion Prayer**

May God be with us.

**The Spirit is here among us.**

Let us open our hearts to God.

**We open them to God and to one another.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, gracious God...

...So it is that we join the song of all creation to  
proclaim your goodness:

**MV 203**

**O Holy, holy, holy God,**

**O God of time and space.**

**All earth and sea and sky above**

**bear witness to your grace.  
Hosanna in the highest heav'n,  
creation sings your praise.  
And bles-sed is the One who comes  
and bears your name always!**

Mighty and tender God...

...Grant that, in praise and thanksgiving,  
we may so offer ourselves to you  
that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

**MV 203**

**Sing Christ has died  
and Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again! (repeat)**

...Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory is yours, God most holy,  
now and forever.

**MV 205**

**Amen, amen, O Holy One!  
Hosanna and Amen! (repeat)**

**Prayer of Jesus (sung)** *\*servers come forward*

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*

## **Sharing the Bread & Cup**

*When you receive the elements, the server will say:*

*“Bread for the journey” or “The cup of blessing.”*

*You are invited to respond by saying:*

***“Thanks be to God” or “Amen.”***

## **Communion Anthem** Here, O My Lord

Words: Horatius Bonar (1808- 1889 Music: Eleanor Daley

Here, O my Lord I see Thee face to face,  
Here would I touch and handle things unseen,  
Here grasp with firmer hands th'eternal grace,  
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.  
Here would I feed upon the bread of God,  
here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav'n,  
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,  
and taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv'n.  
This is the hour of banquet and of song,  
this is the heav'nly table spread for me,  
here let me feast, and feasting still prolong  
the brief bright hour of fellowship with Thee. Amen.

## **Prayer after Communion**

**Hymn** Voices United 481 “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

## **Blessing**

### **Passing the Peace**

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



In need of prayer or support? Contact our Circles of Companionship or Rev. Catherine at 613-546-9616 ext 203 or [minister@sydenhamstreet.ca](mailto: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  
Chelsea Houston, Reader

82 Sydenham St. Kingston ON K7L 3H4  
613-542-9616

Email: [admin@sydenhamstreet.ca](mailto:admin@sydenhamstreet.ca)

Web: <https://sydenhamstreet.ca/ssuc1/>

Online Sunday Services: [www.youtube.com/user/SydenhamStreet](http://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**

- Electronic Transfer (eTransfer) [givings@sydenhamstreet.ca](mailto:givings@sydenhamstreet.ca)
- Donate by Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)
- Donate through [CanadaHelps](#)
- Place donation in offering plates at the sanctuary doors

For further information:

<https://sydenhamstreet.ca/ssuc1/donate/>