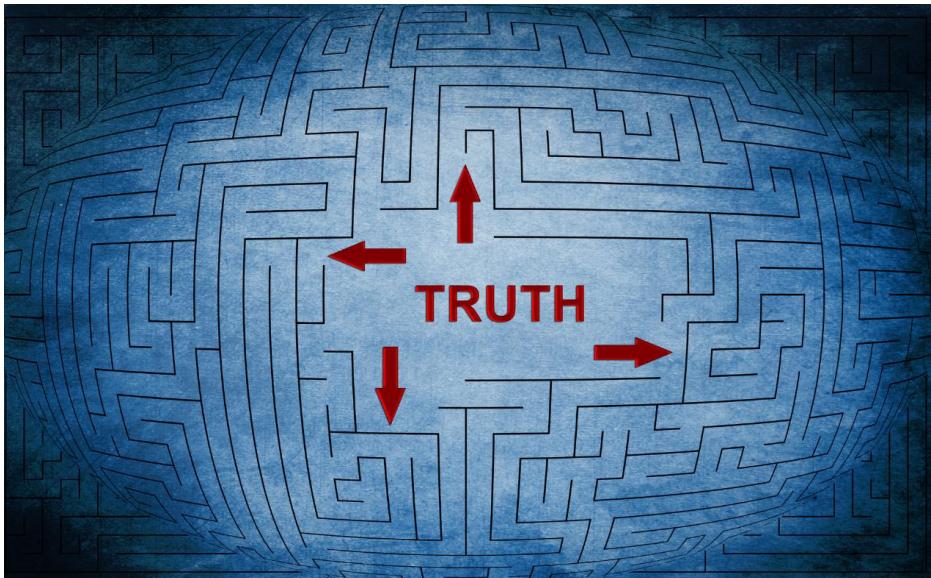


# Sydenham Street United Church



Reverend Catherine Elsdon  
January 18, 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.

January 18, 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

### Introit

**Call to Worship** by Richard Bott, from *Gathering*

Why are we called to this place?

**To be God's people.**

What is required of us?

**To seek justice,  
to love kindness,  
to live humbly with God.**

And how shall we do this?

**With our prayers,  
with our thoughts,  
with our actions,  
and with our love.**

Then, as people who are both blessed and blessing:

**Let us worship God!**

**Hymn** Voices United 395 "Come In, Come In and Sit Down"

## 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. (*candle is lit*)

**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.

**Opening Prayer**

Eternal God, radiant with grace,  
thaw our fears and snow-bound spirits;  
make us shine with your Word, our hope;  
shine with your communion, our life;  
shine with your peace, our joy;  
through Christ, who is our Light. Amen.

**Scripture**

Deuteronomy 30:19-20a

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** “Lamb of God” by Thomas Morley

*Lamb of God, who takes  
Who takes away,  
takes away the sin of the world,  
who takes,  
Who takes away all sin,  
Have mercy on us*

## **Prayers of the People**

### **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

**Sermon Series** Half Truth: Everything Happens for a Reason

**Hymn** Voices United 626 “I Heard the Voice of Jesus”

**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

Peter Goheen, Reader

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613-542-9616

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

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

Online Sunday Services: [www.youtube.com/user/SydenhamStreet](https://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/>