



SYDENHAM STREET
UNITED CHURCH



May 31, 2026
11:00 am

Our congregation meets on traditional Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee territory.
We are grateful to live, worship and gather on this land, as we join together to share in the care of God's creation

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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

Trinity Introit Behold, Our God, Our Shield Healey Willan
*Behold, our God, our Shield, and look upon the face of Thine anointed;
for a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand
How amiable are Thy Tabernacles, O Lord of hosts!
My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord.*

Call to Worship

Touch us, O God, through the ministry of melody,
through the sounds and senses of song,
through the wordless wonder which fills our souls with heaven,
**through the spirit which teaches our feet to dance
and causes our hearts to overflow,**
that we might be absorbed in the mystery and magic of music,
**and that, in this moment of oneness,
our lives will be bonded to each other and to you. Amen.**

Hymn VU 409 "Morning Has Broken"

Theme Introduction John Wesley's Directions for Singing

Directions for Singing 1&2

1. Learn these tunes before you learn any others, afterwards learn as many as you please
2. Sing them exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them at all; and if you have learned to sing them otherwise, unlearn it as soon as you can.

Hymn VU 264 "Immortal, Invisible"

Prayer for Illumination

Eternal God,
in the reading of the scripture, may your Word be heard;
in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known;
and in the music of our lives, may your Word be sung. Amen.

Scripture

Psalm 100 (Inclusive Bible)

God's Word is a lamp to our feet,
and a light to our path. Amen.

Directions for Singing

3. Sing all – see that you join the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up and you will find a blessing.

Hymn VU 372 “Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire”

Connecting & Contributing

Prayer of Dedication

We bring our gifts to you, O God.
Here is the work of our hands,
and here is the love of our hearts.
Accept them and use them,
to bring hope and healing to your world. Amen

Choir Anthem “Holy, Blessed Trinity” Peterr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Holy, blessed Trinity

We adore Thee blessed, blessed- Union of the Trinity.

Magnify and praise we, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

Holy, Holy blessed Trinity Perfect in power, in love, in love and purity.

One in Three, Three in One, merciful and mighty

All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Lord, God we praise Thee, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Glory be to Thee O God On high and on earth below be praise

Scripture Job 38:4-7 Inclusive Bible

Directions for Singing

4. Sing lustily – and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half-dead or half-asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sang the songs of Satan

Hymn VU 240 Praise my Soul the God of Heaven

Scripture Col 3:16-17 Inclusive Bible

Directions for Singing

5. Sing modestly – do not bawl so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation that you may not destroy the harmony, but strive to unite your voices together so as to make one melodious sound.

Hymn MV 134 “There was a Child in Galilee”

Scripture Psalm 98:4-6 Inclusive Bible

Directions for Singing

6. Sing in time – whatever time is sung, be sure to keep with it. Do not run before and do not stay behind it; but attend closely to the leading voices and move therewith as exactly as you can and take care not to sing too slow. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from among us and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first.

Hymn VU 509 “I the Lord of Sea and Sky”

Poem Such Singing in the Wild Branches by Mary Oliver

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

Directions for Singing

7. Sing spiritually – have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing Him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.

Hymn VU644 I Was There to Hear your Bournin Cry

Blessing & Sending Forth

Scripture Isaiah 55:12 (NRSV)

For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Passing the Peace

*Jesus greeted his disciples with the word, "Peace." You are invited to turn to your neighbour and greet them warmly with words of peace and care.