



SYDENHAM STREET
UNITED CHURCH



September 27, 2026

For thousands of years Indigenous Peoples 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.

Fall Worship Series: Seeking Justice Together
Season of Creation
September 27, 2026

*A special welcome to those in attendance from
Chalmers, Edith Rankin Memorial,
Faith & St. Andrew's By-the-Lake United Churches!*

Announcements

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Call to Worship The Rev. Michelle Owens, Edith Rankin Memorial UC
All creation is made of star-stuff.
From the basic building blocks of the universe,
come fire, air, earth, and water.

**And all creation sings praise
to the Creator.**

Baptized by the waters of the sky,
standing firm on the earth,
breathing deep the breath of life,
warmed by this flame...

we seek to follow and share the light of Christ!

Let us worship together.

Written by Richard Bott, Dunbar Heights UC, Vancouver

Opening Hymn More Voices 135 *Called by Earth and Sky*

Theme Introduction

Opening Prayer (unison)

O Creator God,
Help us listen carefully to your teaching
and help us all to live according to your will.
Hear the prayers we offer,
and send the Holy Spirit to guide and lead us in all that we do.
Help us to love one another as you love us.
This we pray in Jesus Christ. Amen

*Written by the Rev. Agnes Melinda Spence, Nisichawayasihk Cree
Nation, Nelson House, Manitoba*

Centering Song More Voices 21 *Open Our Hearts* x3 (remain seated)
Scripture

Numbers 27:1–11

Response: May God bless to our understanding
these words from our sacred story. **Amen.**

Connecting & Contributing

Dedicating our Offering (unison)

In gratitude for all that you have given to us,
we offer these gifts to you
and our compassion to one another.
Bless what we have given in our offering
and received in our worship
so that your love may be extended
in our communities and far beyond. Amen.

Choir Anthem *Ispiciwin* (Journey)

Music: Orlando Gibbons (1582-1 625) Arr. Andrew Balfour

Cree text by Andrew Balfour: *Journey, Journey of Truth, Journey of Dreams Us, Smudge, Eagle Feather*

Ispiciwin (journey) is part of a musical project of Cree composer and conductor Andrew Balfour. By taking choral music of the Elizabethan masters and others, he reshapes the thoughts behind the texts, changing the Latin text to Ojibway or Cree perspectives.

From Andrew Balfour: “As a former choir boy brought up in the high Anglican choral tradition, growing up singing the glorious choral music of Tallis, Byrd, Gibbons, and Purcell, and traveling to England several times singing in English Cathedrals made lasting impressions on me. As a 60’s scooper, I was taken away from my Indigenous family when I was a baby, but luckily was raised in a loving and very musical family. I have spent most of my life trying to identify my Indigenous blood, culture and language. Through my composing and collaboration with Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists it has been a beautiful *Ispiciwin* (journey).”

Guest Speaker

John A Olthuis CM – Cofounder of Olthuis Kleer Townshend Law
“Getting Loose with Love for Our Indigenous Neighbours”

Choir Anthem On Eagle's Wings Michael Joncas, arr. Douglas E Wagner
**You are invited to write on your feather a prayer, response or commitment.*

Time for Reflection & Response

**You are invited to come forward in silence to hang your feather on the mobile. If you would prefer, feel free to ask someone nearby to hang it for you.*

Prayers for Reconciliation & Justice The Rev. Elizabeth Guillaume-Koene, Chalmers UC

Hymn Voices United 375 *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

Blessing

Passing the Peace

**At the conclusion of our service, you are invited to turn to your neighbour and say the words, "Peace be with you." This phrase is an ancient greeting, used by Jesus and his earliest followers.*

Please join us for a light lunch following the service, and stay to continue the conversation with a panel discussion in the Upper Hall of The Spire at 1:30 pm.

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



*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:

Rev. Catherine Elsdon
John A Olthuis CM
Rev. Michelle Owens
Rev. Elizabeth Guillaume- Koene
Howard Lopez, Music Director
Members of JTRAG
Sydenham Street Choir
Julian Gregory, Reader

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

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

- Electronic Transfer (eTransfer) 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/>