



Order of Service
October 25, 2026

*Hymn and anthem texts reprinted under
One License #A-729129
unless otherwise indicated*

Bold type indicates congregational response. * indicates to stand in body or spirit

Gathering (Candle lighting) Hymn: VU #382 “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” TRENTHAM
Welcome and Announcements Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence (he/him)
***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Opening Prayer with Land Acknowledgment

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

One: Holy One, you are nearer than our next breath. Before we had a word for you, your Spirit hovered over the deep, and before we had a name for ourselves, you breathed us into being. We gather this morning in London, on land that has been home since time immemorial to First Nations, including the Anishinaabek, the Haudenosaunee, the Chonnoton, and the Lúnapeewak. We honour them as original caretakers of this place, and we give thanks that they are its caretakers still.

ALL: We remember the covenants made on this land: the Dish with One Spoon, one bowl shared by all, one spoon, and no knife, the McKee Treaty of 1790, the London Township Treaty of 1796, and the Huron Tract Treaty of 1827.

One: To share one bowl is to trust that others will take only what they need. To share one air is to trust that others will breathe it kindly. Both are acts of risky closeness, and both were offered to us as gifts, long before we arrived.

ALL: We confess that promises made in good faith have not always been kept, and that we, who have received the benefit of these agreements, have too often forgotten that we are bound by them. We who have read of promised lands have too often forgotten that others were already at home.

One: Draw us toward you, as you drew Moses, with a tenderness that doesn't hurry us and doesn't let us go. Give us courage for the closeness we long for, with you, with this land, and with our neighbours, and honesty about what it might cost. Breathe in us now. Breathe in these songs, these silences, these words, that we might rise from this place as living breath for the world. In the name of Christ, who breathed peace upon his friends, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn:** VU #595 “We Are Pilgrims”

SERVANT SONG

**Please use alternate text verses 2 & 6 – “Will you” instead of “Sister,” “Brother”*

Musical Reflection:

Treblemakers

Candice Luo, director; Eman Eleiwi & Rebecca Neaves, chime directors)

1. “Salaam aleikum”

Traditional Ghanaian

(sung in Arabic & English)

May peace be in your hearts,
may peace be in your homes,
may peace be in your land,
may peace be in our world.

2. “I Am a Child of God” *(with chimes)*

C. Fischer

I am a child of God in whom God is well pleased!
I am a child of God in whom God is well pleased!
You are a child of God in whom God is well pleased!
You are a child of God in whom God is well pleased!

Children leave for Worship & Wonder

Scripture: Deuteronomy 34: 1-12

Katherine Wonfor (she/her)

One: A Word of God for all people,

ALL: thanks be to God.

***Scripture:** Matthew 22: 34-46

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

Sermon: “Holy Respiration”

***Hymn:** VU #703 “In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

PROMISE

Prayers of the People:

One: Holy God, in your mercy...

ALL: hear our prayer.

Prayer of Jesus: *from the First Nations Translation of the Bible*
(unison)

**O Great Spirit, our Father from above,
we honor your name as sacred and holy.
Bring your good road to us,
where the beauty of your ways in the spirit-world above
is reflected in the earth below.
Provide for us day by day--
the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon.
The corn, the squash, and the wild rice.
All the things we need for each day.
Release us from the things we have done wrong,
in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us.
Guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road,
and set us free from the evil one and his worthless ways.
Aho! May it be so!**

Musical Offering: “Like a River in My Soul” Traditional Spiritual, arr. Tim Osiek
Choir; Lesley Andrew, conductor; Lynda Kennedy, piano

I’ve got peace like a river, like a river in my soul.
I’ve got peace like a river, soothing river, calmly flow.
When the world closes in, feel the stillness within.
I’ve got peace like a river, like a river in my soul.

I’ve got love like an ocean, like an ocean in my soul.
I’ve got love like an ocean, endless ocean, deep and full.
When you’re lost and alone, let the waves bring you home.
I’ve got love like an ocean, like an ocean in my soul.

In my soul, in my soul.

I’ve got joy like a fountain, like a fountain in my soul.
I’ve got joy like a fountain, like a fountain in my soul.
When your hope nearly dies, just remember, once again you shall rise!

I’ve got joy like a fountain,
Love like an ocean,
Peace like a river, in my soul.

Gratitude

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

***Hymn:** VU #660 “How Firm a Foundation”

ST DENIO

Blessing:

**The light of God surrounds us;
The love of God enfolds us;
The power of God protects us;
The presence of God watches over us;
Wherever we are, God is!**

Sending Music: “Postlude III”

Paul Merritt (he/him), organ

Denis Bédard

The Leadership in Today's Service Includes:

Welcoming Ushers: Bonnie Adamson, Stewart Bailey and Barb Dalrymple
Narthex Co-ordinator: Carol Riddell-Elson
Service Support: George Jolink
Tech Team: Robin Neaves, Jim Silcox, Kathryn & Rebecca Skelly and Chris Wood
Coffee and Conversation: Music Committee
Gift Card Table: David Manness and Frank Kearney

We thank God for all those who share their gifts and talents.

First-St. Andrew's United Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence Minister of Worship and Congregational Life
Rev. Anne-Louise Jannaway Minister of Pastoral Care **Chris Fischer** Minister of Music
Christina Lindsay Children's & Youth Program Coordinator **Kathryn Skelly** Office Manager
Rev. Karen Low Voluntary Associate Minister
Rev. Dr. David McKane Minister Emeritus **Paul Merritt** Organist Emeritus
Dr. Jo Ann Silcox Designated Pastoral Care Volunteer
Steve Elson, George Jolink, David Wardlaw Co-Chairs of Council