



Sunday, January 18, 2026 – 10:30 AM
Theme: Celebrate the Legacy of MLK

Faithful Pause: “To protect everything may seem like too great a call. But we will not survive without it. Everything should be called by its name. So let justice roll down and twist and juke like a movement. Let it march into your bones, into seas of charred cane. Wash the earth in justice and watch what rises to the surface. Curses can’t breathe underwater.” ~ Cole Arthur Riley in *This Here Flesh*

We give thanks to our full communion denomination The United Church of Christ in the USA for resources used to shape our worship experience today.

GATHERING AS COMMUNITY

*Please stand as you are able

Prelude: *I want Jesus to Walk With Me* Michael Hanna, Vocal
John Dapaah, Piano
African-American Spiritual, Public Domain

Welcome & Honouring The Land Rev. Bob

Life & Ministry Liz Harrison

Grounding Song: *Lift Every Voice and Sing* Michael Hanna, Vocal
John Dapaah, Piano
*James Johnson, J. Rosamund Johnson, Stephen DeCesare
Public Domain*

Christ Candle Kyle & Wendy McHenry
This candle is more than wax and wick.
When we relight it in the context of worship, it is more than a light.
It is the light of Christ.

May this light remind us that inside each of us, the light of Christ shines with the wonder of new beginnings and possibilities we have never imagined. May it remind us that the harmonies of liberty are possible in our lifetimes. May it remind us that in our bodies we hold both despair and hope; prejudice and justice; hate and love. And that you call each of us to be part of that long, slow arc towards your inclusive, affirming, and beloved community.

Call To Worship: (*Responsive*)

Bev

With the rolling waters of mighty streams, we gather to join the movement of God's justice.

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

With the future dreams of a mustard seed, we come together to join the movement of Jesus' liberation.

Every step towards the goal of justice requires...struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action.

With the shining light of a tender flame, we bring our hearts, to join the movement of the Spirit's love.

We must remember...that a boycott is not an end within itself...the end is the creation of the beloved community. It is this love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of [people].

Ringing with prayer and praise, bringing our unique gifts and passions, we become the Body of Christ, moving with faith and action in the world.

Joining this great movement of hope, let us worship God.

Gathering Prayer (Based on words from Audre Lorde)

Rev. Bob

God of all flesh, we know that “Without community, there is no liberation,” yet community can be such a scary place, fraught with dangers and snares. We know that bigotry and racism are real, even here. It might be easier to lock ourselves away, protect our tender hearts, and save our love for those who love us first. Yet there’s the rub. You are the one who loved us first and you invite us beyond the comfortable, beyond our preconceptions, beyond the limitations of our hearts and into your beloved community. Be present as we worship. Ground us in your love. Your story. Your liberation. And then give us the courage to be the church, your church, not the church we want or even need, but the church you are calling into being. Amen.

Music: *Jesus is the Center of My Joy - Tribute to Richard Smallwood*

Michael Hanna, Vocal

John Dapaah, Piano

CCLC Song #165937 – License A733294

Words by William J. Gaither and Richard Smallwood

Music by Gloria Gaither

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Embracing God’s Love (Responsive)

Rev. Bob

Dr. King once said, “The person who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as the one who helps perpetrate it. The person who accepts evil without protesting against it, is really cooperating with it.” Let us take a moment and reflect on the times when Jesus has not been the centre that guides us. Let us reflect on the times when we have been complicit by action and omission in that which has fractured relationships with ourselves, one another, creation, and God.

God of justice and mercy, you call us to speak prophetically amid difficult times. We admit that sometimes we are unwilling to give up our comfort and safety to follow where your voice leads us. When we use excuses like, “we can’t find the right words,” or “the moment has passed,” or “it would have been rude to say...” forgive us. Give us the courage to join the movement towards racial justice by speaking your words of justice, peace, and love, even when we are fearful. Guide us to find new ways to follow your call of truth-telling. Amen.

God's beloved community, hear this Good News: you aren't expected to be perfect. You aren't expected to always get it right. You aren't expected to never say the wrong thing. By showing up, you have joined your voice with those who have gone before you. By showing up, you've helped create community. By showing up, God's love can work in and through you. You are God's beloved.

Choral Response: *Halle, Halle, Halle*

Time To Wonder And The Disciples' Prayer

Huda

Our Father, who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and let us not fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for
thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

***Hymn: We Are Pilgrims** VU#595

Choir

One License Song #CGH278 - License #A733294

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Children and youth leave for their classes.

A STORY FOR THE AGES

Lectionary@Home: **Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43;**
Matthew 3:13-17

Focus Reading: John 1:29-42 (NIV p.1647)

John Harewood

Anthem: *Give Me Jesus*

Michael Hanna, Vocal
John Dapaah, Piano

*African-American Spiritual
Public Domain*

Sermon: **“An Invitation”**

Rev. Michael Blair

Time for Silent Reflection

BEING THE CHURCH THROUGH SERVICE

***Hymn: Will You Come and Follow Me**

VU#567

One License Song #87129 - License #A733294

Text: John Bell

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Prayers For Community

Rev. Bob

Sharing Our Gifts For Ministry

Bev

Tithes And Offerings

Offertory: Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Organ

Dr. Keith

One License Song #1044278 – License #A733294

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Doxology: Arise, Your Light Has Come!

VU#79 v.1

One License Song #08411 - License #A733294

Ruth Duck © 1992 GLA Publications

**Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.**

Dedication Of The Offering

Bev

Sending Forth And Blessing

Rev. Blair

**Choral Response: Battle Hymn of The Republic
(Glory, Glory Hallelujah)**

Michael Hanna
Choir

Words: Julia Ward Howe, 1861

*Musica: “Johns Brown’s Body”, traditional
Public Domain*

Postlude: He's got the Whole World in His Hands

Piano
Dr. Keith

*Traditional African-American Spiritual
Public Domain*

Leading In Worship:

Rev. Dr. Bob K. Fillier

Bev Buckingham

Huda Kandalaft

Dr. Keith Hartshorn-Walton

Senior Choir

Special Guests:

Rev. Michael Blair

Michael Hanna

John Dapaah

Audio: Richard Hamley Video: Danica Rogers

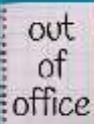
Slides: Elise Mennie

Kyle & Wendy McHenry

John Harewood

Greeters and Ushers

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Bev is heading off on vacation tomorrow (January 19th) and will be back on Tuesday, February 16th. Her email will be unavailable during this time but she looks forward to hearing from you on her return.

Lent begins this year on February 18th with Ash Wednesday and we are looking forward once again to having daily reflections on the lectionary readings by members of the congregation. The link will be in the bulletin soon to sign up for a day to share your thoughts on our scriptures.



The Nursery: is staffed today. Parents are welcome to use it for their babies and toddlers.



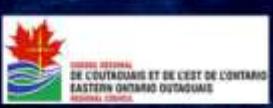
WORSHIPLUDE 2026
Music and Meditation Worship
w/ Fieldnotes

 **SPECIAL GUEST UCC MODERATOR
REV. DR. KIMBERLY HEATH**

Saturday, January 31st
MacKay United Church
(39 Dufferin Road, Ottawa)

Dinner 4:30pm-6:30pm (\$20Opp)
Worship 6:30pm

To register email Dana at
dducette@united-church.ca




Last chance- registration is open until January 16, 2026. Join youth (age 14 to 21) from across Ontario for 4 exciting days of speaking your mind, knowing your heart, and meeting new friends. OYP 2026 will be in Belleville at Eastminster United Church from Feb 13th - 16th, 2026. Register by visiting www.oyp.on.ca.



This year Cahoots is back at Pearce Williams Camp from May 21-24, 2026. This is a great intergenerational event. More information: www.cahootsfest.ca

A national gathering for Youth, Young Adults, and their leaders, presented jointly by The United Church of Canada and the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Collective is an opportunity to grow in faith, build community, and reflect on shared experiences—together. **August 12-15, 2026** at Brock University, St. Catharines, ON. To learn more: collective-gathering.ca **Registration opens January 15, 2026!**

Concert: Tribute to Ray Draper

January 17 at Parkdale – 7:00 pm

Jazz Tuba and Saxophone. For details and tickets:

<https://simpli.events/e/ray-draper-tribute-al-mclean>

Images & Stories – Friday, Jan. 23 - Zoom 7:00 PM

Barry Hobin, Ottawa's renowned Architect, presents "**Rivers of Change**" - Hobin's version". Join us for his fascinating reflection, his thoughts, as he explores how Ottawa's waterways have shaped this city's identity, economy, and urban form over centuries. We may well get a bit of his early life. If you are not on the email list for Images & Stories' Zoom, please contact the office at pdale@trytel.com.

Kanata Wind Ensemble

Sat, Jan 24 – 7:30 pm at Parkdale United
Tickets: kanatawinds.ca or at the door

