**Covenant**

***The United Church of Canada***

a safe place for all people to worship

Minister: Laura Hutchison

**COVENANT UNITED CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025**

**THIRD SUNDAY IN THE SEASON OF EASTER**



*(Ring the chime once)*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

You are welcome here at Covenant United Church, where the ordinary is sanctified, where humanity is celebrated in all of its diversity, and compassion is expected. In this place together, we make it a holy place where love can dwell.

 May 11th coffee will be hosted by Rob & Joy Galloway & it is our annual Sundae Sunday! June is our wrap up Sunday hosted by Heather Laverdiere & Veronica Renken (with a little help from our friends). Summer months will be ‘whatever will be’. September – our ‘welcome back’ will be hosted by Veronica Renken & Heather Laverdiere (with a little help from our friends). **THANK YOU** to all that help make this happen!!!!!!

 WOW – Women on Wednesday will be held on May 14th from 11:30 – 1:00 pm here at the church – with a guest speaker. Please contact Heather, Veronica or the church office if you are planning to attend, as we need to know for the lunch.

 Anti Hunger Coalition, Timmins is looking for volunteers for their new breakfast program, every Wednesday 9-11 am to package and distribute breakfasts. If interested contact Joy.

 The Canadian Foodgrains Bank newsletter is posted on the bulletin board for review. Over the years Covenant has had many projects to support this worldwide effort in providing food. Of course, donations are always appreciated too.

 Office hours are Wednesdays from 9:00 – 3:30.

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

On this third Sunday of the Easter season,

we shout and sing the glad news:

**Jesus Christ is risen indeed!**

*(the candle is lit)*

We light the Christ candle

**because Jesus is among us.**

Hallelujah!

**Hallelujah! Amen!**

*(ring the chime)*

**INTROIT – VU #958 Halle, Halle, Halle**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOweoHLiec4>

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (repeat)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We are called:

**called to be people of the dance,**

**dancing amid this season, filled with hope.**

Let us enter into the joy of the risen Christ,

**in whom we worship, work, and dwell.**

**PRAYERS OF APPROACH**

**ACT OF PRAISE – MV #156 Dance with the Spirit**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNbCRwbHcrU>

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin’,

walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.

Work and hope for the new life a-bornin’,

listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin’,

move with the Spirit throughout the long day.

Work and hope for the new life a-bornin’,

listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin’,

sing with the Spirit throughout the long day.

Work and hope for the new life a-bornin’,

listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

Faith in every word: The Mohawk Bible Translation

Thank you for helping to uplift voices, preserve heritage, and walk in respectful relationship.



Language carries the unique way a community understands the world. It shapes how people relate to one another, to the land, to the spiritual, and to the sacred. When a language is lost, a way of seeing the world is lost with it.

Preserving language enables future generations to engage in their rich culture in a rounded and essential way. Without understanding dialect-specific phrases and expressions, the vital wisdom of a culture can be lost.

As part of the ongoing work of preserving the Mohawk language, a complete translation of the Bible into the Mohawk language was developed, through the devotion, knowledge, and artistry of Harvey Satewas Gabriel and supported by generations of women in the Gabriel family and the communities of Kanesatake (Ka-ness-a-ta-key) and Kahnawake (Caw-na-wa-key).

Those partnering on the Mohawk Language Bible have taken great care and effort in ensuring proper language interpretation and translation. Working in agreement with the Mohawk Nation, collaborators have taken the time to listen to each other and learn in order to move the project forward.

Your gifts to [Mission and Service](https://united-church.ca/donate) allow projects that preserve language and culture to flourish. Thank you for helping to uplift voices, preserve heritage, and walk in respectful relationship.

**CENTERING**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Acts 9:1-20** – Good News Translation – The Conversion of Saul

**John 21:1-19** – Good News Translation

**HYMN – VU # 563 Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjMaUoNUNsQ>

Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore

looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;

you only asked me to follow humbly.

**O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,**

**and while smiling, have spoken my name;**

**now by boat’s left on the shoreline behind me;**

**by your side I will seek other seas.**

You know so well my possessions;

my boat carries no gold and no weapons;

you will find there my nets and labour. **(R)**

You need my hands, full of caring

through my labours to give others rest,

and constant love that keeps on loving. **(R)**

You, who have fished other oceans,

ever longed for by souls who are waiting,

my loving friend, as thus you call me. **(R)**

**REFLECTING ON THE SCRIPTURES**

**HYMN – VU # 333 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

Love divine, all loves excelling,

joy of heaven to earth come down,

fix in us thy humble dwelling,

all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, though art all compassion,

pure, unbounded love thou art;

visit us with thy salvation,

enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver;

let us all thy grace receive;

suddenly return, and never,

nevermore thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing,

serve thee as thy hosts above,

pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,

glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;

pure and spotless let us be;

let us see thy great salvation

perfectly restored in thee,

changed from glory into glory,

till in heaven we take our place,

till we cast our crowns before thee,

lost in wonder, love and praise.

**OFFERING INVITATION**

**DOXOLOGY – MV # 188 I Thank You, Thank You, Jesus** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPeFv_BY9rA>

I thank you, thank you, Jesus,

I thank you, thank you, Jesus,

I thank you, thank you, Jesus, in my heart.

I thank you, thank you, Jesus,

I thank you, thank you, Jesus,

I thank you, thank you, Jesus, in my heart.

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION –**

**For the blessing of this and all our days, we thank you, Gracious God. Accept, we pray, not just this money but also our lives freely offered in gratitude for all you have done for us. Use all that we offer in this place of worship and wherever you might take us in service of your love. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**HYMN – VU #664 What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucOo6mbmvHk>

What a friend we have in Jesus,

all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry

everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit,

O what needless pain we bear,

all because we do not carry

everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged;

take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful,

who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness;

take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,

cumbered with a load of care?

Christ the Saviour is our refuge;

take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do our friends despise, forsake us?

Are we tempted to despair?

Jesus’ strength will shield our weakness,

and we’ll find new courage there.

**COMMISSIONING and BLESSING**

Go now, in peace.

**EXTINGUISH THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**SENDING SONG – Go Now in Peace**

<https://www.google.com/search?q=Go+Now+in+Peace+Ebenezer+United+Church&sca_esv=9a8a34047ff9cda0&rlz=1C5CHFA_enCA944CA945&udm=7&biw=1425&bih=1108&sxsrf=AHTn8zrg_A5_Hkvzb5dNl_0kG6zlZNpnkA%3A1745256645378&ei=xYAGaNnoFsmgiLMPsPHD-Qw&ved=0ahUKEwiZ347T0-mMAxVJEGIAHbD4MM8Q4dUDCBA&oq=Go+Now+in+Peace+Ebenezer+United+Church&gs_lp=EhZnd3Mtd2l6LW1vZGVsZXNzLXZpZGVvIiZHbyBOb3cgaW4gUGVhY2UgRWJlbmV6ZXIgVW5pdGVkIENodXJjaDIFECEYoAEyBRAhGKABMgUQIRigATIFECEYoAFInGFQ7gxY3EdwAXgBkAEAmAGcAaAB9xWqAQQwLjIzuAEMyAEA-AEBmAIYoALgFsICChAAGLADGNYEGEfCAgoQABiABBhDGIoFwgIFEAAYgATCAgYQABgWGB7CAgsQABiABBiGAxiKBcICCBAAGIAEGKIEwgIHECEYoAEYCpgDAIgGAZAGB5IHBDEuMjOgB7pfsgcEMC4yM7gH0xY&sclient=gws-wiz-modeless-video#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:860b7a8e,vid:YubJLU7N1Ug,st:0>

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there filling you with love.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

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