

St. Philip's Anglican Church, Etobicoke
Feast of the Creator
Season of Creation
September 6, 2026
10:00am Holy Eucharist



We welcome you to worship this morning. Our celebration is joyful, reflective, playful and reverent, as we thank God for new life through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Baptized persons of any Church are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you prefer not to drink the wine, simply return to your seat having received the fullness of Communion in the bread alone. The Diocese of Toronto does not permit dipping the wafer into the cup (intinction).

If you prefer not to receive Communion but would like a blessing, please cross your hands over your chest when you come forward to indicate this to the priest.

Gathering of the Community

Flowers today are to the honour and glory of God, and in loving memory of Nazar Chahal, donated by Rosalind, Jeff and Maddy.

Welcome - Land Acknowledgement and Thanksgiving
Creator, you made all people of every land in your image,
and entrusted them with the care of the earth.

**It is our responsibility to give thanks and respect
to those who first occupied this land we are upon.**

**We give thanks to the Huron-Wendat,
Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabek Nations,
and the Mississauga of the Credit First Nation:
the first peoples of this land.**

**We offer our respect
to those ancestors who may be buried in this land.
We are also thankful for the gifts of the people of the land.**

**Creator let us be of good mind
to reconcile the mistreatment of this land
and those who have been displaced.**

**We give thanks for Indigenous voices
in our Anglican Church of Canada.**

**Give us attentive ears to hear them,
and sincere and open hearts
that we may embrace the work of reconciliation
to which you call your Church.**

**With thankful and respectful hearts,
we pray in your name,
Your Son the Peacemaker
and the Sacred Spirit. Amen.**

The prayer bell calls us to silent preparation

Hymn MV 144 Like a Healing Stream

- 1. Like a healing stream
in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing
life to dusty earth,
Good is trickling through our lives
as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth...
like a healing stream.**

2. Like a gentle rain
on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to
nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil
to coax a new creation,
yearning for an end
to want and need...
like a gentle rain.
3. Like a river strong
with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing
on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel
in a new direction,
calling for an end
to hate and war...
like a river strong.
4. Like a mighty sea
reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love
both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts
to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always
challenge and provide!

Like a mighty sea.....
like a river strong.....
like a gentle rain.....
like a healing stream....

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

And also with you.

Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

**by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy
name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Let us pray.

Creator,
you have wonderfully fashioned
the heavens and the earth and us in your own image.
Teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your breath in all creatures
that we may be of service in the healing of the earth,
through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit,
through whom you breathe all creation into being.
Amen.

Breaking Open the Word

Proverbs 8:22-31

Reader: Wilson Kamau

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, when he had not yet made earth and fields or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker, and I was daily his delight, playing before him always, playing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 33:1-9

We sing the Refrain twice through at the beginning and the end, once elsewhere.



♪ **Gracious God, may your faithful love be up-on us.** (*repeats*)

Happy are the pardoned; their sins forgiven.

**Happy those whom God reckons guiltless,
who have no spirit of deceit.**

♪ **Gracious God, may your faithful love be up-on us.**

Though I did not speak, my bones withered;

I groaned all day long,
with your hand weighing me down,
day in and day out.

My very body dried up, as if in summer's heat.

My sins I declare to you I do not hide my guilt.

I said, "I confess my wrongs to you, Holy One."

You banished my sinful guilt!

That is why all the faithful
pray to you in times of stress.

Great floods will not harm them.

**Secretly you save me from harm and danger,
surround me with shouts of rescue.**

♪ **Gracious God, may your faithful love be up-on us.**

I will teach you, show you the way you must go;
counsel you, my eyes ever upon you.

**Don't be like a senseless horse or mule,
kept by you only with bit and bridle.**

Pain and grief befall the wicked;
**faithful love surrounds those
who trust in the Holy One.**

Lovers of justice, rejoice and be glad in the Holy One;
shout for joy, you of upright heart.

♪ **Gracious God, may your faithful love be up-on us.** (*repeats*)

Colossians 1:15-20

Reader: Denise Williams

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

♪ Hal – le, hal – le, hal – le ‘ lu – jah! (X3)

Hal - le – lu – jah! ‘ Hal – le – lu – jah!

The Holy Gospel: John 1:1-5

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

♪ Hal – le, hal – le, hal – le ‘ lu – jah! (X3)

Hal - le – lu – jah! ‘ Hal – le – lu – jah!

Sermon: Maddy MacGregor

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Leader: Rev. Greg Lane

We sit or kneel as we are most attentive for prayer.

With thanksgiving and wonder in our hearts, we pray to God, the creator of all.

Brief Silence

Creator God, teach us to see you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for everything that you have made. Give us the grace to perceive that we are connected to everything that is. In gratitude and awe let us pray to the Creator of all that is. **We give you thanks, O God.**

God whom we love, we stand before you with open and humble hearts. In our imagination, allow us to see, hear and feel the beautiful expressions of the earth, that speak to each of us: mountains, rivers, prairie, oceans, forest,

meadows, trees, and flowers. In gratitude and awe let us pray to the Creator of all that is. **We give you thanks, O God.**

God of love, show us our place in this world, as kin to all the non-human creatures with whom we share the earth. They came forth from your hand: they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love. Not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Give us the grace to love all that lives and breathes and finds its being in you. In gratitude and awe let us pray to the Creator of all that is. **We give you thanks, O God.**

Saving God, we give thanks for all human beings on the earth, created from dust, yet crowned with glory: those we know and those who are strangers; those near to us and those far away; all of us beautiful, all of us flawed. Bring healing to all who are suffering in body, mind, and spirit, especially those we know and love who are coping with current health issues: Heather, Emmanuel, Karen, Brenda M., Robbie, James, Naume, Peter J. and Lylicia. In gratitude and awe let us pray to the Creator of all that is. **We give you thanks, O God.**

Loving God, Creator of community, we give thanks for this congregation, that it bears faithful witness to the abundance and joy of life in you. Today, we ask your blessing on Susie Lawrie, Amanda Fernando, Peter Lee, Pearl Blanchard, Wilson Kamau, Geoff Parkin and any others in this congregation celebrating their birthday this month; and also on Janet & Tony Manolis, Greg & Mieke Nicholson and anyone else celebrating their anniversary in September. In gratitude and awe let us pray to the Creator of all that is. **We give you thanks, O God.**

God of abundance, we give you thanks for the sun, for water, for soil, and for the air on which our lives depend. We give you thanks for this beloved earth which nurtures us and sustains our every breath. In gratitude and awe let us pray to the Creator of all that is. **We give you thanks, O God.**

Creator God, we enjoy the abundant fruits of the earth yet, we acknowledge that we have often wasted its gifts, taking more than our share, leaving our siblings in other places in poverty and need. Renew our minds and transform us into servants of the earth, so that its richness and bounty will sustain, not only us, but generations to come after us. In gratitude and awe let us pray to the Creator of all that is. **We give you thanks, O God.**

Loving God, Creator of all, we your creatures bring you these prayers that you might continue to bless us and all your creation with your love and mercy. We ask this in the name of your son, our saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
welcoming sinners
and inviting them to this table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

The prayer bell calls us into silence

**Creator, out of your abundant love
all things live and move and have their being.
We confess that we have turned away from you
and from your image in our neighbours.
We have neglected the creatures that surround us,
the water that renews us,
and the earth that nourishes us.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us
that we might hear the song of your creation once again
and see your love in all living things.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Hear God's promise of a redeemed creation:
the wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
and a little child shall lead them.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Offertory

Hymn 408 *Wind upon the Waters*

1. **Wind upon the waters,
voice upon the deep,
rouse your sons and daughters,
wake us from our sleep,**

breathing life into all flesh,
breathing love into all hearts,
living wind upon the waters of my soul.

2. Showers from the heavens,
water from the earth,
gift so wholly given,
source of every birth,
joy of every living thing,
making all creation sing,
shower down upon the dry earth of my soul.
3. Rock and hill and garden,
wood and desert sand,
prairie, field, and meadow
shaped by Love's own hand,
Love that fills the world around,
springing up from barren ground,
grow your love within the garden of my soul.
4. Blazing light of wonder,
flame that pierces night,
burst the dark asunder,
fill our souls with light.
Lord of glory, fill the skies,
make an end to hatred's cries,
be the blazing sun of justice in our lives.
5. Wind upon the waters,
rains upon the sand,
grace your sons and daughters,
newborn by your hand.
Come, O Spirit, and renew
all the life that comes from you,
send your winds upon the waters of my soul.

Prayer over the Gifts

Let us pray.

Eternal Creator, Holy Wisdom,
all creation yearns in hope to be set free.
Receive all we offer you this day and through this Eucharist
lead us to be servants of your justice and truth
in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God, who creates, loves,
and sustains the universe.

We rejoice in God our Creator.

We give you thanks and praise, God our Creator.

Your infinite love created a universe of wonder.

At the dawn of time

your Word summoned light

and bade it blaze forth in the darkness.

From your breath sprang

the dance of the stars in the night sky.

You laid the foundations of the earth, spread out the seas,

and stretched out the heavens like a tent above our heads.

You brought forth life in marvellous variety: mosses, grasses and trees

insects and animals that move with grace and beauty,

birds that ride the winds,

and the shimmering creatures of the waters.

All creation bears witness to you:

your glory shines forth in the night sky;

your wisdom is seen in the cunning miracle of a living cell;

your care is found in the generous bounty of the earth;

your joy flashes forth in a hawk on the wing;

your beauty meets us in the birth of each new day.

All things praise you in their own way,

and we join in that chorus as we sing:



You are holy, you are whole.

You are always ever more

than we ever understand.

You are always at hand.

Blesséd are you coming near.

Blesséd are you coming here

to your church in wine and bread,

raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present.

Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!

Sing hosanna in the highest!
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!

For such praise you created us,
youngest of all your creatures:
alongside all of creation you formed us of the earth,
along with all life we are quickened by your breath,
but of all creation you made us to bear your image
in loving care for all creation.

You call us to lift the voices of all creatures
to praise you through language, music, and art.

But we have failed you, failed your creation,
and failed our own nature.

We have forgotten our connection
with the earth and all life.

We imagine ourselves masters of our own destiny.

We have betrayed our duty to care for creation,
and exploit it ruthlessly in our shortsighted greed.

To recall us to our true nature, you sent your Son Jesus.

In him divinity entered into creation, sharing our human flesh,
showing us our true calling as servants and priests of creation.

When Jesus was led by our selfishness, fear, and lust for power
to cruel suffering and death, he did not abandon us.

Gathering his disciples on the night before his death,
Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and shared it, saying:

“This is my body, given for you.

Take and eat” – that I may dwell in you,

that you may become my body,

bringing nourishment and life to all.

After supper he took the cup of wine,

blessed it and shared it with them, saying:

“This is my blood, shed for you.

Drink this” – that you might have a part in my death,

dying to selfishness, violence, and sin,

and raised to the redeemed life of the kingdom.

Remembering his sharing of our flesh,

his embrace of life and acceptance of death,

his glorious resurrection as the first born of your new Creation,

we offer ourselves,

our lives and labour and aspirations to you, O God.

May we be transformed into the Body of Christ,
that we might fulfil our purpose of caring for Creation,
and giving praise to you our Creator.

Pour out on us anew your Holy Spirit, the breath of life,
who nourishes and sustains all things living,
who sighs for redemption in all Creation
and in the depths of our hearts.

Sanctify to us this meal of the Kingdom.

Renew our hearts, renew our lives, renew the face of the earth.

Gather all nations and all creatures

together into your peaceable kingdom,

where together, in infinite diversity,

we may sing with joy your praise,

Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, now and evermore. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer, Breaking of Bread & Invitation to Communion

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray in the language closest to our hearts.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom,
the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

Creator of all,
you gave us golden fields of wheat,
whose many grains we have gathered
and made into this one bread.

**So may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth
into your kingdom.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Those worshipping at home are invited to pray the Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

Jesus, I believe that you are present with us in the sacrament of bread and wine.

I love you and I desire your presence afresh in my life.

Since I cannot now receive the bread and wine of the altar,

come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself to you;

never let me be separated from you. Amen.

 Holy Spirit, Come

**Living water fill my thirsty soul;
Holy Spirit come! •
Bread of life fill my aching need;
Holy Spirit come! •
For I am nothing •
without your love •
Breathe new life in me.
Then will my life bring glory unto you.
Holy Spirit, come!**
Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, come!
Come! Holy Spirit
Holy Spirit, come!

Hymn 418 *Draw the Circle Wide*

Refrain

**Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.**

1. **God the still point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms.**

Refrain

2. **Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call.**

Refrain

3. **Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door.**

Refrain

 O Great Earth

1. Great Earth so green and so blue,
This is the promise that I'll make to you:
To care for your *animals* for *animals* can hear
The rhythm of your heart-beat.
2. Great Earth so green and so blue,
This is the promise that I'll make to you:
To care for your *water* for *water* can hear
The rhythm of your heart-beat.
3. Great Earth so green and so blue,
This is the promise that I'll make to you:
To care for your *birds* for *birds* can hear
The rhythm of your heart-beat.
4. Great Earth so green and so blue,
This is the promise that I'll make to you:
To care for your fish for *fish* can hear
The rhythm of your heart-beat.
5. Great Earth so green and so blue,
This is the promise that I'll make to you:
To care for your children for *children* can hear
The rhythm of your heart-beat.

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

Creator of all,
in the death and resurrection of Jesus
you have reconciled all things in heaven and on earth.
May this bread and wine open our eyes
to your love and justice woven through all of creation.
We ask this through Jesus, your creating Word. **Amen.**

Glory to God,
whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Announcements

- **Last Summer service:** Next Sunday, there will be one Sunday service only at 10:00am **in the rectory backyard**, followed by refreshments.
- Beginning September 20th, we will return to our regular two Sunday services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- Join us for a Caribbean Lunch on Sunday, September 20, from 12:30–2:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall, 60 Dixon Road. Tickets: Adults \$20 | Teens \$10. Speak to Rosalind or Connie for tickets.
- Join us for the opening recital of St. Philip's Recital Series 2026/27 on Sunday, October 4 at 4:00 p.m. featuring Emerging Artist, pianist Amber Chow. Come and enjoy an inspiring afternoon of live music at St. Philip's Anglican Church, Etobicoke. Admission by donation. All are welcome.

Final Blessing, Hymn & Dismissal

As we enter this Season of Creation,
open our eyes to the beauty around us
and our hearts to the wounds we have inflicted.
Grant us the grace to move gently upon the earth,
to protect what is fragile,
and to seek peace and renewal for all living things.
Bless our hands to mend what is torn,
bless our voices to speak for the voiceless,
and fill our days with deep gratitude for your creation.
In the name of God,
the Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn 425 *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

1. **Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love,
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.**
2. **All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee,**

centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father and our Mother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Go forth into the world in peace:
care for God's creation;
bring healing to the earth;
stand with the vulnerable.
Serve God with joy!
Thanks be to God.

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