

St. Philip's Anglican Church, Etobicoke  
Pentecost 16  
**Service In the Garden**  
*September 13, 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 Bruce, Frank and Eleanor Grubbe, donated by Anne, Lindsay, Erin and Jamie.*

### Introit Hymn

Can you see the dewdrops on the grass?  
Can you hear the chirping of the birds?  
Can you smell the mossy forest floor?  
Can you feel the gentle, blowing breeze?  
Can you feel the grass beneath your feet?  
Can you feel the sunlight on your skin?

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 407 *Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works*

1. **Many and great, O God, are your works,  
maker of earth and sky.  
Your hands have set the heavens with stars;  
your fingers spread the mountains and plains.  
Lo, at your Word the waters were formed;  
deep seas obey your voice.**
2. **Grant unto us communion with you,  
O star abiding one.  
Come unto us and dwell with us;  
with you are found the gifts of life.  
Bless us with life that has no end,  
eternal life in you.**

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.**

Season of Creation Prayer

Let us pray.

God of unchangeable power,  
when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together and  
the host of heaven shouted for joy;  
open our eyes to the wonders of creation  
and teach us to see all the things for good, to the honour of your  
glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May you bring to fruition all that you desire for your creation.  
You have created the universe by your eternal Word,  
and have blessed humankind in making us stewards of the earth.  
We pray for your world,  
that we may share and conserve its resources,  
and live in reverence for all creation,  
and in harmony with one another,  
through Jesus Christ, the Word  
and in the power of the Abiding Spirit. **Amen.**

## Breaking Open the Word

Job 12:7-10

Reader: Kathy Bignell Jones

But ask the animals, and they will teach you, the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you, and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 85. 10-13

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



🎵 **Holy One, help us to listen and follow your teachings.** (*repeat*)

Faithful love and truth have met together;

**True justice and well-being have kissed each other.**

Truth springs for the earth;

**true justice looks down from heaven.**

Holy One, you will indeed grant prosperity

and our land yield her harvests.

**True justice goes before you**

**and prepares a pathway for your footsteps.**

🎵 **Holy One, help us to listen and follow your teachings.** (*repeat*)

### A Reading from "The Serviceberry" by Robin Wall Kimmerer

*Reader: Frances Clarkson*

In a traditional Anishinaabe economy, the land is the source of all goods and services, which are distributed in a kind of gift exchange: one life is given in support of another. The focus is on supporting the good of the people, not only an individual. It is a gift from the land.

It is a kind of gratitude that is so much more than a polite 'thank you'. It is a recognition of indebtedness that can stop you in your tracks – it brings the realization that your life is nurtured from the body of Mother Earth – the divine.

Take a moment to think about the gifts you have received. Enumerating these gifts, creates a sense of abundance, the knowing that you already have what you need. Recognizing 'enoughness' is a radical act in today's economy.

What is our response to the receipt of gifts; it should be gratitude and then our second response is reciprocity, to give a gift in return. To name the world as a gift is to feel your membership in its web of reciprocity. It makes you happy. In the Anishinaabe culture, wealth is understood as having enough to share.

*"We need to restore honor to the way we live, so that when we walk through the world we don't have to avert our eyes with shame, so that we can hold our heads up high and receive the respectful acknowledgment of the rest of the earth's beings."*

When we view the land as a gift where the givers are 'someone's' 'not 'somethings' consumers confront a moral dilemma. We, as humans need to consume, especially as we were not given the gift of photosynthesis. What would it be like if we were to consume with the full awareness that we are the recipients of earthly gifts, which we have not earned. We are called to harvest honourably, with restraint, respect, reverence and reciprocity. We are called to the Honourable Harvest.

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

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

The Holy Gospel: John 14:15-17

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.**

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

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: The Reverend Mike Stuchbery

## Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God,  
who creates all things,  
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,  
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.  
We believe in God as the source of all life,  
who baptizes this planet with living water.  
We believe in Jesus Christ, seen in the suffering one,  
the poor one, the malnourished one,  
the climate refugee - who loves and cares for this world  
and suffers with it.  
And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,  
who came to reconcile and renew this world  
and everything in it.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,  
who moves with God  
and who moves among and with us today.  
We believe in everlasting life in God.  
And we believe in the hope that one day God will put an  
end to death and all destructive forces.

## Prayers of the People

Leader: Peter Lee

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

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. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

God whom we love, we stand before you with open and humble hearts. In our imagination, allow us to see and hear and feel the beautiful expressions of the earth, that speak to each of us - mountains, rivers, prairie, oceans, forest, meadows, trees, flowers. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

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 and not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

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.

Comfort those we know who are lonely and grieving, remembering especially the family of Lylicia who died this past week. We pray for all who suffer, and for those we know who are currently coping with active medical issues: Heather, Emmanuel, Karen, Brenda M., Robbie, James, Naume, and Peter J.; and those who live in long-term care homes or who are mainly house-bound, especially Shirley B., Carmel, Jim, Herman & Gloria, Valerie, Mae, John & Eleanor, and Pauline. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

God of abundance, we give thanks for the sun, for water, for soil, for air, on which our lives depend moment by moment. In silence we are aware of our frailty, our complete dependence on our beloved Mother Earth who nurtures us and sustains our every breath.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Creator God, we enjoy the abundant fruits of the earth. Yet, we acknowledge that we in the developed world have often wasted the gifts of the earth, 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 her richness and bounty will sustain, not only us, but generations to come after us. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, accept these prayers for the sake 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. Amen.

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

You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

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

## The Offertory

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....

Prayer over the Gifts

Let us pray.

Source of all life,  
heaven and earth are yours,  
yet you have given us dominion over all things.  
Receive the symbols of our labour and love  
which we offer you this day,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.**

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread.**

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.*

Server: Andrew Batte, Communion Assistant: Janet Churchill

 *Hey ney ya - na,*

**Hey ney ya - na, hey ney ya - na, hey ney ya - na,  
hey ya hey yo, hey ya hey yo.**

**I walk in beau-ty, yes I do yes, I do,**

**I talk in beau-ty, yes I do yes, I do,**

**I sing of beau-ty, hey ya hey yo, hey ya hey yo.**

**Hey ney ya - na, hey ney ya - na, hey ney ya - na,  
hey ya hey yo, hey ya hey yo.**

**I leave in beau-ty, yes I do yes, I do,**

**I sleep in beau-ty, yes I do yes, I do,**

**I dream of beau-ty, hey ya hey yo, hey ya hey yo.**

**Hey ney ya - na, hey ney ya - na, hey ney ya - na,  
hey ya hey yo, hey ya hey yo.**

 Kwake Yesu Nasimama - (Here on Christ the Rock I Will Stand)

*Refrain* - Kwake Yesu nasimama,  
ndiye mwamba ni salama  
ndiye mwamba ni salama  
ndiye mwamba ni salama

1. Jesus knows the troubles I face;  
in his blood flow mercy and grace.  
What he gives, I cannot repay,  
all my sin he washes away.

*Refrain*

2. Jesus gives me strength when I'm weak;  
he's the satisfaction I seek.  
He's my shield when troubles draw near.  
He's my comfort through every fear.

*Refrain*

3. When the judgement comes I will be  
in Christ's presence, fearless and free,  
where the courts are ringing with praise,  
crowned with righteousness all my days.

*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 \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ can hear  
The rhythm of your heart-beat.

## Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

God of our hope,  
in this eucharist we find the source of all our blessings.  
Nourished in these holy mysteries  
may we, with our lives,  
give you continual thanks and praise.  
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

- **Beginning next Sunday, we will return to our regular Sunday service times 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.
- Don't miss the first Jazz Vespers of the season, featuring Juno and ECMA-nominated singer Heather Bambrick. September 27th @ 4pm.
- 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.
- Mark October 31st in your calendar, and be here from 9:30am-3:00pm for a day of parish visioning. Let's gather together and prayerfully seek the direction that God is leading us in for the next few years. **YOUR VOICE VOICE IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE DIALOGUE!** Registration details coming soon.

## Final Blessing, Hymn & Dismissal

God the Creator, who formed the world, give you grace to be wise stewards of all creation. **Amen.**

God the Son, who redeemed the world, inspire you to go out as labourers into his harvest. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole creation, help you to bear the fruits of love, joy and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God, the Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



**Go make a diff'rence  
we can make a diff'rence  
go make a diff'rence in the world. (repeat)**

We are the salt of the earth,  
called to let the people see  
the love of God for you and me.  
We are the light of the world,  
not to be hidden but be seen.  
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Go make a diff'rence...

We are the hands of Christ  
reaching out to those in need,  
the face of God for all to see.  
We are the spirit of hope –  
we are the voice of peace.  
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Go make a diff'rence...

So let your love shine on,  
let it shine for all to see.  
Go make a diff'rence in the world.  
And the spirit of Christ  
will be with us as we go.  
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Go make a diff'rence...

### **Dismissal**

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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***Like a Healing Stream*** Words and Music: Bruce Harding, 2003

***Hey Ney Ya Na*** Text and Music: Brooke Medicine Eagle, ©; as taught by Leonard Eagle Cloud

***O Great Earth*** Words and music: Linnea Good ©1995 Borealis Music

***Go make a difference*** Words and Music: Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek © 1997 *spiritandsong.com*

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**Eucharist Service in the Garden** (*The Rev. Adrienne Clements*)

**“Season of Creation Prayer”** (A New Zealand Prayer Book, p 569)

**An Affirmation of Faith** (Lutheran Theological College, South India, adapted)

**The Eucharistic Prayer & Dismissal** – From Feast of the Creator Liturgy ACC