

St. Philip's Anglican Church, Etobicoke

St. Frances of Assisi

Season of Creation

October 4, 2026 - 10:30 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.

Gathering of the Community

In loving memory of David Lawrie, Betty and Timothy Grindlay and Becky given by Susie Lawrie.

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

355 All Creatures of Our God and King

- 1. All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voices, let us sing:
alleluia, alleluia!
Bright burning sun and golden beams
pale silver moon that gently gleams,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

2. Great rushing winds and breezes soft,
you clouds that ride the heavens aloft,
O sing now, alleluia!
Fair rising morn, with praise rejoice,
stars nightly shining, find a voice,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
3. Swift flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!
Fire, so intense and fiercely bright,
you give to us both warmth and light,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
4. Earth ever fertile, day by day
unfold your blessings on our way,
O sing now, alleluia!
All flowers and fruit that in you grow
God's glory let them also show:
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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.

Prayer for Season of Creation

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.**

Let us pray.

Grant us, Almighty God,
after the example of your holy servant Francis,
to do what you would have us do,
and always to desire what is pleasing in your sight,
that cleansed by your love,
enlightened by your truth,

and kindled with the fire of your Holy Spirit,
we may follow in the footsteps of your beloved Son
and make our way to you, O God most High;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Breaking Open the Word

Galatians 6.14-18

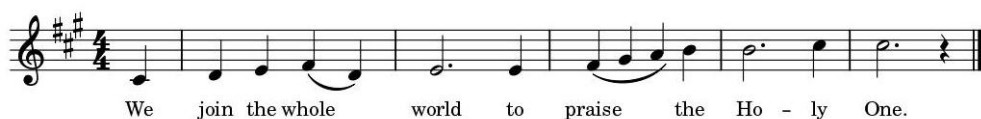
Reader: Kathy Bignell Jones

14 May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! 16 As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. 17 From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. 18 May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148.7-14



♪ We join the whole world to praise the Holy One. (repeat)

Praise the Holy One from the earth,
sea monsters and ocean depths,
fire and hail, snow and smoke,
mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and cedars,
wild beasts and cattle,
reptiles and winged birds.

Praise the Holy One, world rulers and all peoples,
leaders and judges,
young men, young women,
old and young together.

♪ We join the whole world to praise the Holy One.

Let them praise your name, O Holy One,
for your name alone is exalted.

Your majesty covers heaven and earth.

**You have lifted up your people's horn
with praise from all your faithful ones,
from Israel, those close to your heart.**

All: Hallelujah!

 **We join the whole world to praise the Holy One. (repeat)**

 He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan, ..
He - le, he - le - lu - u - yan,
He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan, ..
he - le, he - le - lu - u - yan. (repeats)

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

"All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

 He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan, ..
He - le, he - le - lu - u - yan,
(repeats)

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. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Leader: Geoff Pratt

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

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church, especially Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church. And we ask that you bless the ministry of those who serve to lead us in this congregation today: for our wardens, Rosalind, Ashani, Debbie and Andrew; our staff, Tracy, Amanda and Charles; and our clergy, Greg, our deacon; Mike, our Incumbent; Kevin, Ryscilla and Andrew our Bishops; Anne our Metropolitan; and Shane our Primate. Inspire us to follow their example. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation, including Francis of Assisi.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones in Russia, Ukraine, Yemen, Iran, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Sudan, Myanmar, Mexico, and wherever there is armed struggle: shelter those who live within

these war zones. We also pray for the safety of displaced people and refugees, especially those living in this country and those who are part of our own community here at St. Philip's.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering. We lift up those we know of who are coping with particular medical issues at this time: Heather, Emmanuel, Brenda M., Robbie, James, Naume, Peter J., Victoria, and Elizabeth.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith. Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every life, bless all your faithful people gathered here, that we may become blessings to one another. Today, we ask your blessing on Andrew Batte, Greg Nicholson, Mike Stuchbery, Debbie McLean-Schubert, Kathryn Ross, Zachary Parkin-Trudeau and any others in this congregation celebrating their birthday this month; and also on Mark Jones & Kathy Bignell-Jones; Debbie McLean-Schubert & Peter Schubert and anyone else celebrating their anniversary in October.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home. We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with you, especially Tony Ilchyna. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

The Canticle of the Sun – St. Francis

Refrain

**The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and all creation is shouting for joy.
Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the field,
and sing, – sing to the glory of the Lord.**

1. **Praise for the sun, the bringer of day,
He carries the light of the Lord in his rays;
The moon and the stars who light up the way
Unto your throne. —**

Refrain

2. **Praise for the wind that blows through the trees,
The seas mighty storms – the gentlest breeze;
They blow where they will, they blow where they please
To please the Lord. —**

Refrain

3. **Praise for the rain that waters the fields,
And blesses our crops – so all the earth yields;
From death unto life her myst'ry revealed**

Springs forth in joy. —

Refrain

4. **Praise for the fire who gives us his light,
The warmth of the sun – to brighten our night;
He dances with joy, his spirit so bright,
He sings of you. —**

Refrain

5. **Praise for the earth who makes life to grow,
The creatures you made – to let your life show;
The flowers and trees that help us to know
The heart of love. —**

Refrain

6. **Praise for our death that makes our life real,
The knowledge of loss – that helps us to feel;
The gift of yourself, your presence revealed
To lead us home. —**

Refrain

Prayer over the Gifts

Let us pray.

Loving God,
join our offering to the sacrifice of your only Son,
that our service may be stamped with his humility
and bear the image of his obedience;
through the same 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

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.**

"I am the bread of life," says the Lord.
"Whoever comes to me will never be hungry;
whoever believes in me will never thirst."
**Taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are they who trust in him!**

Invitation to Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

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.

Server: Bawo-Bawo-Oteri, Assistant: Andrew Batte

Hymn 508 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

1. **I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.**
2. **I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus and I drank**

of that life-giving stream
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived
and now I live in him.

3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till traveling days are done.

Hymn 403 *Let All Things Now Living*

1. Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
Love's banners are o'er us;
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.
2. God's law still enforces
the stars in their courses
and causes the sun in it splendour to shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean in praises combine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

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 all goodness,
who gave to your servant Francis a will to be the servant of all,
grant us in our service of your gospel
to hold back nothing of ourselves for ourselves,
that Christ may receive the whole of our lives
into the habitations of light and glory;
through the same 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

On this first Sunday of the month, we celebrate October birthdays: Andrew Batte, Greg Nicholson, Mike Stuchbery, Debbie McLean-Schubert, Kathryn Ross, Zachary Parkin-Trudeau and Anniversaries: Mark Jones & Kathy Bignell-Jones; Debbie McLean-Schubert & Peter Schubert.

 music 14

**God give you many, many years
To give thanks for your blessings here;
And many, many, many more
To see the good God has in store.**

- 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.

- 🍂 Oktoberfest at St. Philip's! 🍂

Join us for a fun afternoon of delicious food, fellowship, and Oktoberfest celebrations! Sunday, October 25 @ 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM.

Tickets: Adults – \$20, Teens – \$10

🍷 Wondering what's on the menu?

Check the church notice boards or our website for the amazing Oktoberfest menu!

Come hungry and enjoy a wonderful afternoon together with our parish community. We look forward to seeing you there!

- 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.
- We are preparing a special All Souls & Remembrance Day edition of our parish newsletter to honour and remember our loved ones, including beloved pets. You are invited to submit a photo, monument/headstone photo, or pet photo, along with a short remembrance message of up to 50 words.

- **Cost: \$50 per space**

Submission deadline: October 20, 2026

Publication date: November 1, 2026

For more information or to submit a remembrance, please contact Ros or Amanda at the Church Office – 416-247-5181.

- Canadian Friends of Sabeel (CFOS) Annual Fundraiser: "From Conscience to Action: How Citizens Become Agents of Change". Featuring **Yara Shoufani**, President of Canadians for Justice & Peace in the Middle East, in conversation with **Gerlyn Henry & Jeff Nowers**, co-hosts of "Two Priests and Palestine". With live music by **Samia Odeh**. Location: **St. Philip's Church** Date: **Wednesday, October 7, 7pm** Suggested Tax Receiptable Donation **\$20.00**

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.**

Hymn 309 Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet

1. **Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet,
praise the Lord with the harp and lute,
praise the Lord with the gentle sounding flute.
Praise the Lord in the field and forest,
praise the Lord in the city square,
praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.
Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine,
praise the Lord in the dark of night,
praise the Lord in the rain or snow or in the morning light.
Praise the Lord in the deepest valley,
praise the Lord on the highest hill,
praise the Lord; never let your voice be still.**
2. **Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal,
praise the Lord with the pipe and string,
praise the Lord with the joyful songs you sing.
Praise the Lord on a weekday morning,
praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,
praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon.
Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow,
praise the Lord in the time of joy,
praise the Lord every moment; nothing let your praise destroy.
Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet,
praise the Lord in your work or play,
praise the Lord everywhere in every way.**

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

<i>Dismissal – From Feast of the Creator Liturgy ACC.</i>
