

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH
June 8, 2025
100 YEARS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

WORDS OF WELCOME

Alma Scovil

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive)*

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place...

Today, we gather in many places and ways, yet we are one in heart!

Touched by the Spirit, the first disciples were enlivened.

By the Spirit, we live and thrive!

On the day of Pentecost, the Church was born.

Today, we celebrate 100 years of being the United Church!

In their gathering that day, people were changed by the Spirit.

In our gathering today, we seek the Spirit's direction for tomorrow.

With open hearts, let us worship God and pray for the Spirit's presence amongst us.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

OPENING PRAYER *(responsive)*

Awesome God, on Pentecost, you gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to an expectant and uniting church.

Help us to expect great things from you, and attempt great things *for* you!

May we show the world the love we experience in Jesus,

and the power we find in the Spirit as we seek to honour your dream.

To your glory be our worship and witness. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: Let Us Build A House (verses 1, 2)

MVU # 1

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION *(responsive)*

Diane Holden

Spirit of God, you were present to our ancestors in faith 100 years ago

as they came together to form The United Church of Canada,

You were present in all those who continued to build a uniting church in the generations that followed.

We believe that you are still present with us today.

Open our hearts to you in this time

so that we might know your wisdom, trust in the ways you proclaim, and live in them with hope!

All this we pray, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE: From Acts 2

Chris Savory

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH *(responsive)*

Diane Holden

Holy One, we are your church, your people gathered. Since the beginning, you have been with us.

In the dry and desert-like moments, when decline and death surround us,

you teach us that we need you and to trust in you.

When these truths have been remembered, your people have flourished.

We have been together as The United Church of Canada for 100 years.

On this historic threshold, we remember yet again

that we live and move and have our being in you.

It is time to dance with the Holy Spirit as we move past this moment.

Empower us loving God, to live by your Spirit,

unafraid of where the Spirit is taking us.

Now is the time to dig deep in our faith!

To dare to be your resurrection people, for Christ's Way is our way.

Let us be alive by your Spirit's power! Awaken us to your moving among us even now

so we can boldly follow your call into tomorrow.

Psalm 100 (verses 1, 2, 4)

VU Pg. 822

PENTECOST REFLECTION

Peter Scovil

HYMN: Spirit God, Be Our Breath (verses 1, 4)

MVU #150

WORDS OF ASSURANCE *(responsive)*

Diane Holden

God poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost,

healing hearts and divisions,

empowering the church to move forward in Christ's spirit.

And God continues to pour out the Holy Spirit on us today.

So, let us rejoice in God's love and forgiveness,

And share this blessing with all those we meet,

for we are forgiven, and we are blessed to be a blessing.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

ANTHEM: Try Again

words on insert

REFLECTION ON CHURCH FOUNDING

Wayne Kennington

HYMN: The Church's One Foundation (verse 1)

VU #332

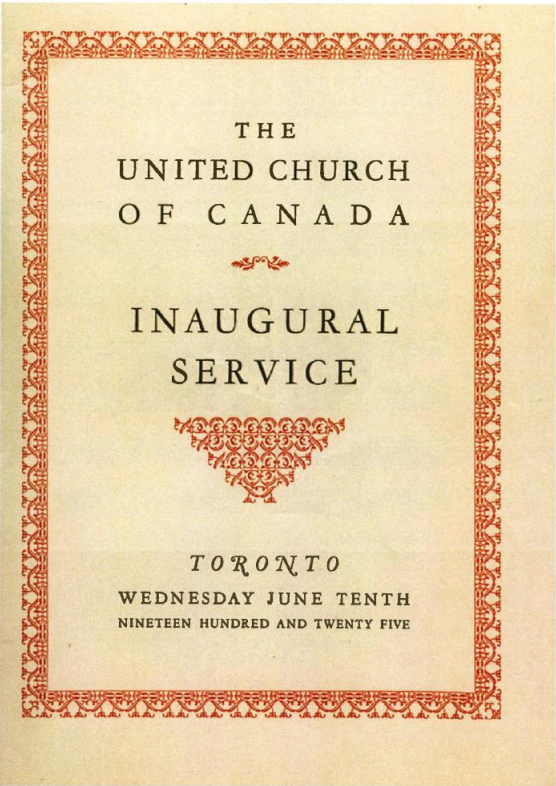
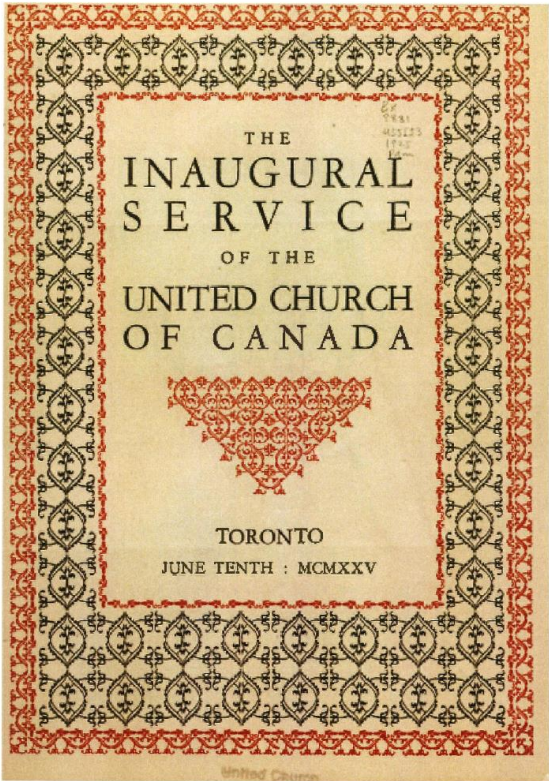
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ANTHEM: Lead Us On, O Lord	words on insert
UCW APPRECIATION	Alma Scovil
HYMN: Praise To the Lord, the Almighty (verses 1,4)	VU #220
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN and LORD’S PRAYER	Peter Scovil
THE OFFERING:	
Offertory: What Can I do	MVU #191
What can I do? What can I bring? What can I say? What can I sing? I’ll sing with joy. I’ll say a prayer. I’ll bring my love. I’ll do my share.	
Prayer of Dedication (together)	
All: Empowering God, we believe your Spirit is with us this day, leading us into a new future. We offer our time, talents, finances, and hopes, trusting you to do more than we can dream possible. Bless us and these offerings with your Spirit. In Jesus’ name, Amen.	
INDIVIDUAL REFLECTIONS: Debra Leedham, Lois Bowers, Jean Benton, Carol Goff, Juli Proracki, Diane Holden, Greg Strachan, Andrea Borsy, Robynne O’Reilly-Forrest	
HYMN: Come O Holy Spirit (verses 1,2)	MVU #23
BENEDICTION (together)	Alma Scovil
Loving God, here we are! You call us to serve... to walk new paths not knowing where we are going. But we know that your hand will lead us. Your love will support us. And so, we go out in faith, hope and love.	
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Today we are gathered in the traditional territories of several indigenous nations with gratitude. As settlers, we take on the responsibility of learning about historic and current relationships, and our desire to engage in building right relations. We are also mindful of broken covenant, and the need to commit ourselves to deep reconciliation and healing.

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH
June 8, 2025
Service Led by the Worship Committee
Music by Chris Savory and Azrael Hackshaw

100 YEARS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



TRY AGAIN

by Geoffrey Snow written in honour of the 150th Anniversary of the Congregation

A man stands in a rough-hewn house and breathes the new-cut pine.
He calls upon his God to bless a new and bold design.
His neighbours join him in his prayer and cast off doubt and scorn.
And so, in hope and humble hearts a church is born.

Down through the years the church grows up and strengthens day by day
But faith can falter, even break as people lose their way.
And we, their heirs, too often share the frailties of men.
But when we fail, the voice of God says “Go on, try again.”

It’s not that we’re the chosen ones, we’re not God’s brightest light;
But every time our feet have strayed his hand has set us right.

And now we gather and we mark the past one hundred years.
We pride ourselves on promises kept and raise our well-meant cheers.
Though in our hearts we know that we have often failed but then.
We heard the voice of God once more say “Go on, try again.”

In years to come may we be true to our bright legacy.
May we keep God’s light shining here for all around to see
And if that light should ever dim may we keep faith and then
Hear, as our founders did, God’s voice say “Go on, try again.”

LEAD US ON, O LORD

by Don Besig and Nancy Price commissioned for the 150th Anniversary of the Building

Oh sisters and brothers, join one another. Sing out with joy and praise the Lord.
In celebration, with jubilation, sing out with glory to the Lord.

We are gathered here today Lord, to worship and to pray, and to hear again the promise of Your Word.
In this fellowship we share Lord, Your love is everywhere, and we find the hope to face this troubled world.

Refrain

*Lead us on, O Lord, help us walk within Your light. Lead us on, O Lord, make us worthy in Your sight.
As we celebrate our faith, as we serve You every day, lead us on O Lord, lead us on! Lead us on!*

We are grateful for this place where we find your loving grace, and for those who had the vision to believe.
Help us learn to work as one. Help us do as they have done, and go out and share the gifts that we receive.

Refrain

FORMATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

When I was a university student in Toronto, I and a number of my friends attended Rosedale Presbyterian Church and joined their Young Peoples group. For one of our Friday evening outings we decided to go roller skating at the Mutual Street Arena. I have a vague memory of it as being an older building, with a hip roof, barn like in appearance. It looked like it had been used a lot. I soon discovered that roller skating was not for me. I think I may have skated a few meters before taking off my rented skates and sat down to enjoy watching the others in our group enjoy themselves.

The Mutual Street Arena was an ice hockey arena and sports and entertainment venue in Toronto From 1912 until 1931, with the opening of Maple Leaf Gardens, it was the premier site of ice hockey in Toronto. It was located on Mutual Street, just south of Dundas Street East and two blocks east of Church Street in downtown Toronto. The Arena was also used for musical concerts, gatherings, and other sporting events. It was converted into a curling club and roller skating rink. At the time of its construction it was billed as the largest indoor arena in Canada and held about 7,500 for hockey, but when the ice was removed and chairs placed on the floor or the arena, 8,000 or more could be accommodated. The building was demolished in 1989.

It was here before 8,000 people that the United Church of Canada was born. A reprint of the first page of the Toronto Daily Star, June 20, 1925, tells the story very well, and I would like to quote it, in part:

"Within this arch-roofed edifice (of the Mutual Street Arena), a sea of faces gazed upon the platform where the covenant lay ready to be signed by the officials of the joining churches.

"A crashing chorus ‘The Church's One Foundation’ brought the assemblage to its feet as the 350 Commissioners to the United Church of Canada, entered the room – 349 men and one woman, Mrs. Louis C. McKinsey of Edmonton, the first of her sex to sit in the ‘parliament’ for the new church, as she was one of the first woman to sit in the legislature of her native province, Alberta.

"On the platform were the heads of the affiliating churches – Rev.S.D.Chown, General Superintendent of the Methodist Church, garbed for the first time in robes of formal black, similar to Dr. G.C Pidgeon Moderator or the Presbyterian Assembly and Rev. W.H.Warriner for the Congregationalists.

"There were really four bodies uniting instead of three, for in addition to the Methodists, Presbyterian and Congregational churches there is a group of Union Churches, in the west, the forerunners of the present union .They came from the little prairie towns (railway station communities) that could not bide the time of the more slowly moving east. (The denominations in these communities joined together earlier to work more effectively together)."

In Waterford, there were no Presbyterian or Congregationalist churches in 1925, so the Waterford Methodist Church simply became the Waterford United Church on June 10, 1925. Rev. H. Wilkins, who had served the congregation as a Methodist minister, continued on as the United Church minister.

Sources: Toronto Daily Star - reprint

Bob Stevenson, June 8, 2025

ANNOUNCEMENTS



TODAY THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA CELEBRATES 100 YEARS! Following the service this morning, **A SPECIAL LUNCHEON WILL BE PROVIDED.** Please plan to stay for a time of fellowship, to share church stories and continue our celebrations.

BROADVIEW MAGAZINES – the Worship/Faith Formation Committee has purchased copies of a keepsake edition of Broadview Magazine, and these are available at the back of the sanctuary for you to pick up. Any extra copies can be taken to give to interested friends and neighbours.

JOIN THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION tonight at 5:30 p.m. (7:00 Newfoundland Daylight Time) for **the national commemoration of our 100th anniversary.** This special worship service will be held in person at the historic Gower Street United Church in St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador. The entire service will be livestreamed on The United Church of Canada's YouTube channel and the link is <https://www.youtube.com/live/bh4sW1kdpWo>

OUTREACH SOUP SUPPER (Loaves of Bread) will be held on Wednesday, June 11 at 5:00p.m. All are welcome! There will be no Soup Suppers during July and August.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL will meet via Zoom and in the church parlour on Friday, June 13 at 4:00 p.m. Anyone not on Council may attend the meeting as observers only.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, June 22 following the Worship service. This meeting will approve the **2024 ANNUAL REPORT** and approve the **2025 BUDGET.** Copies of the Report will be sent out via e-mail and a few hard copies will be available prior to the meeting. **We encourage as many of our congregation as possible to attend. Your opinions and ideas are valued.**

CONCERT AND STRAWBERRY SOCIAL – Friday, June 20 at 7:30 p.m. Enjoy the talents of Maestro Angus Sinclair followed by a delicious strawberry dessert. Proceeds from the dessert help to support the maintenance of our piano and organ.



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