

**Sunday May 3, 2026**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Introduction:**

**Acknowledgement of the Land:** This land is our Creators'. For thousands of years, Indigenous people have walked on and cared for this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. As we come into worship we recognize that Dorchester United Church is located on the traditional territory of the Anishnabewaki, the Attawandaronk, the Mississauga, and others. The community of Dorchester is represented by the London Township Treaty of 1796.

As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn, and work toward justice and reconciliation as together we care for God's creation and for one another.

**Prelude:**

**Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation:**

**Lighting the Christ Candle:**

Jesus Christ, the Light of the World

**Preparing Our Hearts for Worship**

**Call to Worship**

One: God has blessed us with this new day.

**All: Let's rejoice and be glad!**

One: The God of resurrection and new life gives us new life each day.

**All: So that we might live in hope, proclaiming the presence of Christ in our midst.**

One: As we begin a new ministry relationship, as we come to learn with and from one another, may we open ourselves to the Spirit's movement.

**All: May we open ourselves to see Christ in one another.**

One: God has blessed us with this new day!

**All: Let's rejoice and be glad!**

**Hymn VU 399 God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us (vs. 1,4,5)**

**Opening Prayer**

**Anthem:**

**A New Creed VU 918**

We are not alone,

we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

### **Learning With All God's Children**

**Hymn VU 595 We Are Pilgrims (vs. 1, 3, 4, 5)**

***We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings***

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 63 (VU pg 781 refrain 2)

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 6:1-9, Matthew 22:34-40

**Sermon: Hands, Heads, Doorposts and Gates**

**Hymn VU 372 Though I May Speak**

***We Respond To God's Grace***

**Invitation to Invest in God's Mission**

**Offertory Hymn: VU 544 (tune 625) In Gratitude and Humble Trust**

In gratitude and humble trust

we bring our best today  
to serve your cause and share your love  
with all along life's way.  
O God, who gave yourself for us  
in Jesus Christ, your Son,  
teach us to give ourselves each day  
until life's work is done.

### **Prayer of Dedication**

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn MV 89 Love Is the Touch**

### **Commissioning and Benediction**

**Sung Response: VU 961** "Let us, O God, Depart In Peace" George Whelpton, in the Public Domain.

Let us, O God, depart in peace,  
who in your name are gathered here.  
Disclose the brightness of your face,  
and be forever near.

### **Postlude:**