



Rideau Park United Church

613-733-3156

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www.rideaupark.ca

Earth Day

Sunday, April 19, 2026, at 10:00am

Rev. Jim Baldwin

Iain Macpherson, Music Ministry Coordinator Andrew Ager, Organist
Geoff Scollick, Custodian Kiersten Robison, Administrator

Please note:

Audio loops are available from the ushers.

Prayer requests for today's service can be noted on the lists at the entrances.

Sunday School: Primary (grades 1-3) Kindergarten room; **Junior** (grades 4-6) Beecroft Balcony; **Senior** (grades 7 and up) Parlour.

Childcare for preschoolers: room B13, located in lower hallway. Quiet activity boxes are available for children in the chapel.

Rideau Park is an Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Canada. All are invited to participate fully, with mutual respect, in the life and work of the church, including those of diverse ages, abilities, gender identities and sexual orientations, races, ethnicities, religions, and economic backgrounds.

We acknowledge, with respect, the history, spirituality, and culture of the indigenous peoples of Canada, and their stewardship of the unceded Algonquin land where this church is built.

2203 Alta Vista Dr, Ottawa, ON, K1H 7L9

Gathering Music

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement:

Jeanine Parker

Call to Worship:

Our planet Earth was entrusted to us by God. God has not asked us, but God expects us to take care of this Earth, where Jesus walked and where we now tread.

We know there are everlasting things we can each do, many with the guidance of God.

We can each be an ambassador for the planet.

Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice.

Let the sea roar, let the fields be triumphant.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord.

Let us sing for joy before the Lord.

Hymn: All Things Bright and Beautiful VU 291 (vs.1-3)

Children's Time: Jeanine Parker

Hymn: All Things Bright and Beautiful VU 291 (vs.5)

The Story of Creation: Genesis 1:1-31 Nancy McPherson

Introduction to the Theme

Anthem: For the Beauty of the Earth, *Rutter*

Reflection: Jeanine Parker, Rev. Jim

Music: Take Off Your Shoes (you're standing on my holy ground), Rev. Jim
Jim Manley

A Prayer for Earth Day 2026:

Creator of our Common Home,
We thank you for the breathtaking beauty and diversity of the Earth
—for the life-giving soil, the majestic forests, the vibrant oceans,
and the breath of life in the air.

We confess that we have often neglected our role as stewards, treating Your creation with indifference and consuming its resources with reckless abandon.

Merciful God,

Forgive us for the waste that clogs your waters
and the pollution that fills our atmosphere.

**Forgive our short-sightedness as climate change
impacts the most vulnerable among us.**

Lord of Life,

In 2026, we feel the urgency of this moment.

Grant us the courage to change our lifestyles
and the will to demand lasting, systemic change.

**Give us the vision to see this planet not as a resource to be used,
but as a sacred trust to be honored.**

Empower Us to Act,

To reduce our waste, to share our resources,
and to heal the wounds we have inflicted on the land and its creatures.

**May our actions this year and beyond
reflect our gratitude for Your mighty works,
striving toward a future where all creation can flourish.**

**We ask this in the name of the One who came to bring life in all its fullness.
Amen.**

The Life and Work of the Church

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

The Lord's Prayer

Music: Big Yellow Taxi, *Joni Mitchell* Adam Sperry

Offering: Asante sana Yesu MV 188

Asante sana Yesu, asante sana Yesu,
asante sana Yesu moyoni.

Asante sana Yesu, asante sana Yesu,
asante sana Yesu moyoni.

I thank you, thank you, Jesus, I thank you, thank you, Jesus,

I thank you, thank you, Jesus, in my heart. (*repeat*)

I thank you, thank you, Jesus, I thank you, thank you, Jesus,

I thank you, thank you, Jesus, in my heart. (*repeat*)

Carrying the Theme into the World

Hymn: Tough the Earth Lightly VU 307

Jeanine Parker, Rev. Jim

Benediction:

We can dedicate ourselves to live lightly
and respectfully on the planet.

We join with the Earth and work with each other.

We bring new life to the land.

We restore the waters.

We refresh the air.

We join with the Earth and work with each other.

We renew the forests.

We care for the plants.

We protect the creatures.

We celebrate the seas.

We rejoice in the sunlight.

We sing the song of the stars.

We join with the Earth and with each other.

**We join together, as many and diverse expressions
for the healing of the Earth and the renewal of life,
to recreate the human community
and to promote justice and peace.**

Sung Response:

Walk with Me

VU 649 (refrain)

Walk with me, I will walk with you
and build the land that God has planned
where love shines through. (repeat)

Upcoming Services and Events

<https://www.rideaupark.ca/news-events/calendar-of-events/>

Wed, Apr 22	Earth Day: Conscious Consumption	
Sun, Apr 26	Guest Speaker: Georgina Fitzgerald	10:00am
	Pro Organo Recital: In memory of Dianne Ferguson	3:00pm
Sun, May 3	Mental Health Sunday w/ Communion	10:00am
	Bells in Spring Concert: handbell concert	7:00pm
Tues, May 5	Red Dress Day	
Sun, May 10	Mother's Day	
Sun, May 17	International day against homophobia, biphobia, transphobia	
Mon, May 18	Victoria Day: office closed	