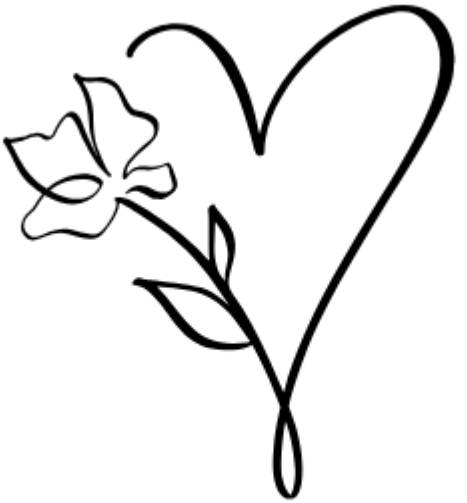


Our Hearts Remember

Sunday, November 15, 2026, at 1:30pm

Clergy: Rev. Jim Baldwin
Music: Andrew Ager, Doreen Taylor-Claxton

Rideau Park United Church
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Welcome

Prayer of Approach: *(in unison)*
Sacred Spirit, we gather to remember those we have loved
who have now passed from this world.
Here in this holy place, we hope to receive for ourselves
and to give to others, comfort, and support.
Hold in your care, O God, those who grieve until the days dawn a bit brighter,
and they can experience the joy of living once more.
We offer this prayer in the name and spirit of Jesus. Amen.

Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth VU 226 (v.1,3,4)

For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,

Refrain: God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild, (*Refrain)*

For each perfect gift sublime
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven, (*Refrain)*

Candle Lighting Litany and Remembrance:
The first candle we light to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We remember their names, their faces, their voices, the memories that bind them to us.
Gather us up in your warmth, O God.
Grant us strength for today, courage for tomorrow, and peace for the past.
Draw near to us as we draw near to you.

The second candle we light to redeem the pain of lost relationships and cherished hopes. We offer all of it to God, asking that from God's hands we receive the gift of peace.
God of endless love, we place this pain before you,
pain so great that we cannot always put it into words.

This third candle we light to remember ourselves during these past weeks and months: the grief, the down times, the poignancy of memories, and the pain of reflecting on our own mortality. We also remember kind words and hugs of family and friends, who shared our grief and gave us comfort. We give thanks for all the support we have received.

Compassionate God,
be near to us this afternoon and in the days and weeks ahead.
Refresh, restore, and renew us, O God.
And lead us into the future, hopeful and unafraid.

Hymn: In the Bulb There Is a Flower VU 703

In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

Scripture and Meditation: Psalm 23

Music: How Great Thou Art Doreen Taylor-Claxton

Naming of Those Remembered

Lighting Candles of Remembrance:
As you are ready, you are invited to come forward to light a candle. When the service is over you may take the candle home with you.

Hymn: This Is God's Wondrous World VU 296

This is God's wondrous world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world:
God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world:
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world:
why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!

Blessing:
May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face.
May the rain fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of God's hand.