



Glen Rhodes United Church
An East End United Congregation
September 2, 2018

**Indicates please stand in body or in spirit*

We Gather as God's People

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Kathryn MacGregor

Call to Worship (Elaine Bidgood Sweet)

One:

You and I share a belief.

We believe God calls us to worship.

We believe worship is a faithful, important task.

You have arrived this day: ready to pray, sing, and receive the proclamation of God's Word,
And join in unity with the people of God.

You are needed in this time and place.

Your voice and presence counts.

All: Together let us praise the God who calls us here and meets us in worship!

*Opening Hymn:

Gather Us In

1. Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the dark ness vanished a-way,
see in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day. —
Gath-er us in; the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in; div - erse, yet the same;
call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en, we shall a-rise at the sound of our name. —

**2. We are the young – our lives are a mystery
we are the old – who yearns for your face.
we have been sung throughout all of history
called to be light to the whole human race.**

**Gather us in the rich and the haughty
gather us in the proud and the strong
give us a heart so meek and so lowly
give us the courage to enter the song.**

**3. Here we will take the wine and the water
here we will take the bread of new birth
here you shall call your sons and your
daughters
call us anew to be salt of the earth.**

**Give us to drink the wine of compassion
give us to eat the bread that is you
nourish us well and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
Not in some heaven, light-years away, but
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, now is the day.**

**Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

Lighting the Christ Candle

One: With this small flame we kindle hope in our hearts.

All: **In this place we name that love is stronger than hate!**

Opening Prayer Gary Carey

You are invited to find a comfortable listening/meditating position for this prayer

This is my prayer of praise to you, O God,
You who are in all that I am to be.
I praise you, my God,
In all the places of your being.
I praise you in the spaces created by us.
I praise you in the good and kind moments.
I praise you in the hurt and pain.
I praise you in my doubt.
I praise you in the still times.
I praise you in the times of action.
I praise you in the face of the neighbour known to me.
I praise you in the neighbour I have yet to know.
I praise you at the start.
I praise you at the end.
I praise you with all that I have.
I praise you, my friend,
I praise you, My God.
Amen.

***Sharing the Peace**

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

You are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

We Share in Word and Song

Scripture	Matthew 9: 10-17	Chris Gilmore
Sermon	Packing for the Wilderness	Michiko Bown-Kai
Anthem	Hear the Voice of God, So Tender	Lavon Bayler

We Respond with our Thanks and Prayers

Spiritual Practice

As we move into becoming East End United, what am I willing to let go of?

Please write your response on the paper the colour of autumn leaves.

As we move into becoming East End United, what do I plan on holding close?

Please write your response on the green paper.

Offering Hymn: MV #106 I Am the Dream

Please stand in body or in spirit during the last verse for the presentation of the offering.

***Dedication Prayer**

Prayers of the People

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo
Toronto Southeast Presbytery: Bathurst St. United Church
East End Prayer Cycle: Council

The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

We Go Out to Be the People of God

Life and Work of the Congregation

*Closing Hymn: VU #264 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Commissioning and Benediction

*Sung Blessing MV #209 Go, Make a Difference

Postlude

Today

* **Welcome to Glen Rhodes, an East End United Congregation**

Special thanks to Kathryn MacGregor and Chris Gilmore for volunteering their leadership for this joint service, and thank you to the Glen Rhodes Choir for providing refreshments!

OUR PURPOSE: Working to build God's dream. Help wanted!



WHAT MAKES US TICK?

We, the people of Glen Rhodes United Church, are determined that our life together will be fully inclusive for people of all ages, races, genders, sexual orientations, differing abilities, ethnic origins and economic circumstances. Therefore, we hope that God will work in us so that we will be a sensitive congregation, willing to share our faith and gifts in language and worship, in the life and work of our church and wherever God calls us to do justice in the wider community, with compassion, fun and laughter.

East End Fall Worship Service Schedule

Date	Eastminster	Glen Rhodes
September 2	Joint service at Glen Rhodes with Michiko Bown-Kai	
September 9	Rev. Sarah Miller	Michiko Bown-Kai
September 16	Rev. Jane Brushey-Martin	Rev. Sarah Miller
September 23	Rev. Sarah Miller	Hilary Donaldson
September 30	Joint Service at Glen Rhodes with Rev. Sarah Miller and Michiko Bown Kai	
October 7	Rev. Sarah Miller	Michiko Bown-Kai
October 14	Rev. Sarah Miller	Michiko Bown-Kai

East End News/Announcements

* Rev. Sarah will be on vacation August 6-September 3. During this time Michiko will be leading worship and available for pastoral care.

* **We Want You! To be Part of Something New and Exciting!**

We're almost there! The final steps to East End United...

Many hands have been working hard over the past few years to build the connections that join our three congregations to create East End United. Please take note of these important events in September.

Saturday September 8th: "Do you want to sit, or do you want to serve?"

9:30am- 12:30pm Refreshments will be provided.

Cosburn United Church (Gymnasium) 1108 Greenwood Ave

This session is a call to action and a very important step to becoming East End United: A sustainable, social justice and faith seeking community in the east end of Toronto, diverse and open to all people. Join us as we unveil our new East End United plan and invite you to be a part of bringing this to life!

Feel like you might have a calling? Want to contribute your gifts to the community? Interested in making new friends? Whether you are good with numbers, are passionate about social justice, have an artistic flair, or love to organize, there is a place for you.

Take a few moments this week to think about your faith and your church. Ask yourself whether you'd like to just be a person who sits, or if you'd like to be one who serves.- Do you want to be on the bench or in the game?

Town Hall sessions

September 16 & 23 at Glen Rhodes and Eastminster following the worship service

September 19th at Eastminster at 7:00pm

Learn about the new Constitution for East End United that will be presented for the congregation's approval on September 30th. Q&A sessions will be held:

Congregational meeting

September 30th at Glen Rhodes after a Joint Worship Service

The Congregation will vote on the East End United Constitution and the slate of Council and committee representation.

PLEASE RSVP for any and all sessions/meetings here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6XRJVZW>

* **Backpack Blessing**

September 9 worship service

Eastminster & Glen Rhodes Campuses

Bring your backpacks, pencil cases, briefcases, smart phones or anything you carry to school or work to be blessed for a new season of work and volunteering.

- * **Volunteers are needed to welcome, read Scripture, offer prayers of the people, and provide refreshments.** Summer is here, and that might mean vacations (or even staycations!) for many of our congregants! It also means we need more volunteers to sign up for providing refreshments, reading scripture, and welcoming us all Sunday mornings. Please sign up for any of these leadership roles in the Narthex. We'd love to have your voice in our service!

* **Living into Right Relations**

Classroom Book Fund

Ontario's newly elected government has dismissed a plan to revise the province's social studies and history curriculums to add Indigenous content. East End United is responding with The Living into Right Relation Classroom Book Fund initiative inspired by the response of Indigenous authors Cherie Dimaline, Monique Gray Smith, Tracey Lindberg who are donating their own books to Ontario classrooms.

We are seeking donations this summer to fund one set of classroom books by an indigenous author for use by any Ontario teacher.

This challenge not only responds to the government's choices but reaffirms our commitment to the United Church's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Envelopes marked Living into Right Relation Classroom Fund are available in the narthex and can be placed in the offering plate. Cheques can be made payable to Eastminster United Church with memo line LRRRC Book Fund.

An online donation option will also be available soon.

We are all Treaty People.

* **'BRAVING THE WILDERNESS'**

FALL WORSHIP SERIES AT EAST END UNITED

Beginning September 9, 2018!

As we continue to live into the new vision of East End United, we will be using the book *Braving the Wilderness* by Brene Brown to guide our worship this fall.

As staff, we are creating a resource that will connect Brown's work which offers wisdom on the spiritual journey of belonging with scripture. This resource will help guide worship each week as we explore the book chapter by chapter. We encourage you to add Brene's Work to your summer reading list or consider reading along with us in the fall.

* **CATS: Community Art Time Studio**

Thursdays 1:00-4:00pm

Cosburn United Church

Drop-in for art and community, all levels and interests welcome - bring a project you're working on, or start something new. Some basic materials are available but participants are welcome to bring their own. For more information, contact Greta King 416-421-5711.

* **Glen Rhodes Outreach Ministry**

Drop-in Food Bank

Wednesdays 9:00-11:30am & 2:00-4:00pm

Glen Rhodes United Church

Community Dinners

Glen Rhodes United Church

Many thanks to Donna Bowles and her crew for the delicious dinner on Monday evening. **The next dinner is Sept. 24.**

Community Events

* **PATHWAYS EXHIBIT**

Toronto Reference Library- 789 Yonge Street

August 18 -October 28

Land and water routes across what is now Ontario reveal layers of Indigenous knowledge, resistance and presence that connect from time immemorial to the present and future. This exhibit features works by contemporary Indigenous artists as well as historical materials from the collections of the Toronto Public Library and Library and Archives Canada.

* **CENTERED IN SONG – TORONTO 2018**

September 29 9:30am

Eastminster United Church

Join us to learn about our ground-breaking new resource, The Center for Congregational Song! This is a new initiative of the Hymn Society in the US and Canada, one focused on fostering and empowering the voice of the congregation for the good of all our communities. You will hear from some of Toronto's top song leaders and hymnologists and sing together in a "Big Sing," celebrating the diversity of the church's song.

Hilary Donaldson is leading the opening worship and it would be wonderful to have members of East End United participating to welcome new people into our space.

Registration is free, but required so that we can make sure that our venue has enough space to house everyone. You can register online with the link in the eblast.

*** COME AND SEE PALESTINE AND ISRAEL**
October 31- November 10, 2018

Join Rev. Marianna Harris and George Bartlett on a pilgrimage to see for yourself what is happening in Palestine and Israel. Learn about the effects of the occupation on the lives of ordinary people. Discover how Jewish Israeli and Palestinian activists are seeking to create change. Visit key holy places as we reflect on Jesus' life and teachings. Cost \$2800 plus airfare. Contact George Bartlett at g.bartlett@sympatico.ca for further information.

<h2>Weekly Events</h2>

Mondays:	1:00pm	Prayer Shawl Knitters	Meet in Sarah's Office
Thursdays:	7:30 - 9.30pm	Adult Choir	Meets in the Sanctuary

<h2>East End United Staff</h2>

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Custodians: Joshua Somers, Jordana Kuhn, Neil Powers, Benjamin Priede

Soloists: Laura Larson - soprano, Sarah Hallikas – alto, Jeff Schissler - tenor, Andrew Hodwitz - bass