

Clifton United Church

Pentecost 14

Order of Service

Sunday August 30, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Prayers and songs in unison and people's responses are in **bold type**.

*Indicates to stand, if you are able.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

We acknowledge that the land on which we are gathered is the traditional and unceded territory of the Abegweit Mi'kmaq First Nation. May we seek reconciliation and may all live in peace and harmony on this land.

THE CHRIST CANDLE:

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness." (John 8:12)
May we be guided by the light of Christ.

THE RAINBOW CANDLE:

In lighting this candle we renew our commitment to affirming, by word and deed, the dignity and significance of all people.

THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

GATHERING SONG MV 21 "Open Our Hearts"

*Open our hearts, open our minds.
Open our lives to you, O loving God. (3X)
Open our hearts. (last time)*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

The board floor of a little church
on a country sideroad;
Holy ground, hallowed ground:
the fading carpet of a city church
dreaming of better days;
Holy ground, hallowed ground:
the cracked linoleum in the Gospel Hall
down the road;

Holy ground, hallowed ground:

the prayer mat of the faithful
in the mosque behind the store;

Holy ground, hallowed ground:

the blessed earth of the cemetery
where loved ones lie buried;

Holy ground, hallowed ground:

the rolling green of an ancient battlefield,
quiet in the remembrance of heroism and horror.

Holy ground, hallowed ground:

it is not so much different from any other ground,
really; and yet, it is like no other ground.

Holy ground, hallowed ground:

set apart, made sacred, consecrated
by memory and yearning.

Holy ground, hallowed ground:

the place of place of mysterious presence;
the place of unexpected meeting.

Holy ground, hallowed ground:

not so different from any other ground really,
and yet, the place where we long to stand.

Holy ground, hallowed ground.

***OPENING HYMN VU 315** "Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord God Almighty"

OPENING PRAYER:

Holy One,

**we live in a world drained of holiness,
leached out by what we call "realism."**

In our world ground is just dirt;

an angel is likely to be a pigeon;

a burning bush

is probably afflicted by an exotic fungus;

how we spend our lives

is only a way of making money.

Holy One,

come down to us now.

May the fire of your presence

ignite our souls.

Let the ground tremble and the angels soar;

let the bushes blaze.

Make our lives and this world your own.

We pray in the name of Jesus,

in whom all your fullness was pleased to dwell.

Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING: Olivia Zhang – A Time For Us by Nino Rota.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Merciful God,
from the brokenness of our lives
and of our world, we turn to you.
There are words we cannot unsay,
actions we cannot undo,
wrongs we cannot put right.
Sometimes, we seek the balm of forgetfulness
or wrap ourselves in the heavy padding
of indifference but there is
no escaping our sins.
The world overwhelms us
with ancient grudges cherished
and old hates resurrected,
while new evils flourish.
Again, we seek forgetfulness
or indifference.
There is no health in us.
Merciful God, heal us.
Give us courage and creativity
to change what we can change
and patience and faith
to trust you with the rest,
for you are always at work among us.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SILENCE

KYRIE ELEISON: *Lord, have mercy upon us.*
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

God is not defeated by our failures
or by the calamity and confusion
of the world. God searches for what is lost
and gathers up what is broken. God restores;
God mends; God forgives; God makes new.
Thanks be to God.

WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT: Exodus 3:1-15

The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 105 VU p.829 (Parts Three and Four)

EPISTLE: Romans 12:9-21 Reader: Bruce Fitchett

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: St. Matthew 16:21-28 Reader: Bruce Fitchett

This is the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Glory be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON: Now, You Go

***HYMN VU 509** "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

OFFERTORY CALL

OFFERTORY HYMN VU 542

*We give you but your own,
what-e'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone,
we give it gratefully.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

God, you have called us.
These gifts are part of our answer.
Use them, we pray, in the liberation
of those still held in bondage
to sin and want and sorrow;
through Jesus Christ our Liberator. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

***HYMN MV 176** "Three Things I Promise"

SENDING FORTH AND BENEDICTION

***DISMISSAL HYMN VU 420**

"Go to the World" vs. 2 & 3

*2 Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the Word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time
and space. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

*3 Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant Church you follow Christ's
own way. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

POSTLUDE

Minister: Rev. Dr. John Moses

Candidates for Ministry: Ellen Locke
and Corina Anderson

Music Director: Donald Fraser

Office Administrator: Traci Birt

Custodian: Andy Gagnon

Sunday Custodian: Seamus Murphy

Web Page: www.trinityclifton.ca

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Phone: 902-892-4114

Office Hours: Mon.- Fri. 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Announcements

Trinity-Clifton Vision Statement: *We are a joyful, welcoming, inclusive Christ-centered community of faith, reaching out to others, providing a safe space where we respect differences. We learn from the past and dare to change.*

This bulletin is dedicated in memory of David White from the White family.

Congratulations to Bill and Judy Irwin who celebrated their 56th Wedding Anniversary yesterday, August 29th.

Congratulations to Rev. Doreen and Mike Daley who will celebrate their 54th Wedding Anniversary on September 2nd.

Bill Irwin and Gerald Burgoyne will both celebrate their Birthdays on September 9th.

You're invited to an afternoon with the Moderator of the United Church. The Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath will be speaking on the afternoon of Friday, September 11, 2026. We will start gathering at 1:30 p.m. The event will begin at 2 p.m. and will end with a reception at 3:30 p.m. The location will be Central Queens United Church, 19848 Route 2, Hunter River. This is an open invitation, please spread the word. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Bigsby at kathryn_bigsby@hotmail.com

Sunday School Classes will be starting back up on September 13. A community barbeque will follow.

Noon hour Bible study will begin on Tuesday, September 15. We will be continuing with the Gospel of Luke. New participants welcome.

The Men's Club will be holding a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, September 26, from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Tickets \$10 each or \$15 per family.

Other Ways of Giving

Trinity Clifton has collaborated with Canada Helps with a new way to donate online. Scanning this QR code with

your phone's camera will take you to our giving page. There is a button labelled CanadaHelps.org, and then it takes you to a donation page for Trinity. Enter your info and the donation is made. Tax receipts can be provided. It's a new way for those not using envelopes or PAR. Feel free to share this with visitors and friends. Thank you from all of us.



If you prefer e-Transfer, please send your donation to trinitycliftonunitedchurch@gmail.com. Be sure to include your name and, if you are not a member of the congregation, your mailing address so we can send you a tax receipt.

Gift cards for many retailers are available for purchase every Sunday after church beside the elevator. A complete list can be found on the website.

Greeters for the month of August: Carol Chandler, Anne Love, Mark Richardson, Jean Peterson.

Scripture Readings for Sunday, September 6, 2026:

Exodus 12:1–14

Psalms 149 (VU pp. 872–873)

Romans 13:8–14

Matthew 18:15–20

Food Bank Drive - Helping Others in Our Community

The Outreach Committee will be focusing on the first Sunday of every month to have a Food Drive for UPEI and Holland College Students' Food Banks. We have been told that some of the most needed non-perishable items are vegetable oil, granola bars, pasta sauce, diced tomatoes, tomato paste, cereal, peanut butter and instant noodles such as indomie or ramen. Also, donations such as fresh vegetables or potatoes when possible are greatly appreciated! The food bank's most urgent need is milk, eggs and bread, in this case a gift card from the church office would be most convenient. The next Drive takes place on September 6th, but drop off a donation anytime at church service or at the office. We are very thankful for any help you can give to this program.

