Rockway and First (North Pelham) Pastoral Charge
Remembrance Sunday
November 8, 2026
Worship at Home

Email: **northpelham.rockwaypc@**gmail.com Website: https://northpelhamrockwaypresbyterian.ca

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In worship, we remember where we have come from.
P: We come from families and communities, and above all, from God, who created us in love and gives our lives meaning and purpose.
L: In worship, we remember what we have come through.
P: We have known suffering, sorrow, and loss, but also kindness, courage, forgiveness, and love.
L: In worship, we remember who we are called to be.
P: We are called to seek peace, resist evil, and share God's love through our words and actions.
L: As we remember the past and face an uncertain future, may we trust in God's faithful love.
All: With faith and hope, let us worship God. Amen.

Hymn 81 **Unto the hills around**

Prayers of Approach and Confession

God of compassion and faithful love,
When life does not go as we planned, you are there. When we face suffering, sorrow, and uncertainty, you are there. When our world is troubled by war, violence, and division, you are there. And when we struggle to find hope for tomorrow, you are there, holding us in your love.

Loving God, we thank you for your faithful presence through every season of life. Yet we confess that we often try to control what lies ahead, forgetting to trust in you. We allow fear and worry to fill our hearts. At times, we hold on to anger instead of offering forgiveness, and choose our own comfort instead of reaching out to others in love.

Forgive us, O God. Help us to let go of what we cannot control, to seek peace where there is conflict, and to share your compassion with those around us. Hear us now as we offer the silent confessions of our hearts. *(Pause)*

God of mercy, No matter where we have been, no matter what we are facing today, and no matter what tomorrow may bring, you are there. Through Jesus Christ, you meet us with forgiveness, grace, and new beginnings. Free us from the burdens of guilt, regret, anger, and fear. Renew our faith, strengthen our hope, and guide us to live in your love and peace. Trusting in your faithful care, we pray together in the words Jesus taught us, saying:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever." Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

L: May the Peace of Christ be with you all.
P: And also with you. *(congregational response)*

Time of Remembrance

In Flanders Fields
The Placing of the Wreaths
The Last Post
Silent Remembrance
Reveille

"They shall grow not old as we who are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning.
We will remember them."

Hymn 833 **O Canada**

Hymn 655 **Give me oil in my lamp**

Prayer of Understanding
Loving God,
as we listen to your Word, open our hearts to your wisdom and love. Strengthen our faith, renew our hope, and help us trust in your faithful care, whatever tomorrow may bring. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Scripture Passages **Responsive Psalm 46: 1-11**
Matthew 25:1–13; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

Sermon **Ready for Tomorrow**
Some of you may know a couple like my friends Sam and Sun-hee. Sam is a planner. Before any trip, he knows the route, the timing, and exactly what to pack. His wife, Sun-hee, is the opposite. She says, "Don't worry so much. We'll figure it out when we get there!" So, which of them sounds more like you? Most of us are probably a little bit of both.

But here is a deeper question for today: How do we get ready for a future we cannot predict? We can plan for retirement, but we cannot predict every change in our health. We can hope for many more years with those we love, but we cannot know how many we will have. So, how can we live with faith and hope when tomorrow is uncertain?

Our Scripture readings today offer us two important lessons: Prepare faithfully for what lies ahead, and trust God with what we cannot control. The first lesson comes from Jesus. In Matthew 25, Jesus tells a parable about ten bridesmaids waiting for a bridegroom to arrive for a wedding celebration.

All ten bring their lamps. Five bring extra oil, but the other five do not. The bridegroom is delayed, and all ten fall asleep. Then, at midnight, a shout goes up: "Here is the bridegroom!"

The five without extra oil discover that their lamps are going out. They hurry off to buy more, but while they are gone, the bridegroom arrives. Those who are ready go in with him to the wedding celebration, and the door is shut.

Now, that closed door sounds harsh, doesn't it? Jesus does not hide the seriousness of his message. But his purpose is to call us to live faithfully now, while there is time. He ends the parable with these words: "Keep awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Jesus is inviting us to be ready, not out of fear, but out of a close relationship with God. Notice something important, though. All ten bridesmaids fall asleep, even the wise ones. So, being ready does not mean never getting tired or never struggling. The difference is that five had prepared for a longer wait.

And life can sometimes feel like a long wait. There are seasons of joy, but there are also seasons of sickness, loneliness, and loss. As we grow older, we may not be able to do all the things we once enjoyed. We may need more help from others. We may have to say goodbye to people we have loved for many years.

Jesus does not tell us exactly what the oil represents. But it can remind us of the faith and love we nurture each day through prayer, worship, reading Scripture, friendship, and caring for one another. It is like stacking firewood in the fall. You do it on a sunny day, so that the house will be warm when the snow comes. In the same way, these simple spiritual practices help nourish our faith and keep our hope alive when difficult times come.

And here is some good news. Being ready does not mean having strong faith every day. Some days, we are too tired to pray. Some days, we wonder where God is. Sometimes, our faith feels weak, especially when life becomes difficult.

But God's love does not depend on how tightly we hold on to God. Even when we struggle to hold on to God, God continues to hold on to us.

Still, even the best preparation has its limits. Who can fully prepare for the death of someone we love, or for a sudden illness? Who can plan for every disappointment or unexpected change in life? And this brings us to our second Scripture reading, from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians.

These early Christians were grieving because some of their loved ones had died. They were also worried about what would happen to those who had died before Christ returned. So, Paul writes

to comfort and encourage them. He says that they "may not grieve as others do who have no hope."

Notice that Paul does not say, "Don't grieve." He knows that grief is part of loving someone. When we lose someone we love, we miss their voice, their smile, their presence, and even the familiar chair where they used to sit. Faith does not take that sorrow away.

But Paul reminds us that our sorrow is held within a greater hope. Because Jesus died and rose again, death does not have the final word. Those who have died in Christ are not lost or forgotten. They remain held in God's promise of resurrection, God's gift of new life beyond death.

Our Christian hope is not simply that we will feel better someday, but that God's love and promise of life are stronger than death. And that is why Paul ends by saying, "Encourage one another with these words." We may not know everything about tomorrow. We may not understand why certain things happen.

But we can trust that God is with us, and that our lives and our future are held in God's loving hands. And this message of faith and hope speaks powerfully to us today, as we observe Remembrance Sunday. Today, we remember with gratitude those who served and sacrificed during times of war.

Think of the young men and women who left their homes and families, not knowing what tomorrow would bring. They were trained and prepared for their duties. Yet no amount of preparation could take away the fear or tell them what lay ahead. Many never returned home.

Others came home carrying wounds that people could see, and wounds that remained hidden in their hearts. And behind each one stood families who waited, hoped, prayed, and sometimes grieved. Today, we remember their courage and sacrifice with gratitude and respect.

Their experiences remind us that we can prepare for many things in life, but we cannot control everything. In the face of such uncertainty, we are reminded of our need to place our lives and our future in the hands of our faithful and loving God.

But remembrance is not only about looking back. As followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, we are also called to look ahead with hope. We cannot stop every war or prevent every act of violence in our world. But we can choose how we live today.

We can choose kindness over bitterness, understanding over division, and peace over anger. We can reach out to someone who is lonely, comfort someone who is grieving, and offer help to someone who is struggling. This is how we become the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus, bringing God's compassionate love into the world. And perhaps this is one of the most important ways we prepare for tomorrow: by living faithfully and lovingly today.

So, dear church family, here are two simple things to do this week. First, add a little oil to your lamp. Take a few quiet minutes each day to pray or read a short passage of Scripture. Allow God's love to nourish your heart and renew your hope.

Second, bring a little light to someone else. Make a phone call, send a card, or offer a kind word to someone who may be lonely or grieving, perhaps someone who has lost a loved one this year. These acts may seem small, but they are meaningful ways of sharing God's love.

Now, let me return to my friends Sam and Sun-hee. One likes to plan everything. The other prefers to take life as it comes. But in the end, both need the same thing: a God who holds them when their plans fall apart. And so do we.

We do not have to choose between planning and trusting God. We can do both. We can prepare wisely for what we can, and trust God with what we cannot control. We may not know what tomorrow will bring, but we know that we will not face it alone.

The God who has loved us through all the years of our lives will continue to walk with us through every season, through joy and sorrow, through strength and weakness, and even through death into the promise of resurrection. So, let us keep our lamps filled, encourage one another, and live as people of faith, hope, and peace.

May we always remember that our hope does not rest in our ability to control the future. Our hope rests in the faithful love of God, who holds us today, tomorrow, and forever. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn 330 **O God, our help in ages past**

Invitation to the Offering
Doxology
Prayer of Dedication
Loving God,
we thank you for your faithful love and care. Bless these gifts and use them to bring hope, peace, and compassion to those in need. Help us share your love through our words and actions. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Loving and faithful God,
Even in a world troubled by war and hardship, we see people reaching out with kindness, working for peace, and offering forgiveness. We see neighbours helping neighbours, and caregivers offering comfort. For every act of courage, compassion, and love, we thank you.

In times of loneliness and sorrow, your love shines through those who listen and walk beside one another. For your faithful presence through every season of life, we thank you.

God of compassion, even as we give thanks, we bring before you the concerns of our troubled world. On this Remembrance Sunday, we remember with gratitude those who served and sacrificed in times of war. We pray for veterans who carry wounds of body and mind, and for families who still grieve. May their sacrifice inspire us to seek peace, justice, and healing between people.

We pray for Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, and the wider Middle East, where many have been forced from their homes. Protect innocent lives, especially children, and guide those in power toward lasting peace.

We remember those affected by the earthquake in Panama, the cyclone in India, and the train collision in Spain. Comfort those who mourn, heal the injured, and strengthen those helping others rebuild.

Closer to home, we remember those facing financial hardship, broken relationships, and an uncertain future. We pray also for Indigenous communities on their journey toward healing and justice. Give all of them courage and the support they need.

Finally, we thank you for our church family at North Pelham and Rockway. We lift before you those who are grieving, recovering from surgery, living with illness, or struggling in body, mind, or spirit. We remember those facing changes in life, learning to accept help, or moving to a new home. Surround them with your comfort, and remind them that they are never alone.

And now, O God, in silence we name before you those dear to us and the concerns we carry in our hearts. (silence)

God of hope and peace, we cannot control everything that happens in our lives or in our world. But we trust your faithful love, which holds us today, tomorrow, and forever. Renew our faith, strengthen our hope, and guide us to become the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus, bringing your compassion and peace to others.

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Prince of Peace. Amen.

Hymn 325 **Eternal Father, strong to save**

BENEDICTION

May God hold you in faithful love, whatever tomorrow brings. May Jesus Christ guide you to live with kindness, compassion, and peace. May the Holy Spirit strengthen your faith and renew your hope each day. And all God's people said, "Amen".

Sung Response- Go Now In Peace

Postlude

We acknowledge that we meet on the traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Next Sunday Service, November 15, 10:00 am at North Pelham**

***Joint Session Meeting:** The joint session meeting of Rockway and North Pelham will be held on Wednesday, November 11 at 7:00 pm at Rockway.

***Willing Workers – Meat Pie Orders & Annual Bazaar**
1. Meat Pie Orders: Our Willing Workers are once again offering their delicious, "world-famous" meat pies! Choose from 9-inch Ground Beef or Chicken pies for $20 each, sold frozen for your convenience. Quantities are limited, so order early! Order online or call/text Janice Aulph at 905-246-9175.

2. Annual Bazaar – **Saturday, November 21, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m**.: Everyone is warmly invited to enjoy our Annual Bazaar and pick up their meat pie orders! We gratefully welcome donations of baked goods, gently used items (especially children's toys), knitted or sewn items, and handmade crafts. No clothing, please. All proceeds support the Willing Workers and their sponsorship of foster children. Thank you for your kindness and generous support!

***Mitten Tree Ministry** – Sharing Warmth and Love:
Our Mitten Tree will be up at Rockway from November 8 to December 6! Everyone is warmly invited to donate mittens, hats, scarves, and socks for Community Care of West Niagara. Your generous gifts will help bring warmth, comfort, and hope to neighbours in need this winter. Thank you for sharing God's love through these simple acts of kindness!

***Tai Chi – Every Monday:** Tai Chi classes continue every Monday as part of our church's community outreach ministry. Classes begin at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

***Wednesday Bible Study:** Join us every Wednesday at 10:00 AM at North Pelham.

***Outreach - Thursday Walking:** Join us for the Wellness Walk and Coffee Chat! We gather at 9:30 a.m. at Canada Games Park to start our walk together. After the walk, we meet at Rockway for a joyful chat over hot and fresh coffee at 10:45 am.

***Annual Advent Tea, November 28 – Kirk on the Hill:** Everyone is warmly invited to the **Annual Advent Tea** at Kirk on the Hill Presbyterian Church (1344 Haist Street, Fonthill) on **Saturday, November 28, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** Enjoy a joyful afternoon of Christmas carols, Scripture readings, and warm fellowship over tea. Come and share the hope and joy of the Advent season with our neighbouring church families!

***Prayer Requests and Pastoral Care:** If you or someone you know needs prayer or pastoral care, please contact your elder or Rev. Jacob at 289-213-2797 or jacoblee0501@gmail.com.