

# Offering Invitations and Prayers: January‒June 2025 (Year C)

## January 5: Second Sunday after Christmas

### Invitation

We are called to be the embodiment of God’s Word. We are called to use our whole selves to care for creation, community, and the church. You are invited to share your financial gifts for the ministry and work of both this community of faith and Mission and Service. Together we speak God’s kin-dom into being.

### Prayer

We pray that the gifts we give today will go further in God’s world than we can imagine. Bless these gifts, and those given through PAR and online. Amen.

## January 12: Baptism of the Lord

### Invitation

God calls us and names us. When we respond by walking the road of discipleship—sharing good news, praying and worshipping, loving and serving—our footsteps are on the path of God’s unending love. Sharing our financial resources through the church community is another important part of our discipleship journey. As faithful disciples, we give generously in response to God’s call.

### Prayer

We pray that the gifts we give today will go further in God’s world than we can imagine. Bless these gifts, and those given through PAR and online. Amen.

## January 19: Second Sunday after Epiphany

### Invitation

As Paul told the people of Corinth, we are all given gifts. We all have skills to offer our families, our communities, and God. We are blessed, and as Christians we are called to share our blessings with others. During this time of offering, we are invited to share financially with this church, but I want to encourage you to also consider the skills, gifts, and blessings we can offer this community and beyond.

### Prayer

We pray that the gifts we give today will go further in God’s world than we can imagine. Bless these gifts, and those given through PAR and online. Amen.

## January 26: Third Sunday after Epiphany

### Invitation

We all come to worship with different needs and leave with different answers. Spending this time as community, sharing sacred story, singing holy song, and translating worship into our lives are core spiritual practices for many of us. Sharing financial gifts is also a spiritual practice. You are invited to support the work of this church, Mission and Service, and beyond by giving freely what you can.

### Prayer

God, as we offer our gifts, please use them along with those already given through PAR and online to create a space where we feel your presence. Please help us to be your people, to be a blessing to others, and to lead others to you. We ask this in Christ’s name. Amen.

## February 2: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

### Invitation

We have come to the time where we worship with our gifts. You are invited to generously share what you have for the healing of the world. Offering is collected by (*plates being passed, automatic monthly debits, e-transfers, and online through our website*). The act of giving not only helps this community and its many ministries but is also an act of self-care—we connect to our sacred selves when we share with generous hearts.

### Prayer

God, thank you for our church, for the ways we are called to be church to a world in pain. Help us to continue to share with those in need and with each other through these gifts and those already given for ministries of this church and those of Mission and Service. Amen.

## February 9: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

### Invitation

Now is the time in our worship where we are all invited to share part of what God has given us, whether brought here today, given online, or shared monthly through PAR. Like the fishers in the gospel story, (*name of church*)fishes for people. Your gifts provide a spiritual home where (*name a couple of your ministries—e.g., food is offered through our pantry to those who need it, to provide space for addiction recovery groups, to be a space for Girl Guides and judo to meet, to offer an Affirming voice of inclusivity, etc.*)*.* Let’s be a blessing to others and to ourselves. What a gift it is to fish!

### Prayer

Thank you, God, for this church community and the opportunity to give. Take the gifts shared with (*name*) United Church, bless them, and help us use our collective generosity to make this world a better place. We ask for your love, guidance, and strength as we follow in Jesus’ Way. Amen.

## February 16: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

### Invitation

Jeremiah and Jesus both promise blessings for those who trust the Lord: those who are hungry, weeping, hated, excluded. I invite you to be part of that blessing by sharing your gifts with the church and Mission and Service today, remembering that intention matters, that we can all be answers to someone else’s prayer, and that our prayers can be answered through the generosity of others. So please share, trusting in the Lord and giving and receiving with this community.

### Prayer

Gracious God of blessings, we offer our gifts and we offer ourselves to receive and share. May what we offer this community of faith and Mission and Service be like a fresh stream of water—nourishing the roots of your work and wishes for our world. Amen.

## February 23: Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

### Invitation

At this time we share our gifts of money for the work of this community of faith so that together we can love our enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, in order to be a blessing in this world. Our giving is a beacon of love so that as followers of the Way of Jesus we do unto others as we would have them do unto us. Our gifts flow into the world through the work of our church.

### Prayer

Gracious God, we offer these gifts and those already given through PAR and online for your work in the world. May our practice of generosity be also a practice of love—turning the other cheek, giving our shirt, praying for those we disagree with. God, bless these gifts, and bless our hearts so that they may be open and generous to all. Amen.

## March 2: Transfiguration Sunday

### Invitation

While our hearts and minds may be transformed by sacred stories, wise words, or beautiful music during worship, it is through sharing generously that we are releasing our gifts into the world to transform others. We give with the prayer that our generosity will not only help us feel connected to God but also our gifts will transform and transfigure—flowing through our faith community and into the world to prepare the way for God’s kin-dom. Let us share.

### Prayer

Holy Mystery, help us tap into the deep faith of Elijah, Moses, and Jesus. Through our giving, expand our hearts to make room for challenge and joy, transformation and summons. Please take our gifts, and those already given through PAR and online, and use them to help us create transformation in the world, in our homes, and in ourselves. Amen.

## March 9: First Sunday in Lent

### Invitation

It is so tempting to believe that what we have is the result of our own work. But that kind of thinking is spiritually dangerous; it denies the role that others have played and that God has played. Let us practise generosity and give, to remember our interdependence and make it possible for others to live well.

### Prayer

Gracious and loving God, we offer these gifts and those given through PAR or online with gratitude for what we have received. May this church be a place where people are encouraged and the temptation to greed is overcome. Amen.

## March 16: Second Sunday in Lent

### Invitation

And now we pause in our worship to commit an act of rebellion. When so much around us tells us to hold tightly to our money and resources or spend and consume beyond our means and rack up large debt, we choose the Way of Jesus and give some of it away. Please join me in rebelling and making fun of the world’s foolishness by giving generously.

### Prayer

Gracious and Holy God, your foolishness is wiser than our wisdom and your weakness is stronger than our strength. We give these gifts, those given through PAR, and those given online as an act of faith in your care and of rebellion against an economy that devours and destroys. Thank you for this opportunity to raise up a new way. Amen.

## March 23: Third Sunday in Lent

### Invitation

Wouldn’t it be great? Imagine everyone having enough—enough to eat, clean water, housing, purpose. What we are about to do, our giving to this community of faith and to Mission and Service, can help make that happen. Please give generously.

### Prayer

O God, you are my God. I give with praise and thanks for all you are doing in me and through me as I give this money now or through PAR or online. Help my gift be a blessing to others that all may have enough. Amen.

## March 30: Fourth Sunday in Lent

### Invitation

Whether this is easy for us or difficult, let us pause for a moment of silence as we consider before God how we have been blessed.

(*silence*)

And now we offer ourselves and our gifts, trusting in God’s mercy and love to do a new thing in the world. Let us be generous.

### Prayer

God, we offer these gifts and those given through PAR and online, longing to be a part of your new Way. Thank you for your empowering love. Amen.

## April 6: Fifth Sunday in Lent

### Invitation

Then and now. Old and new. We are each evolving and growing in our faith from how we used to be to how we are now and what we are becoming. This is what it means to embrace the Way of Christ. So no longer trusting only in ourselves, we give generously and grow in our trust in God.

### Prayer

Dear God, we are thankful to be able to share our gifts in Christ’s name. We wish to live out your vision for our lives. Please accept all our sacrificial gifts, those given now and those given through PAR and online, for ministries of this church and those of Mission and Service.

## April 13: Palm Sunday

### Invitation

Today, we are each invited to welcome Jesus. Some will offer their voices. Some will offer their possessions. Some will offer their presence. All are important and valid. Thank you for what you give in this time of offering.

### Prayer

Gracious and welcoming God, today we recognize that not all offerings are money. May all our offerings be used to joyfully proclaim your vision and hope for our world. Amen.

## April 20: Easter Sunday

### Invitation

It started thousands of years ago, when women shared their experience of the risen Christ with others in their circle. They in turn shared their experiences, and so on and so on, until here we are today. Now it is our turn. Let us share what Jesus’ resurrection means to us and give out of gratitude to enable the sharing to continue through this church.

### Prayer

Dear God, as we make this offering, we ask that your Spirit would transform it and us and all people, that your love may be revealed as we use these gifts to invite people into the story of Jesus. We do this and ask this in the name of the risen one. Amen.

## April 27: Second Sunday of Easter

### Invitation

As we hear the stories, it’s still sinking in. Jesus is alive! What does it mean? How do we respond? Like Thomas and the other followers, with praise and generosity? Let us praise God as we present our offerings.

### Prayer

Holy God, as we offer these gifts given today, and those given through PAR and online, hear our praise. Jesus is risen, and we are grateful! Amen.

## May 4: Third Sunday of Easter

### Invitation

Christ has risen! And in the midst of our routine lives, we are asked to tend his sheep. But it just seems to be getting harder these days. Some days, it may seem all we can do to tend to those close to us. Yet Christ is there. He asks us to keep going, to renew our awareness of God’s presence in our lives, and to give generously and freely. We may never know how much our gifts are multiplied or how far they reach, and for that reason we should never be surprised at what God can do with them. Let us present our offering.

### Prayer

Jesus, you ask us to tend your sheep, wherever we may encounter them, so we offer our gifts and those given through PAR and online to do just that. Amen.

## May 11: Fourth Sunday of Easter

### Invitation

After you ask God for guidance in making your gift, have faith that your gift will make an impact, and let it go. You can’t imagine what the results might be—for others or even for you—but God can. Let us make our offering in response to God’s guidance in our lives.

### Prayer

God of love, take our gifts and send them to places where we never dreamed they would go. Let us follow your lead and give from our hearts. Please accept these gifts, and those given through PAR and online, as part of your love for us and the world. Amen.

## May 18: Fifth Sunday of Easter

### Invitation

If we knew that our actions were the only experience a person had of God’s love, would this change how we treat others? We are called to love one another as God loves us—all of us. Those who are nothing like us, those who live somewhere else, those who are undeserving in our eyes. Let us give freely as God gives to us.

### Prayer

Generous God, you know what the world needs, and our faith in your guidance inspires us to give. Please accept our freely given gifts, and use them through this congregation and Mission and Service for ministry where they are needed most. Amen.

## May 25: Sixth Sunday of Easter

### Invitation

The Holy Spirit reminds us of what Jesus taught us: to view the world and its inhabitants in the light of God’s love. Trusting that we can reflect God’s love in our own world through our offerings and actions, let us now present our gifts.

### Prayer

God of love, take our gifts and send them to places we never dreamed they would go. Let us follow your lead and give from our hearts. Please accept these gifts, and those given through PAR and online, as a symbol of your love for us and the world. Amen.

## June 1: Seventh Sunday of Easter

### Invitation

What we do with God’s help can have consequences that we cannot foresee—and even something that initially seems to have failed can often end in success. We are called to plant seeds of grace, hope, and justice, that we might help God’s Mystery to work in the hearts and minds of others. We are called to give and to trust in God that the result will be a harvest beyond our imagining. Let us present our gifts now.

### Prayer

Bountiful God, accept these gifts and those given through PAR and online—our seeds of hope for the healing of the world. May the harvest be plentiful. Thank you, God, for this opportunity. Amen.

## June 8: Day of Pentecost

### Invitation

Today we celebrate the original start of the church, the Day of Pentecost: the day when the original disciples were filled with the Spirit. As we recognize the 100th anniversary of The United Church of Canada, what God’s Spirit is moving us to do in our day may look foolish to others, but we know that giving generously is never foolish. Let us present our offerings.

### Prayer

Holy Spirit, help us to feel your inspiration every day. Please accept these gifts, and those given through PAR and online, as our way of sharing your power and grace with others. Amen.

## June 15: Trinity Sunday

### Invitation

Let us open our hearts and live without fear. Let us give without thought of what we may receive in return, share without restriction, and live in the certainty that our gifts will be multiplied in our ministry here, and across the world through Mission and Service. Let us now present our gifts.

### Prayer

O God, we give in thanks for this community of faith, for the wider church, and for all those who live and give boldly. Bless these gifts, and those given through PAR and online, that we may be a church that lives in generosity. Amen.

## June 22: Second Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitation

We, as Christians, can help comfort a hurting world by sharing our gifts so that others can flourish. No matter what we think of the gifts we give, God will help us share them far beyond anything we could do ourselves. Let us present them now.

### Prayer

God who loves us all, we thank you for the opportunity to care for others through our gifts. We pray that you will use all of them, whether given here or through PAR or online, to continue sharing Christ’s love. Amen.

## June 29: Third Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitation

We honour the time, talent, and labour represented in our gifts today. Together, our generosity makes it possible for ministry to flourish, both here in our community of faith and across the world, through Mission and Service. Let us now share our gifts.

### Prayer

We joyfully share our offerings in celebration and gratitude for all we have received, O God. May these gifts, and those given through PAR and online, be used to continue your work wherever they are needed. Amen.