

Summerlea United Church is located on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples and nations.
We honour, recognize and respect these nations as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we meet today.

We Gather as God's People

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

We know there is a hidden hand behind the things we see,
that guides until at last we find the place we need to be.

**And though our part is small and weak, we know that
when we kneel, and offer up a broken heart, God's
power is revealed.**

And so we say a simple prayer, that when the day is through,

O loving God, we see your face and find our place in you.

(lyrics from "*Malice in the Palace*", Tom S. Long and Allen Pote)

Hymn "Make a Joyful Noise (Psalm 100)" VU 820

Gathering Prayer

Touch us, O God, through the ministry of melody, through the sounds and senses of song, through the wordless wonder which fills our souls with heaven, through the spirit which teaches our feet to dance and causes our hearts to overflow, that we might be absorbed in the mystery and magic of music, and that, in this moment of oneness, our lives will be bonded to each other and to you.

(from *Celebrate God's Presence*, p. 16)

Presentation of the Offering

Offertory Dedication VU 168, vs 4 (tune #426)

**May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand
with the oppressed in this and every land,
till all are blessed and can a blessing be,
restored in Christ to true humanity.**

We Listen for God's Word

Malice in the Palace: The Story of Esther

Words and lyrics by Tom S. Long and Allen Pote