

# ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH COMMUNITY OF FAITH

*A spiritual hub for  
creativity, discovery and growth*



**Sunday, May 5, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

Minister

*Rev Don McLean*

Guest Organist & Choir Director

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**St. Paul's United Church, Perth**  
**Sunday May 5, 2024**  
**The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter Season**



✠ *invites us to rise in body or spirit*

**God Calls Us Together**

Lighting the Christ, Affirm and Prayer Candles

One: We light the Christ candle as a sign that Christ's Spirit alights us all:

All: **this day, this moment, and every moment.**

One: We light the Affirm candle to remind us to be a place of belonging and acceptance,

All: **to learn and grow together in love that protects and celebrates and uplifts.**

One: The Prayer candle reminds us to hold one another in prayer:

All: **to raise prayers of thanks and concern for one another, and any in need.**

Gathering Song: "There Is Room for All" MV 62

**There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing:  
 there is room for all sheltered in God's love.**

**And I rejoice and sing,**

**"My Refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."**

**There is room for all,  
 there is room for all.**

All Our Relations: "Akwe Nia'Tetewá:neren"

phonetically: AW GWAY NYAH DAY DAY WAY NAY REN

All God's Children (Affirming Statement)

Life of the Community

Prelude: Elegy - G. Thalben-Bell

Gathering Words:

One: Christ is Risen!

All: **Christ is Risen indeed!  
 Hallelujah!**

One: Jesus said: Love one another.

All: **We worship God, who is love,  
 that we may learn to love one another.**

One: Jesus said: No longer do I call you servants; now I call you friends.

All: **We worship God, whose friends we are in Christ.**

✠ Hymn: “Come, Children, Join to Sing” VU 345

- 1 **Come, children, join to sing: Hallelujah!**  
**Praise to our Servant King: Hallelujah!**  
 Let all with heart and voice,  
 saved by God's gracious choice,  
 now in this place rejoice: Hallelujah!
- 2 **Come, lift your hearts on high: Hallelujah!**  
**Let praises fill the sky: Hallelujah!**  
 Christ calls his people friends,  
 the helpless he defends,  
 a love that never ends: Hallelujah!
- 3 **Praise yet our Christ again: Hallelujah!**  
**Raise high the joyous strain: Hallelujah!**  
 The whole creation o'er  
 let all God's love adore,  
 singing for evermore: Hallelujah!

Gathering Prayer (*all*):

**Holy God, come to us and enfold us in your love.  
 Bless us, we pray, with your sustaining presence.  
 As we seek your living Word,  
 surround us with your grace  
 and bind to one another as disciples and friends of Jesus. Amen.**

Children & Youth Time

*Children proceed to the Gathering Room.*

### **We Listen for God's Word**

From the Gospels: St. John 15: 9 – 17 (NRSVUE) *Glenn Tunnock*

<sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup> “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear

fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

One: For the wisdom that guides us, the word that inspires us  
and the truth that enlightens us.

**All: We praise you, O God.**

Sermon: "Frail Children of Dust" Rev. McLean

☩ Hymn: "O Worship the King" VU 235

- 1 **O worship the King, all glorious above,  
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;  
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
pavilioned in splendour, and girded with praise.**
- 2 **O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,  
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,  
whose chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
and broad is God's path on the wings of the storm.**
- 3 **The earth with its store of wonders untold,  
Almighty, your power has founded of old;  
has stablished it fast by a changeless decree,  
and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.**
- 4 **Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.**
- 5 **Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;  
your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.**

## **We Respond to God**

Community Prayers and the Prayer of Jesus (spoken)

Choir Anthem: "I Believe" - Drake, Graham, Shirl, Stillman, arr. by Ades

I believe for every drop of rain that falls, a flower grows.  
I believe that somewhere in the darkest night a candle glows.  
I believe for everyone who goes astray,  
Someone will come to show the way.  
I believe, I believe.

I believe above the storm the smallest pray'r  
 Will still be heard.  
 I believe that Someone in the great somewhere  
 Hears ev'ry word.

Ev'ry time I hear a newborn baby cry,  
 Or touch a leaf or see the sky,  
 Then I know why I believe.

### Our Tithes and Offerings

#### Offertory Hymn

**TUNE: OLD HUNDREDTH VU # 541**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
 In heaven and on earth below;  
 One God, Three Persons we adore,  
 And sing our praise for evermore.**

#### Prayer of Dedication (all)

**God, always with us: with this offering, we present ourselves also, all that we have been, all that we are, all that we shall become, and our resolve to follow in your Way. Accept us and the gifts we give by envelope, through PAR, and in every other way, for we offer them in love, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **God Sends Us to Be the Church in the World**

✠ Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" VU 333

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
 joy of heaven to earth come down,  
 fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
 all thy faithful mercies crown.  
 Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
 pure, unbounded love thou art;  
 visit us with thy salvation,  
 enter every trembling heart.
- 2 Come, almighty to deliver;  
 let us all thy grace receive;  
 suddenly return, and never,  
 nevermore thy temples leave.  
 Thee we would be always blessing,  
 serve thee as thy hosts above,  
 pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
 glory in thy perfect love.

**3     Finish, then, thy new creation;  
       pure and spotless let us be;  
       let us see thy great salvation  
       perfectly restored in thee,  
       changed from glory into glory,  
       till in heaven we take our place,  
       till we cast our crowns before thee,  
       lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

☩ The Blessing for Easter Season

☩ Sung Blessing: "When You Go From this Place"

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**When you go from this place be true.  
 May the blessing of life find you.  
 May the winds of the Spirit guide you,  
 'cross the ocean of all your days.  
 May the seeds of your love - your life  
 a-dorn the Way.  
 A-dorn the Way.  
 A-dorn the Way.**

Postlude: RCAF March Past - H. Walford Davies/Sir George Dyson