

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH COMMUNITY OF FAITH

*A spiritual hub for
creativity, discovery and growth*



Sunday, July 14, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Eighth after Pentecost

Minister
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St. Paul's United Church, Perth
Sunday July 14, 2024
The 8th Sunday after Pentecost

✠ *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: Chorus "Open our Hearts" MV 21

Open our hearts, open our minds
Open our lives to you O loving God
Open our hearts.

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

All God's Children (Affirming Statement)

Life of the Community

Piano Prelude: "Petals of Grace" - *Virginia Harmony, arr by Rodriguez*

Gathering Words:

One: Jesus said: Love one another.

All: **We come to worship God who is love and to learn to love one another.**

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

All: **We come to worship God, whose friends we are in Jesus.**

One: Let us sing praise to God,

All: **and live in love and friendship.**

✠ Hymn: "God, Whose Love is Reigning O'er Us" VU 399

1 God, whose love is reigning o'er us,
source of all, the ending true;
hear the universal chorus
raised in joyful praise to you:
Hallelujah, hallelujah,

worship ancient, worship new.

- 2 **Word of God from nature bringing
springtime green and autumn gold;
mountain streams like children singing,
ocean waves like thunder bold:
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
as creation's tale is told.**
- 3 **Holy God of ancient glory,
choosing man and woman, too;
Abr'am's faith and Sarah's story
formed a people bound to you.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
to your covenant keep us true.**
- 4 **Covenant, new again in Jesus,
Star-child born to set us free;
sent to heal us, sent to teach us
how love's children we might be.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
risen Christ, our Saviour he!**
- 5 **Lift we then our human voices
in the songs that faith would bring;
live we then in human choices
lives that, like our music, sing:
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
joined in love our praises ring!**

Gathering Prayer (*all*):

**God, always gracious and just, you establish your covenant with us,
making us your holy people. Teach us to treat one another with
compassion, that we may grow in grace. May our words and deeds echo
the love of Jesus – in whose holy name we pray. Amen.**

Children & Youth Time

The Prayer of Jesus (VU 959 – Sung)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil,
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.**

We Listen for God's Word

From the Epistles: James 1: 19-27 (New English Translation, alt) *Sharon Purdon*

¹⁹ Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters! Let every person be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger. ²⁰ For human anger does not accomplish God's righteousness. ²¹ So put away all filth and evil excess and humbly welcome the message implanted within you, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be sure you live out the message and do not merely listen to it and so deceive yourselves. ²³ For if someone merely listens to the message and does not live it out, they are like someone who gazes at their own face in a mirror. ²⁴ For they gaze at themselves and then go out and immediately forget what sort of person they were. ²⁵ But the one who peers into the perfect law of liberty and fixes their attention there, and does not become a forgetful listener but one who lives it out—they will be blessed in what they do. ²⁶ If someone thinks they are religious yet does not bridle their tongue, and so deceives their heart, their religion is futile. ²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their adversity and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

For the wisdom that guides us, the word that inspires us
and the truth that enlightens us. **We praise you, O God.**

Sermon: **"There's a keen edge on the Sword of Truth"** Rev. McLean

✠Hymn: "Amazing Grace" VU 266

- 1 **Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**
- 2 **'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.**
- 3 **Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**
- 4 **The Lord has promised good to me,**

**this word my hope secures;
 God will my shield and portion be
 as long as life endures.**

- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
 bright shining as the sun,
 we've no less days to sing God's praise
 than when we'd first begun.**

We Respond to God

Community Prayers

Trio: "I Believe" *Drake/Graham/Shirl/Stillman – arr. By Ades*
Sung by: Charlotte Baker, Elaine Brazeau, Barb Guthrie

Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Hymn

VU 544

**In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today
 to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
 O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son,
 teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

Prayer of Dedication (*all*)

**In response to your love for us, gracious and healing God: we offer our
 gifts to you. We pray these symbols of our love given by envelope,
 through PAR, and in other ways, may help bring your realm to birth in new
 ways and new places in our world and in our hearts. In Jesus' name we
 pray. Amen.**

God Sends Us to Be the Church in the World

☩ Hymn: "Sing Praises to God" VU 228

- 1 Sing praises to God! Sing praise in the height;
 rejoice in God's word, blest angels of light;
 high heavens, recalling by whom you were made,
 come, offer your worship in brightness arrayed.**
- 2 Sing praises to God! Sing praise upon earth,
 in tuneful accord, you saints of new birth;
 praise God, who has brought you rich grace from above,
 and showered your life with abundance of love.**
- 3 Sing praises to God, all things that give sound;
 each jubilant chord re-echo around;
 loud organs, your glory tell out in deep tone,**

and trumpets, the story of what God has done.

- 4 **Sing praises to God! Thanksgiving and song
be ever outpoured, all ages along:
for love in creation, for hope spread abroad,
for grace of salvation, sing praises to God.**

✠The Blessing

✠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.**

Organ Postlude: LAUDATE DOMINUM (Sing Praises to God) - Parry, arr. by Jordan