

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH COMMUNITY OF FAITH

*A spiritual hub for
creativity, discovery and growth*



Sunday, July 21, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Ninth after Pentecost

Minister
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St. Paul's United Church, Perth
Sunday July 21, 2024
The 9th 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

Trumpet and Organ Prelude: O Love How Deep, How Broad, How High
 Agincourt Hymn DEO GRACIAS (Thanks to God) *arr. by Johnson*

Gathering Words:

One: May God, who dwells beyond us, and among us, and within us,

All: **inspire us as we gather in worship.**

✠ Hymn: "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker" MV 30

1 It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the gray whale sings in the sea,
and by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry

and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

2 It's a call of life to the Giver
when waves and waterfalls are roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver
when high tides break on the shore,
and by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

3 It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the summer breeze joins the song,
and by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

4 it's the chorus of all creation;
it's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation;
a song the universe sings,
and by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

Gathering Litany

One: Wherever we are, we are in the presence of God.

All: Whatever is happening to us, we can turn to God, who loves us and cares for us.

One: And yet, in this place and time, we want to feel especially close to God,

All: to remember that God hears our cries,

One: that God knows our needs,

All: that God wants to calm our fears and protect us from all harm.

One: Always and everywhere, God wants what is best for us.

All: Come, let us worship under the shelter of God's wings.

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 Hebrew Bible: Jonah 3:10-4:11 (MSG)

Glenn Tunnock

¹⁰ God saw what they had done, that they had turned away from their evil lives. God *did* change his mind about them. What he said he would do to them he didn't do.

⁴ ¹⁻² Jonah was furious. He lost his temper. He yelled at GOD, "GOD! I knew it—when I was back home, I knew this was going to happen! That's why I ran off to Tarshish! I knew you were sheer grace and mercy, not easily angered, rich in love, and ready at the drop of a hat to turn your plans of punishment into a program of forgiveness!"

³ "So, GOD, if you won't kill them, kill *me!* I'm better off dead!"

⁴ GOD said, "What do you have to be angry about?"

⁵ But Jonah just left. He went out of the city to the east and sat down in a sulk. He put together a makeshift shelter of leafy branches and sat there in the shade to see what would happen to the city.

⁶ GOD arranged for a broad-leafed tree to spring up. It grew over Jonah to cool him off and get him out of his angry sulk. Jonah was pleased and enjoyed the shade. Life was looking up.

⁷⁻⁸ But then God sent a worm. By dawn of the next day, the worm had bored into the shade tree and it withered away. The sun came up and God sent a hot, blistering wind from the east. The sun beat down on Jonah's head and he started to faint. He prayed to die: "I'm better off dead!"

⁹ Then God said to Jonah, "What right do you have to get angry about this shade tree?"

Jonah said, "Plenty of right. It's made me angry enough to die!"

¹⁰⁻¹¹ GOD said, "What's this? How is it that you can change your feelings from pleasure to anger overnight about a mere shade tree that you did nothing to get?"

You neither planted nor watered it. It grew up one night and died the next night. So, why can't I likewise change what I feel about Nineveh from anger to pleasure, this big city of more than 120,000 childlike people who don't yet know right from wrong, to say nothing of all the innocent animals?"

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

Sermon: "God loves Nineveh" Rev. McLean

✠Hymn: "Draw the Circle Wide" MV 145

**Refrain: Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide**

1. **God the still- point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms. *refrain***
2. **Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call. *refrain***
3. **Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door. *refrain***

We Respond to God

Community Prayers

Trumpet and Organ Anthem - How Great Thou Art - Hine

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)

Gracious and holy God, we know that you are present and at work in us and others. May our gifts given by envelope, through PAR, and in other ways, enable the compassion, grace and love of Jesus to bless this community and the world. Amen.

God Sends Us to Be the Church in the World

†Hymn: "I the Lord of Sea and Sky" VU 509

- 1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.
- 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.
- 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

✠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.**

Trumpet and Organ Postlude : Trumpet Tune - *Jeremiah Clarke*