

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH COMMUNITY OF FAITH

*A spiritual hub for
creativity, discovery and growth*



**Sunday, July 28, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Tenth after Pentecost ~ Holy Communion**

Minister
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Guest Organist
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**St. Paul's United Church, Perth
Sunday July 28, 2024
The 10th Sunday after Pentecost**



**A Centennial Year Service – exploring some
Celtic roots of our United Church of Canada**

✠ *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.**

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

All God's Children (Affirming Statement)

Life of the Community

Prelude

Gathering Prayer (all)

God be in my head, and in my understanding;

God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;

God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;

God be in my heart, and in my thinking;

God be at mine end, and at my departing. Amen.

✠ Hymn: "This Day God Gives Me" VU 410 (Tune at 409)

**1 This day God gives me strength of high heaven,
sun and moon shining, flame in my hearth,
flashing of lightning, wind in its swiftness,
deeps of the ocean, firmness of earth.**

**2 This day God sends me strength to sustain me,
might to uphold me, wisdom as guide.
Your eyes are watchful, your ears are listening,**

your lips are speaking, Friend at my side.

- 3 God's way is my way, God's shield is round me,
God's host defends me, saving from ill.
Angels of heaven, drive from me always
all that would harm me, stand by me still.**
- 4 Rising, I thank you, mighty and strong One,
King of creation, giver of rest,
firmly confessing Threeness of Persons,
Oneness of Godhead, Trinity blest.**

Children & Youth Time and The Prayer of Jesus (*all, spoken*)

**Abba God in heaven,
hallowed be your name!
May your reign come;
may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven:
give us today the bread of Tomorrow.
And forgive us our debts as we hereby forgive those
who are indebted to us.
Don't put us to the test,
but free us from evil.
For yours is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

We Listen for God's Word

From the Epistles: Ephesians 3: 7-21 (MSG)

Sharon Purdon

⁷⁻⁸ This is my life work: helping people understand and respond to this Message. It came as a sheer gift to me, a real surprise, God handling all the details. When it came to presenting the Message to people who had no background in God's way, I was the least qualified of any of the available Christians. God saw to it that I was equipped, but you can be sure that it had nothing to do with my natural abilities.

⁸⁻¹⁰ And so here I am, preaching and writing about things that are way over my head, the inexhaustible riches and generosity of Christ. My task is to bring out in the open and make plain what God, who created all this in the first place, has been doing in secret and behind the scenes all along. Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!

¹¹⁻¹³ All this is proceeding along lines planned all along by God and then executed in Christ Jesus. When we trust in him, we're free to say whatever needs to be

said, bold to go wherever we need to go. So don't let my present trouble on your behalf get you down. Be proud!

¹⁴⁻¹⁹ My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.

²⁰⁻²¹ God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

Glory to God in the church!
 Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus!
 Glory down all the generations!
 Glory through all millennia! Oh, yes!

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

Sermon:

***“O oft and oft and oft,
 Goes Christ in the stranger's guise.”***

Rev. McLean

☩Hymn: “I Feel the Winds of God Today” VU 625

- 1 I feel the winds of God today;
 today my sail I lift,
 though heavy oft with drenching spray
 and torn with many a rift;
 if hope but light the water's crest,
 and Christ my bark will use,
 I'll seek the seas at his behest,
 and brave another cruise.
- 2 It is the wind of God that dries
 my vain regretful tears,
 until with braver thoughts shall rise
 the purer, brighter years;
 if cast on shores of selfish ease
 or pleasure I should be,
 O let me feel your freshening breeze,
 and I'll put back to sea.

- 3 **If ever I forget your love
 and how that love was shown,
 lift high the blood-red flag above;
 it bears your name alone.
 Great pilot of my onward way,
 you will not let me drift.
 I feel the winds of God today;
 today my sail I lift.**

We Respond to God

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 of love, bless the gifts we give today, and by PAR, and all we give in other ways. Help this church show that your love is for all people, near and far. Help us live out your call to be the church. Amen.

We Gather at Jesus' Table

The Invitation to the Table

The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready.
 It is the table of company with Jesus
 And with all those who love him.
 It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world,
 with whom Jesus identified himself.
 It is the table of communion with Creation
 in which Jesus became incarnate.
 So, come to this table, you who have much faith
 And you who would like to have more;
 You who have been to this sacrament often,
 And you who have not been for a long time.
 All who have tried to follow Jesus, and all who need to do better,
 Come. It is Jesus himself who invites us to meet him now.

☩ Communion Hymn: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" VU 273

- 1 **The King of love my shepherd is,
 whose goodness faileth never;
 I nothing lack if I am his**

and he is mine forever.

- 2 Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed;
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.
- 5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever!

The Communion Liturgy

One: Blessed are you, O God

All: For you have brought forth bread from the earth.

One: Blessed are you, O God,

All: For you have created the fruit of the vine.

In the beginning you watered the earth

That all might have food and drink.

One: You gave to your servant Sarah

Bread to strengthen her family on their journey,

And wine to make them glad.

All: You called Moses and his people out of bondage

And refreshed them with food in the wilderness.

One: You gave Mary and Joseph their daily bread to share.

All: And here at your table

You offer us bread and wine for the journey

To nourish us as sons and daughters.

One: And so, with all our sisters and brothers,

Before us and beside us, near and far,
 With all who have come your Way before us, and will after,
 We join in praise of your unending greatness:

**All: Holy, holy holy, God of power and might,
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory
 Glory be to you, O God most high.**

One: Among friends, gathered round a table
 Jesus took bread, and having blessed it,
 He broke it and gave it to his disciples saying,
 Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you.

In the same way after supper, he took the cup of wine
 And gave you thanks.

He gave it to them saying, Drink this, all of you.
 This is my blood of the new covenant,
 Which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.
 Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.

So, now, as Jesus did,
 We take this bread and this wine;
 the ordinary things of the world through which God will bless us.

As Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth,
 we also celebrate God's goodness.

Friend and brother Jesus, present with us now,
 As we in this moment we do what you did in an upper room,
 Breathe your Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine,
 That they may be heaven's food for us.
 Renewing, sustaining and making us whole,
 enabling us to be your body on earth,
 Loving and caring in the world.

Look, the bread of heaven is broken for the life of the world.
 Here is Christ, coming to us in bread and wine

All: The gifts of God for the people of God.

The Sharing of Holy Communion

(Now is the time to open the elements – a wheat wafer and grape juice. First, please peel off the transparent film cover – the communion wafer is beneath. After receiving the wafer, please peel off the foil cover to partake of the grape juice.)

Prayer after Communion (*all*)

**Holy God, we have seen with our eyes
And touched with our hands the bread of life:
Strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for
each other, through Jesus we pray. Amen.**

This liturgy was adapted from a Communion Liturgy
of St. Marsden Church, Elsfield, UK

God Sends Us to Be the Church in the World

☩ Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision" VU 642

- 1 **Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.**
- 2 **Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.**
- 3 **Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.**
- 4 **Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**
- 5 **Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.**

☩ The Blessing & Threefold Amen VU 967

"Amen. Amen. Amen"

Postlude