

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

St. Paul's Pastoral Charge

February 23, 2025

Black History Sunday

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Shirley Godfree

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG: MV #88 "Over My Head" - Choir & Congregation

**Refrain: Over my head, I hear music in the air. (X 3)
There must be a God somewhere.**

Choir: When the winds of strife are blowin'

Cong: I hear music in the air.

Choir: When the winds of strife are blowin'

Cong: I hear music in the air.

Choir: When the winds of strife are blowin'

Cong: I hear music in the air.

All: There must be a God somewhere.

**Refrain: Over my head, I hear music in the air. X 3
There must be a God somewhere.**

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Since 1996, the Government of Canada's annual Black History Month campaign encourages all Canadians to learn more about Black history in Canada. Today, take a journey with me through Canadian Black History.

CANADIAN BLACK HISTORY 1600

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: Let the rivers clap their hands,

All: Let the hills sing for joy together before the Lord,

One: Let the Heavens roar,

All: Let the mountains be glad,

One: For the Lord God reigns supreme over all the Earth, God comes to judge the earth.

All: God will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: VU #612 "There is a Balm in Gilead" (recording)

Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

1. Sometimes I feel discouraged
and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again. **(Refrain)**
2. If you cannot preach like Peter,
if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus
and say, "He died for all." **(Refrain)**

PRAYER OF APPROACH (in response)

One: Creator God, Source of Life and every living thing. Great are you Lord,
and worthy of all glory, honor and praise.

**All: We come into your presence to lift up your matchless name We
come to declare your glory above the heavens.**

One: Deliverer, Savior and Friend, blessed is your name in all the earth

**All: We praise you today for the hope and inspiration found in you
by oppressed peoples everywhere.**

One: We hunger and thirst after your righteousness.

**All: Fill our hearts with courage and love to pursue your just way of
being in this world Today and always. Amen.**

CANADIAN BLACK HISTORY 1700

SELECTION: "Nobody Knows the Troubles I've Seen" - Choir

CANADIAN BLACK HISTORY 1800

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in response)

One: Compassionate Creator, look with mercy upon us as we name our
collective brokenness:

**All: We name our resistance to unpack traditions and to engage in
difficult conversations; we name our willingness to remain
estranged from that which challenges us or frightens us; we
name constructs of superiority—language that "others," biases
that entrench; and we name the isms we carry in our thinking
that is carried over into our living.**

One: We name other truths about ourselves in this moment of silence...
Compassionate Creator, Most Loving Parent,

**All: forgive us our transgressions, as we forgive those who have
transgressed against us. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: In Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God for forgiveness. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SING ALONG: We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

We are climbing Jacob's ladder; We are climbing Jacob's ladder;
We are climbing Jacob's ladder, Soldiers of the cross.

Ev'ry step goes higher, higher; Ev'ry step goes higher, higher;
Ev'ry step goes higher, higher, Soldiers of the cross.

Sinner, do you love my Jesus? Sinner, do you love my Jesus?
Sinner, do you love my Jesus? Soldiers of the cross.

If you love him, why not serve Him? If you love him, why not serve
Him? If you love him, why not serve Him? Soldiers of the cross.

CANADIAN BLACK HISTORY 1900

SELECTION: "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" - Choir

CANADIAN BLACK HISTORY 2000

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE:	Gospel:	Matthew 5:14-16 pg. 4
	Reader:	This is the Word of the Lord.
	All:	Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE: "Let Your Light Shine" - Rev'd Karlene Brown-Palmer

SELECTION: "Lord I want to be a Christian in My Heart" - Choir

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERTORY HYMN: MV # 12 "Come Touch Our Hearts" (vs.1 & 2)

Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire;
love strong enough to overturn injustice,
to seek a world more gracious, come touch and bless our hearts.

Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
create a space for spirit to grow in us,
let life and beauty fill us, come touch and bless our souls.

OFFERTORY PRAYER (in unison)

**As we bring our gifts today, we offer our all to you Creator. We
extend our gifts, of money, time, talents, care and compassion.**

As God receive these gifts, may they usher into our lives and others: peace and hope, love and justice and stir us to be God's people in God's world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: God of Transfiguration Your power reveals truth.

All: In all its beauty, in all its difficulty, in all its complexity. You embrace us in our diversities—loving us, accepting us.

One: We ask you to unite us through the power of your Spirit

All: Speak in our voices as we raise them in prayer.

One: God of Transfiguration:

All: Illuminate systems of exploitation and injustice: Systems that dislocate and enslave. Tear down the monuments we build to ourselves and for ourselves:

One: Cast down self-congratulatory privilege when we seek to pat ourselves on our back

All: When we are only doing what we should or when we are doing nothing and it is you at work.

One: Lift us out of missions that are photo-ops, and lead us into the ongoing work of partnership and community building.

All: Most Holy God lead us away from the lofty places, the pretty places, the safe places and into the streets and alleys— into hospital rooms with lonely patients, into schoolyards with bullied children— into places we can't see because they are on the margins but places that are known to you.

One: Most holy God, may we seek to to be a voice, challenging and exposing the evil of racism and those who continue to practise it.

All: May we seek to share Christ's healing presence in our world and join with others irrespective of their ethnicity to bring about reconciliation through Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

IN JESUS' NAME WE GO TO SERVE

CLOSING HYMN: "Lift Every Voice and Sing" (recording)

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,

Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;

Let our rejoicing rise High as the listening skies,

Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died; Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet come to the place for which our fathers
sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the
slaughtered, out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand.
True to our God, true to our native land.

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**We welcome all who join us for in-person worship today and online.
Join us as we celebrate today after worship. February 16th would have
been Doreen Smith's 93rd birthday!**

Join us as we remember her by partaking in fruit pies & her favourite ice-cream
(Maple Walnut) at coffee time. The microphone will be set up and you can
share your memories of Doreen.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



In our thoughts and prayers this week:
Julie Putoczki, Emily Thorne, Elly Tuitman and Jim Withington.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Dave and Dag Morris in memory of
their parents, Werner and Olga Helbert and Don and Doris Morris and a very
special friend, Doreen Smith.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Happy birthday wishes to **Kim McKibbon** on February 25 and
Ed Edwards on February 28th he will be turning "89"
Happy Birthday to you both!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Coming up this week!

The UCW Friendship Circle is meeting Wednesday, February 26th at 1 p.m.
for "Tea and Conversation" in the Friendship room.





Name Tags! Name Tags!

Lisa Houston is still taking Name Tag orders!

Let's celebrate the United Church 100th Anniversary events wearing a Name Tag. The Name Tags come with an option of magnet backing or pin backing, your choice! Price for either option is \$14.95 plus tax. A sign-up sheet will be left on the table by the Friendship Room with the information required. Need some more information call me at 519-409-1058. Looking forward to ordering for you! Lisa

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

We have filled all the photo shots for the directory. By now, you have been reminded of your appointment. So you know, you will get another reminder very close to your scheduled time.

Thank you for your co-operation. Dianne Parnell (519-871-3454)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Foodbank Drive – February

At this time, we are in **urgent need** of the following high-demand items:

- **Soups:** Chicken noodle, vegetable, and chunky soup
- **Breakfast Staples:** Instant oatmeal, pancake mix
- **Pantry Essentials:** Crackers, condiments, canned fruits & canned vegetables



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Join us for Messy Church on March 1

"Moving Into March"

10-12 noon – crafts, games, music and lunch to follow.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



DASO is celebrating 50 years of service to women and children in our communities. As we celebrate the UCC 100 years of service let's encourage DASO to keep serving. On **International Women's Sunday March 2, 2025**, let's make it another **100 in donations this time for DASO.**

Here is DASO's wish list items that we are supporting:

Baby Lotion, Hand and Body Lotion, Baby Powder, Deodorant/Antiperspirant, Razors, Shaving Cream, Nail Kits, Baby Soap, Body Wash, Pump Hand Soap, Face Wipes, Face Cleanser, Bathroom Tissue, Kleenex, Paper Towel, Dryer Sheets, Shampoo, Conditioner, Liquid Dish Soap, Garbage/Recycling Bags, Lysol/Clorox Wipes, Sandwich Bags, White Vinegar.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

SAVE THE DATE

St. Paul's is hosting a Pancake Supper

March 4 from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Banquet Hall

Adults \$10 Children 10 & under \$5 includes sausages and dessert



Cash payable at the door. Please sign-up to come and/or sign-up to help – the sheets are outside the Friendship room

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

What: **World Day of Prayer at St Paul's 2025**
When: March 7, 2025
Where: St. Paul's Sanctuary
Time: 10:30 am for Offering registration & coffee break
11:00 am or when registration end Worship Service will begin



TELL YOUR NEIGHBOURS! TELL YOUR FRIENDS

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



**St. Paul's AOTS Fellowship clubs annual
Spaghetti fundraiser dinner
Saturday March 29 5:00-6:30 p.m.**

Cost is \$15.00 for adults \$8.00 for children 12 and under.

Tickets on sale now from the church office, AOTS members or online @
stpaulsaots84@ [gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsaots84@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



You can drop off your items for the **St. Paul's Yard Sale** Monday or
Wednesday mornings.

<p>DID YOU KNOW?</p>	<p>...that you can be a member of one of the Community Kitchen teams? Contact Keith or Julie Avery for more information. 519-403-4192</p>
-------------------------------------	---

LicenSing #2401; CCLI: #239572