

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

St. Paul's Pastoral Charge
January 19, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dave Collis

WELCOME

INTROIT: The Choir

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE: Bella Jackson

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY

In Tillsonburg, as we gather on the traditional territory of indigenous peoples, dating back countless generations, we acknowledge the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee and Attawandaron peoples, showing respect for the long-standing relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers."

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: We are summoned here by our holy God,

All: who calls us each by name, and gathers us together in the unity of Jesus Christ.

Bella: From single houses, from apartments, special living places,

All: we are called into God's presence. Young and old and middle-aged,

One: individuals and families, soft-spoken and outspoken,

All: we hear our names being called to join in worship.

Bella: This house of worship is a place to pursue God's vision for all people:

All: unity and joy and faith expressed through different gifts. Let us worship together!

OPENING HYMN: VU # 395 "Come In, Come In and Sit Down"

Refrain: Come in, come in and sit down,

You are a part of the family.

We are lost and we are found,

And we are a part of the family.

You know the reason why you came,
Yet no reason can explain;
So, share in the laughter and cry in the pain,
For we are a part of the family (Refrain)

God is with us in this place,
Like a mother's warm embrace.
We're all forgiven by God's grace,
For we are a part of the family (Refrain)

There is a life to be shared in the bread and the wine
We are the branches, Christ is the vine
This is God's temple it's not your or mine
But we are a part of the family (Refrain)

There's rest for the weary and health for us all;
There's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.
So come in and worship and answer the call,
For we are a part of the family (Refrain)

PRAYER OF APPROACH (in unison)

Come to us, Holy God, as we gather before you; encircle us with your love. Bless us with your sustaining presence; surround us with your grace. Draw us 'round your living Word, and bind us to one another as disciples of Christ, whose Spirit is in our midst. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in response)

One: Gracious God, you have called us each by name and continue to equip us with every spiritual gift we need, and yet sometimes we fail to use those gifts, or to proclaim our mission.

All: **Help us to remember that you have called us to be your voice in our space and will strengthen us to the very end.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Let us press on, for we know that God forgives our failings, and gives us strength so that we might carry out our mission,

All: **Thanks be to God! We know that our God is faithful and forgives us. And he calls us into fellowship with Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

Adapted from: *Wanda Winfield, Blenheim U.C., Blenheim, Ont. Gathering, ACE 2019-2020 page 37. Used with permission*

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

CHILDREN'S HYMN: VU # 575 "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" (vs. 1&2)

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Old Testament: Isaiah 49:1-7 pg. 679 read by Aliyah Helsdon

SCRIPTURE: Gospel: John 1:35-42 pg. 92 read by Dave Collis

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE: "Following Jesus" Rev'd Karlene Brown-Palmer

SELECTION: The Choir

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S NOISY COIN COLLECTION – Cameron, Conner & Marcus

OFFERTORY HYMN: MV # 191 "What Can I Do?" (x 2)

What Can I do? What can I bring?

What can I say? What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer

I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

OFFERTORY PRAYER (in unison)

Dear Lord, you've given so many gifts to us. You've held nothing back of yourself, but rather come among us in Christ Jesus to save us and make us new. We offer to you now our lives and with them the work of our hands as represented by that which is contained in these plates. Bless us and all we offer both now and forevermore. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Aliyah, Bella & Cameron

IN JESUS' NAME WE GO TO SERVE

CLOSING HYMN: MV # 161 "I Have Called You by Your Name"

I have called you by your name, you are mine;

I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.

I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.

You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go;

read it written in my people, help them grow.

Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul
can claim, offer Jesus' body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go;

feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.

Like the woman reaching out,
choosing faith in spite of doubt,

hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE**

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We welcome all who join us for in-person worship today and online.



Everyone is invited to join for fellowship and refreshments
in the Friendship Room down the hall after today's service.
Members of the AOTS are hosting today.

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In our thoughts and prayers this week:
Jim Donaldson, Julie Putoczki and Jim Withington.



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Belated Happy Birthday wishes to Bill Welsh for January 6

Many birthday wishes to Marcus van Hoeve on January 20

Dave Morris celebrates his Birthday on January 24
and Karen Helsdon and Tim Stafford both celebrate on January 25.
Congratulations to all!

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The flowers today will be delivered to shut-ins
or a person with a special celebration.



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A Thank you note from Stacia Hanson:

Thank you for the lovely poinsettia - it is sitting in my kitchen window and I enjoy
looking at it every day. Thank you for your prayers and support – they are very much
appreciated! The flower delivery on December 15 was most appreciated as well. The
kindness show to me was lovely! Thank you, Stacia Hanson



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Today, Sunday is the last chance to sign-up for
INTRODUCTION TO CHAIR YOGA AND A LIGHT LUNCH
A Special Friendship Circle Event
Freewill offering
Wednesday, January 22 at 11:00 AM
In Friendship Room - All are welcome
Sign-up sheet located outside the Friendship Room





Florence Mannell and Jennifer & Wayne Beard would like to thank friends at St. Paul's for cards and expressions of sympathy on the loss of son and brother.

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**St. Paul's Messy Church presents:
Flying into February...**

February 1st from 10-12 noon

Crafts, games, music and lunch to follow!



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The Annual Meeting is February 9 after worship. Please plan to attend.

More details to follow.

Foodbank Drive – January

As part of the 100th Celebration of the United Church our second food collection is for

100 boxes of cookies

Please bring your cookies to the church on or before January 26.



LicenSing #2401; CCLI: #239572