

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**  
**St. Paul's Pastoral Charge**  
**March 26, 2023**

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mary Anne Silverthorn**

**WELCOME**

**GATHERING HYMN: VU # 378 "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" (vs. 1)**

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;  
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move.  
Stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,  
And make me love you as I ought to love.

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**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**

One: The work of the Creator is visible.

**All: Let us respond with praise.**

One: The example of Jesus is apparent.

**All: Let us respond with obedience.**

One: The wind of the Spirit is blowing.

**All: Let us respond with joy.**

One: The word of God is calling.

**All: Let us worship in spirit and in truth. Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN: VU # 559 "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"**

1. Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it mount of God's unfailing love.
2. Here I pause in my sojourning; giving thanks for having come;  
come to trust at every turning, God will guide me safely home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
came to rescue me from danger, precious presence, precious blood.
3. O, to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you:  
prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for your very own.

**PRAYER OF APPROACH (in unison)**

Lord, this Lenten journey has been filled with the unexpected. You have asked us to look deep within ourselves, to identify the many ways in which we have turned away from you. Again, this day we ask that you open our hearts to receive your word of healing and hope. The cross of Good Friday looms in our future and we face it with fear. Bring us through this time with confidence and trust in your guiding love. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)**

God, you know who we are. We struggle with being both good and bad. Our hearts often do what is not pleasing to you. We do the wrong we shouldn't and fail to do the right we should. Only you fully know us and love us despite our failings. Search our hearts, and cause us to follow only your example in our world we pray. Amen.

*(A time for silent prayers of confession).*

**Assurance of God's Forgiveness**

One: God is at work in us and with us! Hear the promise of God: when we confess our sins he forgives us and in Christ we are set free.

All: Amen! We are forgiven in Christ! Thanks be to God.

**CHILDREN'S FOCUS:**

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Children's Hymn: Dem Bones

Ezekiel connected dem dry bones, Ezekiel connected dem dry bones,  
Ezekiel in the Valley of Dry Bones, Now hear the word of the Lord.

The toe bone connected to the foot bone  
And the foot bone connected to the heel bone  
And the Heel bone connected to the ankle bone  
And the Ankle bone connected to the shin bone  
And the Shin bone connected to the knee bone  
And the Knee bone connected to the thigh bone  
And the Thigh bone connected to the hip bone  
And the Hip bone connected to the back bone  
And the Back bone connected to the shoulder bone  
And the Shoulder bone connected to the neck bone  
And the Neck bone connected to the head bone  
Now hear the word of the Lord.

**Refrain:** Dem bones, dem bones, gonna walk around.  
Dem bones, dem bones, gonna walk around.  
Dem bones, dem bones, gonna walk around.  
Now hear the word of the Lord.  
Disconnect dem bones, dem dry bones.  
Disconnect dem bones, dem dry bones.  
Disconnect dem bones, dem dry bones.  
Now hear the word of the Lord.

The head bone connected from the neck bone  
And the Neck bone connected from the shoulder bone  
And the Shoulder bone connected from the back bone  
And the Back bone connected from the hip bone  
And the Hip bone connected from the thigh bone  
And the Thigh bone connected from the knee bone  
And the Knee bone connected from the shin bone  
And the Shin bone connected from the ankle bone  
And the Ankle bone connected from the heel bone  
And the Heel bone connected from the foot bone  
And the Foot bone connected from the toe bone  
Now hear the word of the Lord.

**Refrain:** Dem bones, dem bones, gonna rise again.  
Dem bones, dem bones, gonna rise again.  
Dem bones, dem bones, gonna rise again.  
Now hear the word of the Lord.  
Dem bones, dem bones dem dry bones.  
Dem bones dem bones, dem dry bones.  
Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones.  
Now hear the word of the Lord.

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURES:**      **Old Testament:**      **Ezekiel 37:1-14** pg. 806  
Reader:                      This is God's Word.  
**All:**                              **May it change our hearts.**

**SERMON: "The God Who Restores" – Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer**

**HYMN OF REFLECTION: MV # 144 "Like a Healing Stream" (vs. 1 & 4)**

1.      Like a healing stream in a barren desert,  
         Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,  
         God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,  
         promising revival and rebirth like a healing stream
  
4.      Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,  
         Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,  
         God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:  
         God will always challenge and provide! Like a mighty sea,  
         like a river strong, like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**OFFERTORY HYMN: VU # 542 "We Give You but Your Own"**

We give you but your own,  
Whate'er the gifts may be;  
All that we have is yours alone,  
We give it gratefully.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER (in unison)**

God of Light, you gave us your only Son so that we may experience eternal life. We humbly give these offerings as a faithful response to this gift. Money seems so insignificant when compared to your gift of life. Yet, we place this money before you as a sacrificial gesture of our gratitude. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**IN JESUS' NAME WE GO TO SERVE**

**CLOSING HYMN: VU # 586 "We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection"**

1. We shall go out with hope of resurrection;  
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;  
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;  
tales of a love that will not let us go.  
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;  
we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;  
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
within the vision of new life in Christ.
  
2. We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;  
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;  
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,  
expressive love alive in every heart.  
We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping,  
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,  
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story,  
including all in circles of our love.

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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



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Please join us for a social time after the worship service for coffee, (regular & decaf) as well as tea, juice and cookies will be served. Members of the UCW are hosting this month.

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**Happy 46<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary wishes to  
Tim and Linda Stafford TODAY!  
AND**



**Happy Birthday wishes this week to:**

**Margaret Vanderzweerde** turning 87 on March 27  
and to **Desmond Palmer** on March 28



We wish you ALL a wonderful celebration.

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The flowers this morning are to honour Rev. Karlene and Desmond.

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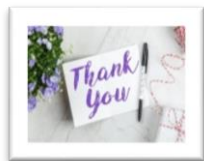


Additional flowers are placed by Lynda Levins  
in loving memory of her husband, Tom who passed March 28, 2021.



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Thank you to my friends from St. Paul's that came out to my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration and for all the cards and birthday wishes. Thank you Rev. Karlene for your kind words.



A donation to St. Paul's has been made by Thelma and her daughter Joan Hammers to say a special thank-you to Mary Anne Silverthorn for all your work arranging and completion of plans for the birthday party. It was a great time of reuniting with friends and family.

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**BIBLE STUDY** on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 9.45 a.m.  
at the home of Ruth Francis 11 Peach St. 519 688-7724  
All are welcome.



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The UCW has a limited number of bags of frozen Rhubarb for sale today, outside the friendship room. The cost is \$5 each. There is also a variety of recipes to give away to anyone that would like to have one. Please stop by to show your support for the UCW. Thank You.



UCW will have geraniums for sale again this year.  
Price: \$ 3.50 per pot - Colours: red, white, orange, fuchsia.  
To order geraniums please call or email  
Rita Van Lamoen @ 519-842-9271. Or email [mrvanla@execulink.com](mailto:mrvanla@execulink.com)  
Wilma Jeffery @519-688-0065 or email [wjeffery09@icloud.com](mailto:wjeffery09@icloud.com)  
Geraniums will be available for pickup on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-7:30 p.m.  
or Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> from 10-1p.m. in the banquet hall. Thank you UCW

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The **Lenten Special Offering**  
will be divided equally between the Tillsonburg **Helping Hand Food bank** and the  
**United Church World Development Fund.**



The **Easter Special Offering** will be divided equally between  
**Camp Tanner** and **Tillsonburg Salvation Army** unless otherwise directed.

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**Messy Church from 10 - Noon on April 1st**  
"You can't fool us!" (It's April fool's day at Messy Church)  
With crafts, games, music and lunch provided.  
AOTS Breakfast Meeting Sunday, April 2nd at 8 a.m.  
Signup sheet at back of Sanctuary or email Dave Morris, [dcmorris95@gmail.com](mailto:dcmorris95@gmail.com).

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The Pastoral Care Committee are holding a quiet communion on **April 12th at 2 p.m.** in the Friendship Room. This is for persons who are unable to attend the communion service during the Sunday worship hour. If you would like to attend, please call Rev. Maurice (519-688-7724) or Rev. Pat (519-842-4087). If there is no answer, please leave a message.



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The United Church is collecting funds for earthquake relief in Turkey & Syria, if you would like to donate, please mark your envelope or e-transfer '**Emergency response Turkey/Syria**'. Your donation will go towards emergency shelters, blankets, mattresses, clean water, food, and hygiene items.



**Helping Hand foodbank needs for April**  
 potatoes, carrots, onions and apples  
 canned vegetables and pasta sauce, cookies, snacks for kids lunches

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**THE FINAL TILLSONBURG MINISTERIAL LENT SERVICES**  
**'The Road to Emmaus' 12-12:30 p.m.**

Mar. 29 - North Broadway Baptist - Speaker: Andre

St. Paul's offices will be closed at 11:45 a.m. each Wednesday  
 for St. Paul's staff to attend the Lenten services.

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The Senior Centre Singers perform on Tuesday April 25th 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
 Advance tickets only -\$10 from the Senior Centre (519-688-2520)  
 Six of St. Paul's choir are in the Singers and look forward to seeing you there.



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**YARD SALE**

**St. Paul's is holding a Yard Sale on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

You can start dropping off your smaller items every Wednesday from 9-12 noon.

We are looking for:

Small appliances

Toys and games

Jewellery

Gently used clothing

Linens

Books

and much more...

More details will be available as the date draws closer.

For more information please contact Brenda Marshall at 519-842-3023

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For friends or family in hospital (here in Tillsonburg or elsewhere) please contact our Church  
 Office (519-688-0011) with Hospital name and details to let our minister know so she can  
 follow-up with a visit or a phone-call. Hospitals no longer provide daily lists of patients wanting  
 visits and we would not want to miss you.

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| DID YOU<br>KNOW | <b>...that a week at Camp can change a life?</b> St. Paul's continues to support<br>Camp Tanner in a variety of ways. |
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