

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

St. Paul's Pastoral Charge

September 10, 2023 @ 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mary Anne Silverthorn

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN: VU # 389 "God is Here"

1. God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

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: We come from far and near to this community of faith.

All: Lord, draw us together in celebration of your love.

One: Some are young, some middle-aged, some older

All: some might be rich or poor and some comfortable or struggling.

One: We have come to celebrate. God is with us!

All: Now is the time of Rejoicing! God's love is poured over us! Amen.

OPENING HYMN: VU # 232 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, life and love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!
2. All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays,
Stars and angels sing around you, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain sound their praise eternally.
3. You art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing, let your lights upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus, which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

Spirit of new life: you gather us together in God's school to teach us how to live together, to love together, to serve together, so that those around us might know that you are in their midst. God in Community, Holy in One, draw us close to yourself in this time of worship we pray. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

All: Forgive us when we forget that you are always with us, through times of peace and times of war. Heal our souls. Help us to reach out to others with the assurance of your love and presence, for we ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God hears our prayers and our cries. God leads us out of the darkness of the past into the bright promise of today. We are called to stand strong and confident in God's Love.

All: Let us rejoice, God's love which began before creation flows in and through us this day! AMEN.

CHILDREN'S FOCUS:

PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHILDREN'S HYMN CCS # 90 "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

He's got the whole world in His hands. He's got the whole world in His hands.
He's got the whole world in His hands. He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got a-you and me brother in His hands. He's got a-you and me sister in His hands.
He's got a-you and me brother in His hands. He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got a-St Paul's Church in His hands. He's got a-St Paul's Church in His hands.
He's got a-St Paul's Church in His hands. He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got everybody here in His hands. He's got everybody here in His hands.
He's got everybody here in His hands. He's got the whole world in His hands.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURES:	Epistle:	Romans 13:8-10 pg. 162
	Gospel:	Matthew 18:15-20 pg. 20
	Reader:	This is the word of the Lord.
	All:	Thanks be to God.

SERMON: “God’s Presence in Community”

HYMN OF REFLECTION: VU # 593 “Jesu, Jesu, Fill us with Your Love”

Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, Fill us with Your love, show us how to serve
The neighbors we have from You.

2. Neighbors are rich and poor, varied in colour and race,
Neighbors are near and far away. **(Refrain)**
3. These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should love;
All these are neighbors to us and You. **(Refrain)**

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

OFFERTORY HYMN VU # 541 “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures high and low,
Give thanks to God in love made known;
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

OFFERTORY PRAYER (unison)

Thank you, God, for the opportunity to share in your creative and restorative work among people. Because you have blessed us, we have much to give. These offerings express our gratitude and our aspiration to be more fully your own people. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

One: Lord of light, in the midst of darkness and fear, you call us to be a community of peace, love and hope. You remind us of the blessings we have and the opportunities to share those blessings with others.

All: We praise and thank you for all these things and for your constant presence with us.

One: As a community seeking peace and healing, we offer the names of loved ones who are struggling with illness, with loss, with feelings of alienation and fear.

All: We quietly name and lift up prayer for these people, seeking your healing and hope in their lives. (silent prayer)

One: As we have lifted up our concerns, we also offer messages of love and rejoicing. We offer prayers of thanksgiving and Joy in this community of faith. Lord, we thank you for your healing mercies and your sustaining love for us.

All: We are confident in your abiding presence with us. Help us to be faithful to you in all times and in all places. For it is in Jesus’ name that we offer this prayer. AMEN.

IN JESUS’ NAME WE GO TO SERVE

CLOSING HYMN: VU # 575 “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

1. I’m gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I’m gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

2. I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
3. I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
4. I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prayers in liturgy adapted from
<https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship-connection-september-10-2023>

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

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WELCOME BACK



We welcome everyone as they return to the regular FALL schedule of Worship and Sunday School. As a big “welcome to all”, the CD and Worship Committees will be serving hotdogs immediately after worship **TODAY, September 10 in the Friendship Room. ALL ARE WELCOME!! Just bring your appetite--- a great time to eat and share conversation together. See you there.**

Brenda and Mary Anne

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In our thoughts and prayers this week are Tammy Ferris, The Fitzpatrick family, Maurice Francis, Marlen Gilbert, Mark Ling and Mary Innis son and sister of Sharon Hagell, Chuck Morling (son of John and Carol) and Ed Sharpe.

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Belated wishes for September 9 to both

Natalie Stoffa-Ferris celebrating her birthday September 9

and **Happy Wedding anniversary** wishes to **Bill and Shirley Welsh**

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A memorial donation has been given in loving memory of Thelma's parents, “Doc” AJ. and Florence Gordon, my husband Don Hadwen and my children Marie and Donald James (Jim) by Thelma Hadwen and family.

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A.O.T.S. General Breakfast Meeting

St.Paul's AOTS.Men's club will be holding their next General breakfast meeting on September 24, 2023 in the Multi-purpose room. We are excited to have Dianne Vitias from Helping Hands Food bank here to talk to us about their backpack and other programs for the fall. Everyone is invited to join us in the Multi-purpose room!! Cost is \$5.00/person and sign-up sheets are at the back of the sanctuary and outside the Friendship room.

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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 daily lists of patients wanting visits and we would not want to miss details to let our minister know so she can follow-up with a visit or a phone-call.

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**COMING SOON ----
JOIN in the CONVERSATION**

Please mark Sun. Sept. 17 and Sun. Oct. 15 as a time to gather together after worship to share your dreams for St. Paul's community of faith - a time to ask new questions, explore new curiosities and "lean into the new things God is doing in us and with us"!

Lynne Dunlop will be joining us as facilitator.
These 2 workshops will be held in the Friendship Room following worship – lunch will be included. Pre-registration is necessary (to ascertain the amount of food to prepare)

a signup sheet will be available beginning September 3.

For further info contact

Chair of Worship Mary Anne Silverthorn

At m.silverthorn@sympatico.ca or

519-421-3241



**FALL SCAVENGER HUNT ON THE FARM
PLEASE JOIN US SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 FROM 2-4 P.M.**

All are welcome – Free

770 Windham Road 11, Delhi – van Hoeve family

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St. Paul's is hosting the very popular "**Back to the Fifties**" on **Saturday October 21 at 2 p.m.** Tickets are \$25 and are available from Dianne Parnell.

Come for a really enjoyable musical afternoon.

