

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**  
**St. Paul's Pastoral Charge**  
**August 4th, 2024**

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS: Marianne Ferris**

**WELCOME**

**GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER**

**ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY**

We acknowledge that St. Paul's is located on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinabek. We acknowledge the traditional territories in which we all live, work, and play, with deep gratitude. This acknowledgment is a testament to those who have lived, worked, and played here first. It serves as a foundation for building respectful relationships and is a vital part of the ongoing journey of reconciliation. We are called to honour the authentic history of Canada, its original peoples and not be afraid to tell the story of the creation of this country that has historically been missing.

**GATHERING HYMN: (quiet music)**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

One: God welcomes the dreamers and the doubters,

**All: the courageous and the fearful,**

One: the hungry and the hopeful,

**All: the impatient and the reserved.**

One: God welcomes the young and the old,

**All: the poets and the prophets,**

One: the faithful and the tired,

**All: the curious and the convicted.**

One: Wherever you are on your journey, wherever your boat is at sea,

**All: there is room for all to gather here.**

One: This is God's house.

**All: Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.**

**\* OPENING HYMN: Great is Thy Faithfulness VU# 288**

1. Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

**Refrain:**

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see:  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided--  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **Refrain**
3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide! **Refrain**

**PRAYER OF APPROACH (together)**

Mighty God, we come to sing your praises and to strengthen our faith. Help us to find our courage and strength when we need it most. Help us reclaim our faithfulness when we are filled with doubt. Help us discover our hope when we are plagued by worry and despair. May our songs and praises rise to heaven. May they also rise in our hearts and strengthen us each and every day. Amen.

**TIME WITH OUR YOUNG PEOPLE  
& THE LORD'S PRAYER****Children's Hymn            VU#361 Small Things Count**

1. Small things count, so Jesus said:  
cups of water, crumbs of bread,  
small things done because we're kind  
count as big things in God's mind.
2. Small things make the big things grow:  
yeast that bubbles in the dough,  
puffs that fill a big balloon,  
notes that make a happy tune.
3. Every hair that's on our head,  
every sparrow, Jesus said,  
God takes care of, counts and knows,  
God loves us from top to toes!

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (together)**

Gracious God, there are days that threaten to swallow us, days when the storms of life feel too big. In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our ships in fear, spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you. Forgive us for doubting ourselves. Forgive us for doubting you. Rescue us from the storms of today and from the fears that trap us. With hope in our hearts we pray. Amen.

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

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

**HYMN: VU #626 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say**

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down  
your head upon my breast!"  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
weary and worn and sad;  
I found in him a resting place,  
and he has made me glad.
2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Behold, I freely give  
the living water; thirsty one,  
stoop down, and drink, and live!"  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.
3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"I am this dark world's Light;  
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,  
and all your day be bright!"  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk,  
till travelling days are done.

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 14: 22-33 pg. 16**

**Reader: For the Word of God in scripture  
For the Word of God among us  
For the Word of God within us  
We give you thanks.**

**MESSAGE: A Reaching Out Faith**

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

**Hymn: MV #161 I Have Called You by Your Name**

1. 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.

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

### **Mission and Service Story**

### **OFFERTORY INVITATION**

#### **DEDICATION OF OFFERING: MV # 191 "What Can I Do?" Sung 2x**

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 (together)**

Generous God, we offer our gifts with thankful hearts, grateful for your patience with us as your purposes unfold. Bless these gifts to accomplish your purposes throughout the world you love in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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

#### **\* CLOSING HYMN: Will Your Anchor Hold VU#675**

1. Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,  
when the clouds unfold their wings of strife?  
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,  
will your anchor drift, or firm remain?

**Refrain:** We have an anchor that keeps the soul  
steadfast and sure while the billows roll;  
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,  
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

2. It will surely hold in the straits of fear,  
when the breakers tell that the reef is near?  
though the tempest rave, and the wild winds blow,  
not an angry wave shall our bark o'erflow? **[Refrain]**
3. It will your anchor hold in the floods of death,  
when the waters cold chill your latest breath?  
On the rising tide you can never fail,  
while our hopes abide within the veil. **R**
4. When our eyes behold, through the gathering night  
the city of gold, our harbour bright?  
we shall anchor fast by the heavenly shore,  
with the storms all past for evermore? **R**

**\* COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**\* POSTLUDE:**



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

Thank you to Fran Bell our worship leader today  
and to Tammy Miljevic for music supply.

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Everyone is invited to join for fellowship and refreshments in the Friendship room after today's service. Members of the Congregation are hosting today.



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In our thoughts and prayers this week is:  
Karen Kaufman, Paisley Ling and Jim Withington.

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**Anniversary wishes go out to  
Don & Airabella Hutcheson celebrating 75 years on August 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**Yvonne Maertens birthday is on August 11<sup>th</sup>, we wish her a wonderful day.**

***Congratulations!***

***Please join Maurice and Ruth Francis for cake and coffee  
following the service to-day, August 4***

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**Staff summer vacation:**

Rev. Karlene will be on vacation August 5 – 28

Rev. Pat will be on call for emergency pastoral care Aug. 6-28



**Pulpit Supply:**

August 11, 18 & 25 – Karen Hodges

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Helen will be on vacation August 15 – September 13

Debbie Beres will be covering the office hours.

The office is open for summer hours in July and August



Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday ONLY from 10 - 1p.m.  
We will resume regular hours in September - Monday to Friday 8-1p.m.



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We need volunteers for Sunday projection and sound – training provided.

If you are interested please call the office.



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**SALVATION ARMY BACKPACK PROGRAM**

Many children’s families don't have the resources to provide them with a good backpack as well as the necessary school supplies. Salvation Army runs the backpack program to ensure that all children go back to school with what they need.

In order to ensure that each child gets the same items, Salvation Army asks that we donate money and they will purchase the items that are needed.

If you are able to help out please make a donation and mark your envelope or transfer Backpack program. August 11 will be the last day we will be collecting for this project. Thank you for your generosity.

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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.

**Tillsonburg & District Historical Society presents Music on the Lawn**

Sunday Evenings at Annandale NHS, 30 Tillson Ave. Beginning at 7:00 p.m.

August 4 - North Shore Ramblers August 11 - Night Train

Beginning at 6:30 p.m.

August 18 - Three Nickels and a Dime August 25 -“ Back to the Fifties”

Goodwill offering will be taken.

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**Food Bank offering for August**

|             |                                |             |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Dish soap   | Bars of Hand Soap (not liquid) | Pasta Sauce |
| Chunky soup | Cereal (regular size boxes)    | Fruit cups  |
| Cookies     |                                |             |

LicenSing #2401; CCLI: #239572