

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

St. Paul's Pastoral Charge

January 12, 2025

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Brian Clark

WELCOME

INTROIT: The Choir

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY

Being able to give thanks to the stewards of the land who came before us, and being able to reflect on the heritage of Indigenous people is an honour. We commit to take only what we need and leave enough for those who come after us.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: As Jesus came out of the water, a voice from the skies said,

All: "This is my son, my beloved, with whom I am very pleased. Listen to him!"

One: As Jesus sat at the table, he said to those gathered around,

All: "You are my friends, for I have told you everything God has told me."

One: At the font and at the table, we meet Christ. In the church and in the world, we meet Christ. In our tears and in our laughter, we meet Christ.

All: In the sacraments, in the love, in the meeting, in this community, we worship God.

Written by: **Richard Bott**, Vancouver, B.C.
Gathering, ACE 2019-2020 page 45. Used with permission

OPENING HYMN: VU # 220 "Praise to The Lord the Almighty"

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation!
O my soul, praise him, at all the times your health and salvation!
Come, all who hear; brothers and sisters draw near, joining in glad adoration.
2. Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning;
keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining!
Have you not seen how all you needed has been met by God's gracious ordaining?
3. Praise to the Lord, who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend us.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who out of love will befriends us.
4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from God's people again; gladly with praise we adore him.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (in unison)

You have brought us to Yourself, O Lord. You have given us the gift of faith. Your mercies toward us are more than we could ever hope to deserve. We stand in awe before You today offering our gifts, our hearts our abilities and our worship. Come now, O Holy One and make us fully your own through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in response)

One: O GOD OUR FATHER, you have set forth the way of life in your beloved Son; we confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him: our reluctance to follow Him. You have spoken and called, but we have not given heed; your beauty has shone forth, but we have been blind; you have stretched out your hands to us through our fellows, but we have passed by; we have taken great benefits with little thanks; we have been unworthy of your steadfast love.

All: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

One: Forgive us that so little of your love has reached others through us. Forgive us that we have been so unsympathetic about the wrongs and sufferings which others endure. Forgive us for making mischief, sowing discord and harbouring enmity. Forgive us that others find it so hard to live or keep company with us. Forgive us for our hurtful criticisms, our hasty judgements, our readiness to condemn and our refusal to forgive and forget.

All: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

RESPONSE: VU # 400 “Lord Listen to Your Children”

**Lord, listen to Your children praying,
Lord, send Your spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to Your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace!**

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

CHILDREN’S HYMN: CCS # 22 “Behold What Manner of Love” (x2)

Behold what manner of love the Father has given unto us
Behold what manner of love the Father has given unto us
That we should be called the children of God
That we should be called the children of God

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE:	Old Testament:	Isaiah 43:1–7 pg. 672
	Gospel:	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 pg. 60
	Reader:	This is the Word of the Lord.
	All:	Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE: “Baptism” Rev’d Karlene Brown-Palmer

SELECTION: The Choir

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 the we have is yours alone,
We give it gratefully.

OFFERTORY PRAYER (in unison)

Holy God, cheerfully and joyously, we lift up these offerings to you. You have poured out your generosity upon us without restraint. Thank you for our being able to make a difference in the church and in the world by the offering of our time, talent, gifts and service. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Let us pray: Lord, when you came down to lift us up, you became human, that we might share in the divine; you died that we might rise to life immortal.

All: Lord, help us to live as those called to believe, serve and trust in you.

One: Creator God, we pray for the world, where people hunger after justice, freedom and peace, but where people are hungry, homeless and destitute.

All: Lord in love and mercy, help us to feed and care for your lambs.

One: God of peace, we remember before you, continents, countries and places where there is violence and killing, massacre, mayhem, and gang warfare under the guidance of your Holy Spirit, help all people, and leaders with power and influence, to put aside bias and prejudice,

All: May we understand diversity is part of the richness of our common humanity, become more compassionate and cultivate the habit of caring and neighborly love and service.

One: Lord God, we pray for your church that we, your followers and friends may be filled with the spirit of the living God,

All: Lord, help us to be bursting with new life and be enabled to feed the physical, emotional and spiritual hunger of people around us.

One: We pray for neighbours, friends and families, those ill in body and mind, anxious or afraid, depressed and despairing, those lonely, abused and grieving. We lift up before you those who are recovering from surgery and those preparing for surgery.

All: Jesus Christ is the light of the world; a light no darkness can quench. Fill us with hope!

One: We commend to your everlasting care those who have died and those who mourn.

All: Fill us your light and warmth, love and peace Our world needs them all.

One: Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

Adapted from Mrs. Mary Stubbs thischurch.com

IN JESUS' NAME WE GO TO SERVE

CLOSING HYMN: MV # 138 "My Love Colours Outside the Lines"

1. My love colours outside the lines,
Exploring paths that few could ever find;
And takes me into places where I've never been before,
And opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

My Lord colours outside the lines,
turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
And takes me into places Where I've never been before
And opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

Refrain: We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to drown,
Body and soul need a soaking from time to time.
And we'll never move the grave - stones
we're not prepared to die,
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.

My soul longs to colour outside the lines,
Tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries
Where I've never been before,
Throw open the doors to the worlds outside the lines.

My soul longs to colour outside the lines,
Tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries
Where I've never been before,
Throw open the doors to the worlds outside the lines **(Refrain)**

**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.

Prayers and condolences to Florence Mannell (Mom) and Jennifer Beard (sister) of
Dave Mannell who died January 7. The funeral service was on Friday.



As well prayers and condolences to Cheryl Buchner and family on the passing of Cheryl's
Mom, Isabelle Cattle on January 7. The funeral service was on Saturday.

Our prayers and condolences are with Jed Drew on the passing of his brother,
Bill on Wednesday.



Carol Crocker has her Birthday *today*, she is "87" Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday this week to Dianne Parnell celebrating her 82nd birthday on January 13th and Birthday wishes to Nancy Fitzpatrick on January 17. Congratulations!

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The flowers today are placed by Ken and Dianne Parnell – celebrating the beginning of 2025 and Dianne’s 82nd Birthday on January 13th. They will be delivered to someone who needs a “bouquet of cheer”.



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"Maurice Francis wishes to thank all those who have recently sent gestures of Get Well and Christmas Greetings. The hip pain is gone and I am working on getting over the pain from surgery. Let's all have a meaningful and healthy 2025."



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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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You are invited to
A Special Friendship Circle Event

INTRODUCTION TO CHAIR YOGA AND A LIGHT LUNCH

Freewill offering

Wednesday, January 22 at 11:00 AM

In Friendship Room

All are welcome

Sign up sheet located outside the Friendship Room

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**AOTS Fellowship Club invites you to:
POTLUCK SUPPER & GAMES NIGHT**

Saturday, January 25th at 5:00p.m.

Bring your favourite side or dessert

Sign-up sheet in hallway.

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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.

