

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

St. Paul's Pastoral Charge

January 26, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dave Collis**

**WELCOME**

**LIGHTING OF 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/INTROIT (responsively)**

Choir: singing verse 1 of VU #657 "He Leadeth Me"

*He leadeth me, O blessed thought!  
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be  
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.*

One: We are weak and need God's strength and power to lift us up.

**All: Lord, we come to you our weakness and fear.**

Choir: singing verse 2 of VU # 657 "He Leadeth Me"

*Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,  
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,  
By waters calm, o'er troubled sea,  
Still 'tis His hand that leadeth me.*

One: So many times, we are tempted to take the easy way, the way of hurt and anger rather than peace.

**All: Lord, we come to you seeking your guidance on the pathways of peace and hope.**

**All: singing refrain of VU #657 "He Leadeth Me"**

**He leadeth me, He leadeth me,  
By His own hand He leadeth me;  
His faithful foll'wer I would be,  
For by His hand He leadeth me.**

One: Though we are lost, Christ calls to us.

**All: Help us, O Lord, to hear and respond to your call.**

## **OPENING HYMN VU # 635 "All the Way My Savior Leads Me"**

All the way my Savior leads me, what have I to ask beside?  
Can I doubt His tender mercy, who through life has been my Guide?  
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in Him to dwell!  
For I know, whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well;

All the way my Savior leads me, cheers each winding path I tread,  
Gives me grace for every trial, feeds me with the living Bread.  
Though my weary steps may falter and my soul athirst may be,  
Gushing from the Rock before me, lo! A spring of joy I see;

All the way my Savior leads me, oh, the fullness of His love!  
Perfect rest to me is promised in my Father's house above.  
When my spirit, clothed immortal, wings its flight to realms of day  
This my song through endless ages: Jesus led me all the way;

## **OPENING PRAYER (in unison)**

**Open our hearts today, O Lord, to feel the powerful strength and love you have for us. Help us to listen, not only with our ears, but with our spirits for your words of compassion and healing. Enable us to become more faithful disciples for you; for we ask this in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN.**

Nancy Towley [www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com)

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**One:** Jesus taught us not to be anxious about our lives or about tomorrow.  
Are there anxieties that cause us to feel separated from the peace which Christ promises?  
Let us turn to God in prayer.

**All: Merciful God, you made us in your image, with a mind to know you, a heart to love you, and a will to serve you. But our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconstant, our obedience incomplete. Day by day, we fail to grow into your likeness. In your tender love, forgive us.**

## *Words of Assurance*

**One:** Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone; everything has become fresh and new. Friends, believe the Good News of the gospel:

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. AMEN.**

## **BIRTHDAY SUNDAY**

### **A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**CHILDREN'S HYMN: VU # 340 "Jesus, Friend of Little Children" (vs. 1 & 2)**

Jesus, friend of little children, let me be one too;  
Take my hand, and ever keep me close to you.

Never leave me, nor forsake me; ever be my friend;  
For I need you, from life's dawning to its end.

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURES: Old Testament: Isaiah 41:8-10 pg. 669**  
**Responsive Reading Psalm 27 (VU p. 754)**

**Refrain: God is my light and saving health, I shall not be afraid.**

God is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear?

**God is the stronghold of my life,  
of whom shall I be afraid?**

When the wicked close in to devour me,

**it is they, my enemies and my foes, who  
stumble and fall.**

If an army should encamp against me,  
my heart shall not be afraid;

**if war should arise against me,  
even then I will not be dismayed. R**

**Refrain: God is my light and saving health, I shall not be afraid.**

One thing I have asked of God, for which I long:  
that I may dwell in God's house all the days of my life,

**to gaze on your beauty, O God,  
and to seek you in your temple.**

For in the time of trouble you will give me shelter;

**you will hide me under the cover of your tent,  
you will set me high upon a rock.**

And now you have raised my head  
above my enemies round about me.

**Therefore, I will offer in your dwelling  
a sacrifice with great gladness. R**

**Refrain: God is my light and saving health, I shall not be afraid.**

Hear my voice, O God, when I call; have mercy and answer me.

Your face, O God, I seek.

**Do not hide your face from me;  
do not reject your servant in anger,  
you who have been my helper.**

Do not cast me off, or forsake me, O God my saviour.  
**Though my father and mother forsake me,  
my God will take me up. R**

**Refrain: God is my light and saving health, I shall  
not be afraid.**

Teach me your way, O God,  
**lead me on a level path,  
safe from those who lie in wait for me.**

Do not give me up to the will of my enemies,  
**for liars and false witnesses arise against me.**

I believe that I shall see God's goodness  
in the land of the living.

**Wait for God; be strong, and take courage;  
yes, wait for God! R**

**Refrain: God is my light and saving health, I shall  
not be afraid.**

Reader: God's Word is a lamp to our feet,  
**All: and a light to our path.**

**MESSAGE: "God's Presence"**

**MINISTRY OF SONG: The Choir**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**OFFERTORY HYMN: VU# 544 "In Gratitude and Humble Trust"**

In gratitude and humble trust,  
We bring our best today,  
To serve your cause and share your love  
With all along life's way.  
O God, who gave yourself to us  
In Jesus Christ, your Son,  
Teach us to give ourselves each day  
Until life's work is done.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER (in unison)**

**You have given us so much, O Lord. We have more than we could  
ever need yet, we often keep it to ourselves. Just as we share your  
love to those we encounter today; we share these gifts with your  
church. Teach us not only to be generous, but to be content. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

One: We thank you, compassionate God, that you hear the prayers of our hearts:

**All: all who rejoice at a baby's new birth, all who mourn when the  
circle is incomplete, when a friend or loved one has died,**

One: all who are grateful when their work meets with success, all who suffer because no work is to be found,

**All: all who are bored, not having enough to do, all who are tired, having too much to do, all who are surrounded by the love of family and friends, all who are lonely.**

One: Thank you for hearing us in every situation of life. Help us to support one another always: rejoicing with those who rejoice, and weeping with those who weep.

**All: We want to be joined together as members of the body of Christ, loving one another and serving the world. Like Jesus, we want to respond to each human being who crosses our path with sensitivity and compassion. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

### IN JESUS' NAME WE GO TO SERVE

#### CLOSING HYMN: VU # 337 "Blessed Assurance"

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in Christ blood.

**Refrain:** This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels, descending, bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **(Refrain)**

Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ love. **(Refrain)**

### COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

#### POSTLUDE

**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,  
Elly Tuitman (Lisa Houston's sister) and Jim Withington.



Our prayers and condolences are with Penny (daughter) & Terry Smith (son) and family and friends of Doreen Smith who passed away January 23. Cremation will take place and a Celebration of Life will be at St. Paul's in May.

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Happy 80th Birthday goes to Wayne Rowan,  
his birthday is on January 27th.

Many Birthday wishes to Amelia Jackson celebrating on January 28

Two January 29<sup>th</sup> Birthdays: Dag Morris and Florence Mannell is celebrating her "91st" Birthday,

Congratulations to all!

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The flowers today are placed by Mary Anne Silverthorn. A lot of people celebrate birthdays on January 29 – Congratulations to all ---two very special people in my life – John and my mom—celebrated on the 29th.

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**St. Paul's Messy Church presents:**

Flying into February...

February 1<sup>st</sup> from 10-12 noon

Crafts, games, music and lunch to follow!

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**A Lenten Bible Study will be held on Thursday's at 1 p.m.** in the Friendship Room, led by Rev. Pat. It presently is set up for a 4 - 8 week Bible Study. We will be studying the booklet The Prayer of Jabez Bible Study by Bruce Wilkinson. The cost of the booklet is \$12.00. I need to know if there is an interest as soon as possible so I can purchase supplies.

**Final Sign-up date will be Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025.**

Looking forward to enjoying this booklet with you.

Rev. Pat

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Do you wish to place flowers in the sanctuary for a Sunday worship? Contact Mary Anne Silverthorn by phone or email. Together we will choose the Sunday and we as a church do all the ordering and the flowers are delivered to the church by Garden Gate. The cost will be \$ 75.00 plus tax or \$75.00 including tax--- you choose. You can arrange this now for any Sunday during the year. You will receive an invoice; you pay that invoice at the church office – this allows for credit to your giving's. We appreciate your willingness to participate. Any questions, please ask.



Mary Anne Silverthorn

[m.silverthorn@sympatico.ca](mailto:m.silverthorn@sympatico.ca) 519-421-3241 or 519-788-3705 –both take messages.

### **Name Tags! Name Tags!**

Lisa Houston is taking Name Tag orders!  
Many have been asking for these little gems, they will help us to get to know each other, and will especially be great as we celebrate the United Church 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events.



The Name Tags come with an option of magnet backing or pin backing, your choice! Price for either option is \$13.95 plus tax. A sign-up sheet is on the table by the Friendship Room with the information required.

Need some more information call me at 519-409-1058

Looking forward to ordering for you! Lisa

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Sunday, February 9 immediately following worship, there will be short break. You will be able to pick up a light lunch—a sandwich, a dessert and some water available in the rotunda. Return to your seat and the meeting will be called to order asap. The year-end report booklet will be emailed or available for pick up no later than February 2. Please come to the AGM having read the reports and the information in the booklet. An opportunity will be available at the meeting for questions for clarification only but no major discussion about each report will take place. Detailed questions should to posed to the author of the report you want to know more about. This is your opportunity to learn more about the “workings” of the St. Paul’s United Church. Show your interest and your support by your attendance on February 9. Thank you sincerely.

Mary Anne Silverthorn, Council Chair

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### **Foodbank Drive – January**

As part of the 100<sup>th</sup> 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