

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

St. Paul's Pastoral Charge

July 7, 2024

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dave Beres

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN: MV # 18 "Lord Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary"

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY

As we begin, we respectfully acknowledge that the land on which we gather is traditional territory of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee and Attawandaron peoples. We acknowledge with respect their diverse histories and cultures.

CALL TO WORSHIP (in response)

One: Here we are Lord! We've come today to this worship service for many reasons;

**All: we are here because we need to meet you,
we are here out of habit, or because someone made us come,
we are here because we hope the music will lift our spirits,
we are here because we are hungry for your word,
we are here because we want to see our friends,
we are here because we want to make friends,
we are here because you are the friend, we need most of all.**

One: Here we are; touch us with your presence Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

All: shape us into the church that you have called us to be. Amen.

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OPENING HYMN "Thank You for Giving Me the Morning"

Thank you for giving me the morning.
Thank you for ev'ry day that's new.
Thank you that I can know my worries can be cast on you.

Thank you for all my friends and brothers.
Thank you for all the people that live.
Thank you for even greatest enemies I can forgive.

Thank you, I see your Word has meaning.
Thank you, I know your Spirit here.
Thank you because you love all people, those both far and near.

Thank you, O Lord, your love is boundless.
Thank you that I am full of you.
Thank you, you made me feel so glad and thankful as I do.

OPENING PRAYER (in response)

One: Great are you, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made all things and called them good. You created humans in your image, and gave us a calling and a purpose. Enable us to be active in your reconciling work in the world. Your love is endless, your mercy without measure.

All: And so, we praise you with heart, mind, strength and soul, in the name of Jesus, your Son, blessed by your Spirit, working in us, with us, around us and beyond us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in response)

One: God of overflowing grace, we confess we often take your blessing for granted.

All: Forgetting life is a precious gift, we waste time on things that don't matter. We complain when things don't go our way, ignoring those who face even steeper challenges. Forgive us, O God. Renew our calling to share your abundant love for Jesus' sake.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: While it is true that we have all sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. Receive the mercy of God this day, and be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

All: We gladly receive God's forgiveness and love. Amen. Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S FOCUS:

PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHILDREN'S HYMN: VU # 340 "Jesus, Friend of Little Children" (vs. 1 & 3)

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: Responsive Reading: Psalm 33 Pgs. VU # 760

Shout to God for joy, you righteous!

Praise is fitting from loyal hearts.

Give thanks to God with the harp;

sing praise to God with the ten-stringed lute.

Sing a new song to God; play skillfully and with shouts of joy.

For the word of God is true;

God's every deed is faithful.

You love what is right and just;

the earth is full of your constant love.

By your word the heavens were made,

the countless stars by the breath of your mouth.

You gathered the waters of the sea as in a goatskin;

you stored the deep in cisterns.

Let all the earth fear you, O God,

let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe.
For you spoke and it came to be; you commanded and it stood firm.
**You foil the plans of the nations,
and frustrate the schemes of the peoples.**
Your counsel, O God, shall stand forever,
the purposes of your heart through all generations.
**Happy the nation who has you as God.
Happy the people you choose as your own.**
Our heart rejoices in you, O God,
because our hope is in your holy name.
**Let your steadfast love be upon us
as we put our trust in you.**

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10 pg. 82
Reader: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: “Welcoming Others” Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer

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 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)

Faithful God, we bring our gifts with trusting hearts, seeking your blessing on the ministries these gifts support. Work through our gifts to touch the world with your healing grace through Christ, in whose name we offer ourselves to you. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Holy God, in Jesus you reached out to so many different people, with so many different needs, in so many different situations.

All: **We thank you for all the ways you have reached out to us,
in the embrace of prayer,
in the energy of a song,
in thought sparked by a sermon,
and in the wisdom of Scripture or the words of a friend.**

One: Sometimes your healing brings comfort; sometimes it brings challenge and the call to respond.

All: **Hear us as we seek your comfort and your challenge for the world, for the church and for our own lives.**

One: Bring comfort to those facing struggles this summer:

All: **those whose crops have withered by the extremes of weather; those who cannot find enough workers for their businesses and workers who can’t find secure employment; those whose housing is insecure, and any who are losing hope that things will ever improve.**

One: Bring challenge to those whose decisions affect the well-being of the vulnerable, to those who guide planning for housing and employment, and those who respond to the changing climate and lives and livelihoods at risk. May your wisdom and compassion guide them.

All: Bring comfort to those who are lonely or shut in, and to all who have lost beloved family members or friends in recent days. Bring comfort to those who feel pain or anxiety without relief, and those who wait for diagnosis or life-restoring treatment. Offer peace to those who know there is no treatment and wait in hope for your eternal welcome.

One: Bring challenge to those want to make the world a better place, and to all who work within science, medicine, and the law to improve the quality of life for all people.

All: Give them a vision of their work that is both just and courageous, so that no part of society is neglected or mistreated. Challenge those who stir up violence and unrest with a sense of shame for the cost to innocent lives, and with a deeper understanding of what justice means.

One: Comfort your church in places where ministries struggle, whatever the reason. And challenge your church to renew our vision for ministry so that our witness is faithful to your all-embracing love, expressed not only in words but also in the actions we take.

All: Challenge us to embrace those who differ from us and yet have a place in your heart and your eternal care. Hear us we pray. Amen.

IN JESUS' NAME WE GO TO SERVE

CLOSING HYMN: VU # 289 "It Only Takes A Spark (Pass It On)"

It only takes a spark to get a fire going
And soon all those around can warm up to its glowing
That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it
You spread your love to everyone you want to pass it on

What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming
That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on

I wish for you my friend, this happiness that I've found
On God you can depend, it matters not where you're bound
I'll shout it from the mountain tops I want my world to know
The Lord of love has come to me I want to pass it on

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

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In our thoughts and prayers this week is:
Harvey Elliott, Karen Kaufman, Bonnie Stafford and Jim Withington.

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The flowers for July and August will be courtesy of the van Hoeve family.

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Happy Birthday wishes to Marcus Lopenen on July 10th.

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A message of **THANK YOU** from the Beard family for the kind support received during our time of bereavement for George.

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**The office will be open for summer hours
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday ONLY from 10-1p.m.**

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Community Kitchen Fundraiser:

Community Kitchen will be holding a BBQ fundraiser at Crompton Home Hardware on Saturday, July 13th from 11:00am to 3:00pm. Come join us for hamburgers, hotdogs and drinks. Crompton Home Hardware is providing all the food free of charge to Community Kitchen for this fundraising event. Hope to see you there.



WORSHIPPING the SON under the SUN -- July 21, 2024



**Worship at 10:30 a.m. as usual BUT outside ---
BRING a LAWN CHAIR**

**Picnic lunch – Food from Todd’s Dogs Food Truck
(same as last year).**

There will be hot -dogs, hamburgers fries etc etc.
Cake, drinks and more

There will be tables, chairs and canopies to protect you but you may want to bring sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses.



Stay for the music concert in the afternoon –
Music by “Back to the Fifties”

**We are celebrating with Ken /Dianne Parnell – and their 55th
Wedding Anniversary – we thank them for their generosity as they sponsor
this day.**



**SEE YOU THERE !!! In case of inclement weather – there is a plan B
QUESTIONS???? Contact Mary Anne Silverthorn
Share in worship, food and fun!!!!**

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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Tillsonburg & District Historical Society presents

Music on the Lawn

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

July 7 - Cindy McMaster

July 14 - "Back to the Fifties" July 21 - "Blue Sky" – Archie Wright

July 28 - George Fulop 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 July

School is out for the summer but the summer months are also when children from food-insecure families no longer have access to crucial school meal programs. Some of the food banks we supply will be stepping up to help meet the gap. Efforts include putting together child-friendly food packs or providing meals through community programs.

About 30 percent of food bank visitors are children.

Children are the most vulnerable among us, and their futures are being shaped by what we do for them today. We're doing our part to ensure that all children receive the nutrition that they need to grow, learn, and thrive.

We continue to provide snack foods for kids that they would receive during the school year because they don't get a break from eating just because it is summer.

So for this month we are requesting the following things for not only the children But we also put together "Care Bags" which help those who are homeless as well as those who may miss an appointment to receive their food.

Ritz Cheese Packs

Pudding and Jello cups

Goldfish snacks

Fruit Roll ups

Fruit Sensations

Mini Cereal Boxes

Welch's Fruit Snacks

Nut free Granola bars

Bear Paws

Any canned food products that have popup lids. These could be meats, stews, soups etc.

Thank you for your help.

Dianne Clark, Coordinator

LicenSing #2401; CCLI: #239572