

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
St. Paul's Pastoral Charge
March 19, 2023

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Shirley Godfree

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN: VU # 371 "Open My Eyes, That I May See" (vs. 1 & refrain)

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

Refrain: Silently now I wait for thee, ready my God, thy will to see,
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE (Amelia Jackson)

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: Bless the Lord at all times.

All: May God's praise be continually in my mouth.

One: Magnify the Lord with me.

All: Let us exalt the name of the Lord together.

One: Seek the Lord and be filled.

All: For those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

One: Happy are those who take refuge in God.

All: O taste and see that the Lord is good!

OPENING HYMN: Jesus Loves Even Me

I am so glad that our Father in Heav'n tells of His love in the Book He has giv'n;
Wonderful things in the Bible I see, this is the dearest, that Jesus loves me.

Refrain: I am so glad that Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me;
I am so glad that Jesus loves me, Jesus loves even me.

If I forget Him and wander away, still He doth love me wherever I stray;
Back to His dear loving arms would I flee, when I remember that Jesus loves me. **(R)**

Oh, if there's only one song I can sing, when in His beauty I see the great King,
This shall my song through eternity be, "Oh, what a wonder that Jesus loves me. **(R)**

If one should ask of me, how can I tell? Glory to Jesus, I know very well!
God's Holy Spirit with mine doth agree, constantly witnessing Jesus loves me. **(R)**

PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: Lord, open our heart, let Your love stream in.

All: We are waiting; let prayers begin.

One: Lord, open our ears. Let Your word come.

All: We are listening; let the Bible come alive.

One: Lord, open our minds; let Your light shine.

All: We are praising; let our lives be thine. Amen.

Jeannet van Hoeve-de Zeeuw

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Holy God, we thank you that you receive us not according to our failing goodness, but according to your overflowing grace. You receive us as we are. You show us what we can be. You have come to us in Jesus Christ to share our common lot and reconcile us to yourself. Sweep over us with your Spirit, change us by your love, that we may sing with joy before you, and live to your glory in the world. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Today our Saviour says we are forgiven, may we go forward renewed and strengthened.

All: Amen, we give God thanks!

CHILDREN'S FOCUS:

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Children's Hymn: **CCS # 234 "This Little Light of Mine" (vs. 1 & 4)**

This little light of mine I'm going to let it shine

This little light of mine I'm going to let it shine

Let it shine, all the time, let it shine

Don't let Satan [blow] it out! I'm going to let it shine

Don't let Satan [blow] it out! I'm going to let it shine

Let it shine, all the time, let it shine

RECOGNITION: Led by Dave Beres

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURES: Psalm 23 VU #749 (Youth - Finnley Jackson)

Refrain: My shepherd is the Lord, nothing indeed shall I want. (sung)

God is my shepherd,

there is nothing I shall lack.

You, God, make me lie down in green pastures,

you lead me beside peaceful waters;

you revive my spirit,

you guide me in right pathways for your name's sake.

Refrain: My shepherd is the Lord, nothing indeed shall I want. (sung)

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you are with me,

your rod and your staff are my comfort.

You spread a table for me in the sight of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in God's house my whole life long.

Refrain: My shepherd is the Lord, nothing indeed shall I want. (sung)

Old Testament: 1 Samuel 16: 1-13 (Shirley Godfree)

Reader: This is the Word of God

All: We receive it in hope!

SERMON: "Counted" – Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer

HYMN OF REFLECTION: MV # 85 "Take, O Take Me as I Am" (x 2)

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

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)

God, you are the giver of all good and perfect gifts. We ask you to bless this offering, food bank items and those who give. May it change lives by the ministry of this church and may the hearts of the givers be forever changed through the act of generosity and stewardship. In your Son's name we pray, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

IN JESUS' NAME WE GO TO SERVE

CLOSING 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.

**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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Please join us for a social time after the worship service for coffee,
(regular & decaf) as well as tea, juice and cookies will be served.
Members of the UCW are hosting this month.



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In our thoughts and prayers this week is Al Meyer.  
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Happy Birthday wishes this week to:

Margaret Meerveld celebrates a birthday on March 20
and is looking forward to lots of hugs **AND**

Rick Aubrey on March 21 turning 81

Bob Cook on March 22 turning 80 and

Jim Donaldson also a March 22 birthday

We wish you ALL many more birthdays.
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Dianne Parnell wishes to thank all those who helped in any way to make Roy Leblanc's  
Elvis concert such a huge success. A very special mention goes to  
Desmond Palmer who is a gem to work with. Thank you everyone!



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Today is the Helping Hand foodbank collection for March
we thank you for your donations.
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**BIBLE STUDY** on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 9.45 a.m.  
at the home of Ruth Francis 11 Peach St. 519 688-7724  
All are welcome.  
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The UCW has a limited number of bags of frozen Rhubarb for sale today, outside the friendship
room. The cost is \$5 each. There is also a variety of recipes to give away to anyone that would
like to have one. Please stop by to show your support for the UCW. Thank You.



The monthly **UCW Meeting** will be on **Wednesday, March 22, 2023**
at 1:00 p.m. in the Friendship Room. It will also be available on zoom.
All are welcome.
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UCW will have geraniums for sale again this year.  
Price: \$ 3.50 per pot - Colours: red, white, orange, fuchsia.  
To order geraniums please call or email  
Rita VanLamoen @ 519-842-9271. Or email [mrvanla@exculink.com](mailto:mrvanla@exculink.com)  
Wilma Jeffery @519-688-0065 or email [wjeffery09@icloud.com](mailto:wjeffery09@icloud.com)



Geraniums will be available on May 13 or 14th. Thank you UCW



The **Lenten Special Offering** will be divided equally between the Tillsonburg **Helping Hand Food bank** and the **United Church World Development Fund**.

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**Messy Church from 10 - Noon on April 1st**

“You can’t fool us!” (It’s April fool’s day at Messy Church)

With crafts, games, music and lunch provided.

AOTS Breakfast Meeting Sunday, April 2nd at 8 a.m.

Signup sheet at back of Sanctuary or email Dave Morris, dcmorris95@gmail.com.



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The Pastoral Care Committee are holding a quiet communion on **April 12th at 2 p.m.** in the Friendship Room. This is for persons who are unable to attend the communion service during the Sunday worship hour. If you would like to attend, please call Rev. Maurice (519-688-7724) or Rev. Pat (519-842-4087). If there is no answer, please leave a message.

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The United Church is collecting funds for earthquake relief in Turkey & Syria, if you would like to donate, please mark your envelope or e-transfer '**Emergency response Turkey/Syria**'. Your donation will go towards emergency shelters, blankets, mattresses, clean water, food, and hygiene items.

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**TILLSONBURG MINISTERIAL LENT SERVICES**  
**'The Road to Emmaus'**  
**Wednesdays 12-12:30 p.m.**

- Mar. 22 - St. Paul's United Church - Speaker: Donald
- Mar. 29 - North Broadway Baptist - Speaker: Andre

St. Paul's offices will be closed at 11:45 a.m. each Wednesday for St. Paul's staff to attend the Lenten services.

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**SPAGHETTI SUPPER**

Sponsored by St. Paul's United Church AOTS Club

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH, 2023**

Serving 5-6:30 p.m. \$12 Adults, Children 12 and under \$6

Gluten Free Pasta Available.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM MEMBERS, CHURCH OFFICE OR AT THE DOOR

-TAKEOUT AVAILABLE

*Proceeds to Fund Community Youth Activities*

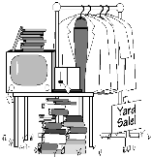
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The Senior Centre Singers perform on Tuesday April 25th 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
Advance tickets only -\$10 from the Senior Centre (519-688-2520)  
Six of St. Paul's choir are in the Singers and look forward to seeing you there.



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**YARD SALE**



**St. Paul's is holding a Yard Sale on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

You can start dropping off your smaller items every Wednesday from 9-12 noon.

We are looking for:

Small appliances

Toys and games

Jewellery

Gently used clothing

Linens

Books

and much more...

More details will be available as the date draws closer.

For more information please contact Brenda Marshall at 519-842-3023

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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.

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| DID YOU KNOW | ...that there is a <b>Spare change</b> for World change container on the table in the rotunda? All the small coins do add up and we CAN make a difference. |
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LicenSing #2401; CCLI: #239572