

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

St. Paul's Pastoral Charge

March 9, 2025

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dave Morris

WELCOME

INTROIT: The Choir

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE:

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY

We acknowledge and give thanks to the land on which we live, work and play, and to the people who have cared for it. This land is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee and Attawandaron peoples.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: We are gathered here on this first Sunday in Lent. It is a season of mystery.

All: It marks the time of Jesus' journey in the wilderness.

One: Can we go with him on this journey?

All: Yes! Jesus invites us on this journey

To discover more about ourselves

To discover more about his way,

And to discover the kingdom of heaven.

One: We are called by God.

All: Come let us go with Jesus on this journey.

Fern Gibbard, Penticton U.C. Penticton B.C

OPENING HYMN: VU #114 "Forty Days and Forty Nights"

1. Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.
2. Sunbeams scorching all the day, chilly dewdrops nightly fed
Prowling beast about your way; stone's your pillow, earth your bed
3. Shall not we your trial share and from earthly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with you to suffer pain?
4. If temptations vexing sore, flesh or spirit to assail,
You their vanquisher before, grant we may not faint nor fail!
5. Keep, oh keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by your side,
that with you we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.

PRAYER OF APPROACH VU #110 (in unison)

God of love, as in Jesus Christ, you gave yourself to us; so, may we give ourselves to you living according to your holy will. Keep our feet firmly in the way where Christ lead us; help our lips speak the truth that Christ teaches us. Fill our bodies with the life that is Christ within us. In His holy name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in response)

One: Lord here we are bringing our confession.

All: O Lord God, full of mercy and compassion, give us courage today to see ourselves in the mirror of Your Son Jesus Christ. We confess that we fall so short of all You have made us to be. Forgive us Lord, for we easily become self-righteous. Save us from the sin of pride that magnifies self and diminishes others. Give us the pure grace of your forgiveness and renew our hearts for the service of your kingdom. O gracious Lord, lest we be overcome by the truth of our shortcomings! Give us understanding that we might receive and grow in the redemption so freely offered in Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Once we were slaves to sin, living lives that led only to death. But thanks be to God! In his mercy, he has set us free from the power of sin and death, and has offered us eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord!

All: Thanks be to God! Now we are free to choose life, and to use our lives to bring honor to God!

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

CHILDREN'S HYMN: The Hymnary #596 "Father Lead Me" (vs.1 & 3)

FATHER, lead me day by day, ever in thine own sweet way;
Teach me to be pure and true, show me what I ought to do.

When I'm tempted to do wrong, make me steadfast, wise and strong;
And when all alone I stand, shield me with thy mighty hand.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE:	Gospel:	Luke 4:1-13 pg. 61
	Reader:	This is the Word of the Lord.
	All:	Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE: "Temptation" Rev'd Karlene Brown-Palmer

SELECTION: The Choir

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERTORY HYMN: VU #585 "Jesus Bids Us Shine" (vs. 3)

Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around;
many kinds of darkness in the world are found:
sin and want and sorrow; so, we must shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.

OFFERTORY PRAYER (unison)

Generous God, as we remember Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, we acknowledge the temptation that pursues so many of us: to measure our worth, our power and our security by what we have. As we offer these gifts to you this morning, we pray that you might deliver us from the temptation of building our lives around what belongs to us. Continually lead us to the conviction that what matters is that we belong to you. We pray in the name of our Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

Written by Ken Sloane @2019 Discipleship Ministries

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Holy One, your steadfast love surrounds us.

All: As a shepherd protects his sheep, you watch over us, care for us, and gently lead us through temptation to life-giving paths.

One: We praise you and give thanks for all the ways we have felt your love and protection this week.

All: Deliver us, God, when we are tempted to: justify the oppression of others, offer our neighbors stones instead of bread, defeatism instead of hope, or avert our attention away from people, places, and situations that make us uncomfortable

One: Challenge us, God, challenge the temptation of complacency and turn us to you, your paths, and your understandings.

All: We seek your wisdom, so that we can decide how to faithfully respond to those who are sick, hurting, feeling lost and in need of your love

One: Wherever there is suffering in this world, we ask that you be particularly present, God, and that you mobilize us to work toward justice-based solutions.

All: As we begin our Lenten journey, strengthen us to do your work in the world. Amen.

IN JESUS' NAME WE GO TO SERVE

CLOSING HYMN: VU #626 "I Heard the Voice of Jesus"

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.

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.

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.

**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 UCW and friends are hosting today.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



The flowers today are placed by Ken and Dianne Parnell in celebration of **Ken's 83rd birthday** on March 10th – they will be delivered to shut-ins.

From the congregation Ken wishing you a Happy 83rd Birthday!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Happy Birthday wishes to **Abigale Helsdon** turning 23 on March 14th
Maureen Rowan (turning "84") celebrates on March 15th as well as **Lesley Jackson** we hope you all have a wonderful day.



~ ~ ~ ~ ~



The **Lent special offering envelopes** are to support The Helping Hand Food Bank and the United Church of Canada World Development & Relief Fund.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Lenten Bible Study on Thursday, March 13 at 1:00p.m. in the Friendship room with Rev. Pat

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Tillsonburg and Area Ministerial invite you to our Lenten Services Every Wednesday starting March 05 until April 09 12:00 noon - 12:30 p.m.
March 12 -First Baptist Church - Father Steve Marsh

Hello everyone.
We look forward to seeing you for your photo directory appointment.
Questions: Call Dianne Parnell
519-871-3454

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Sunday March 16 –HOTDOG Sunday
Installation of Church Council**



Sunday March 23 –Membership Sunday 4 people joining our church family as members.

Saturday March 29 – AOTS Spaghetti Supper – Get your tickets early



Each WEDNESDAY there is a Lenten Service – see the posted info for location.



REMEMBER the CELEBRATE 100 and your DONATION to CELEBRATE the UNITED CHURCH 100 years.

SAVE the DATE --- Further details will follow as the dates approach!!!

JULY 27 –Worshipping the SON in the SUN – our outdoor worship and Todd’s DOGS FOOD TRUCK lunch



SEPTEMBER 7--- FAMILY FIESTA-- LUNCH provided for all!!!! and a BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!!!!



The Friendship Circle (UCW) ladies are selling frozen rhubarb during coffee hour this morning for \$5 a bag. Why not pick up a couple of bags to have on hand for when you're in the mood to bake a rhubarb crisp or a delicious pie. Thank you for supporting our outreach programs.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Chair Massage is postponed until after Easter. Details will follow...

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



The summer camping season is just around the corner and enrollment has already started. The AOTS Fellowship club, UCW Friendship club and CD/Worship committee have 3 spaces available. **** If you would like to donate to the camp fund please make your donation out to St. Paul's United Church and mark summer camp in the memo. **If you have kids aged 5-13 that would be interested in attending summer camp please contact Dave Collis at stpaulsaots84@gmail.com or Brenda Marshall at fnbmarshall@sympatico.ca**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

A sincere thank you to everyone who completed and returned their "St. Paul's records update sheet." if you haven't done so yet, please bring the completed sheet with you, or email it to the church office as soon as possible. It's very important that we have your CURRENT contact information as well as emergency contact numbers on file at the office.

Thank you.
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Name Tags! Name Tags!

Lisa Houston is still taking Name Tag orders! Let's celebrate the United Church 100th Anniversary events wearing a Name Tag. The Name Tags come with an option of magnet backing or pin backing, your choice! Price for either option is \$14.95 plus tax. A sign-up sheet will be left 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



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Foodbank Drive – March



At this time, we are in **urgent need** of the following high-demand items:

- **Cereal**
- **Peanut butter, Jam**
- **Pantry Essentials:** Crackers, condiments, canned fruits & canned vegetables

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Do you want to know more about Messy Church?

Come and enjoy a pizza lunch, followed by a presentation about Messy Church from Norma Collis and crew at the next UCW Friendship Circle meeting.

**Wednesday, March 26th at 12:30 pm
in the Friendship Room. All are welcome.**

Free will offering.

Sign-up sheet located outside the Friendship Room.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**St. Paul's AOTS Fellowship clubs annual
Spaghetti fundraiser dinner
Saturday March 29 5:00-6:30 p.m.**

Cost is \$15.00 for adults \$8.00 for children 12 and under.
Tickets on sale now from the church office, AOTS members or online
@ stpaulsaots84@ [gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsaots84@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



You can drop off Yard sale items Monday to Wednesday 9-12 noon.



<p>DID YOU KNOW?</p>	<p>... that you can drop off your pop can tabs in the Rotunda – they are collected for “Tab4kidswheels” wheelchairs for children in need!</p>
---------------------------------	---

LicenSing #2401; CCLI: #239572