

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
St Paul's PASTORAL CHARGE
Tillsonburg Ontario

Service for November 19th, 2023
Provided by St. Paul's AOTS
GATHERING

PRELUDE

Welcome and Announcements: (Glenn Buchner)

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY (Dave Morris)

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.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Welcome and Preparation for Worship: Dave Morris

Introduction of Guests: (Dave Morris)

Call to Worship:

One: We come to this place seeking strength for heart, mind and soul.

All: We come anticipating a fresh abundance of God's mercy and grace.

One: We come acknowledging our need for pardon and forgiveness.

**All: We desire to accept the gifts and blessings God has in store for us this day.
Let us lift up our hands and hearts in praise and thanksgiving for God who
promises to be with us forever.**

Hymn: VU 574 Come Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love

1. Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true, tender and true,
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.
2. Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell
joyfully came, joyfully came,
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame,
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.
3. Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
why do they roam? why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget;
home, weary wanderers, home!
Wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

4. Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love!
Come and abide, come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride:
seeking to be, seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.

Lighting the Christ Candle: Finn Jackson

One of the most meaningful descriptions Jesus gives of himself is that he is the Light of the world. In turn Jesus invites we his followers to be that light by reflecting His love in a world filled blinded by so many forms of darkness Let's do our part to reflect the light of Jesus to every form of darkness that confronts us in our daily living.

Prayer of Approach and Confession (together)

Led by Harley Jackson

Holy God we are delighted to be here with you and with each other to offer our prayers and praise. We thank you for the fellowship and community we feel. We yearn to be pushed and pressed into serving you with our whole being. We come with our good intentions but we also know we need to receive forgiveness for the mistakes we have made. And we need to forgive those who have caused us pain in this past week. Be with us as we continue our worship now. We pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Children's Hymn VU 87: I am the Light of the World

Refrain:

I am the Light of the World

You people come and follow me.

If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery

Of what you were meant to do and be.

1. When the song of the angels is stilled.
When the star in the sky is gone.
When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home.
The work of Christmas is begun! **(R)**
2. To find the lost and lonely one,
To heal that broken soul with love,
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below the sky above! **(R)**
3. To free the prisoner from all chains,
To make the powerful care,
To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,
To see God's children everywhere. **(R)**
4. To bring hope to every task you do,
To dance at a baby's new birth,
To make music in an old person's heart,
And sing to the colors of the earth! **(R)**

Childrens' Message: " My Favourtie Room is" with Rev. Bain

The Lords Prayer

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25: 14-30 pg. 28 (parable of the talents)

Read by Harvey Elliott

One: The Word of Holy Scripture.

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE: "Unexpected Surprises!" Rev. Barrie Bain

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: VU 586 We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection

1. We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of new life in Christ.
2. We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping,
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story,
including all in circles of our love.

Prayers of the People: read by Dave Collis

Loving, challenging, compassionate God, we come to you on this day of worship to praise you and give you thanks for the many blessings we have been privileged to experience over the years and even recently. We thank you for abundant yield of crops in many places yet are concerned for loss of so much food not reaching harvest because of wild fire, drought and floods. We are grateful for situations where conflict has been resolved and new peace is in place. But we continue our prayers for so many countries still at war, especially Ukraine and Gaza. Merciful God, hear our prayer of concern for people at risk. Be with those who continue to suffer pain of many sorts, the need for healing, healing of broken bodies, and injured relationships that need restoration. And now in the quietness of this time and space, hear the prayers heavy on our hearts. And help us and those whose name we bring before you with the answer only you can give. (moment of quiet). Praise and thanksgiving we offer to you, almighty and eternal helping God. In the name of your Son and Saviour Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Offering: led by Dave Morris

We Present Our Gifts:

Doxology: 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.

Prayer of Dedication: in unison

Generous God, what you have given abundantly for the good of all, we ask you to receive back with your blessing. From overflowing hearts and open hands may these gifts enable your kingdom to ever come closer to fulfillment. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

WE ARE SENT OUT

Hymn: VU 651 Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

1. Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty,
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.
2. Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's Destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

Commissioning Rev. Bain

One: With thankfulness for God's faithfulness.

All: With hopefulness for God's vision of wholeness, justice and peace.

One: With commitment to God's purposes for humanity and creation.

ALL: We go out to serve our God with love, compassion and dedication.

Song of Dismissal: VU 507 vvs 1 and 4

- 1. Today we all are called to be
Disciples of the Lord,
To help to set the captive free,
Make plowshare out of sword,
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst,
Make love and peace our fast,
To serve the poor and homeless first,
Our ease and comfort last.

- 4. May we in service to our God
Act out the living Word,
And walk the road the saints have trod
Till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we
Give thanks in one accord
To God who calls us all to be
Disciples of the Lord.

POSTLUDE: Doug Walters

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We welcome all who join us for in-person worship today and online.

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Today is the AOTS Men's service. We invite the congregation to join us in the banquet hall for coffee hour after the service. The AOTS will be serving cake and ice cream and you will have a chance to view and purchase the Frosty fair items that are left from the Bazaar.

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In our thoughts and prayers this week are Tammy Ferris, The Fitzpatrick family, Maurice Francis, Barb Gall, Marlen Gilbert, Mark Ling and Mary Innis son and sister of Sharon Hagell, Karen Kaufman, Chuck Morling (son of John and Carol) and Ed Sharpe.

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We celebrate Happy Birthday wishes TODAY for:

**Dave Ramer turning 88 on November 26 and
Bella Jackson on November 24.**

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**The flowers today are
Celebrating AOTS – “As One that Serves Past and Present members”
and will be delivered to shut-ins.**

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If you signed up to receive the Advent booklet please pickup from the office between 8-1p.m. Monday to Friday this week. The Advent study begins Nov. 26. \$5 cash.

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A big thank you to everyone who ordered chocolate! The response was excellent! A special thanks to Shirley Godfree, Esther Sol and Jean Mills for taking all of the orders. The chocolate should be in late November. Delivery/pickup information will come at that time.



To: Rev. Karlene, the Board and my church family,
 You caught me off guard on Sunday. What a wonderful surprise and such a blessing. When I started here just over 10 years ago, I was, to be honest, hesitant about working with children. It was something that I had never really done before (other than with my own daughter). It didn't take very long to fall in love with the kiddos that were there and to look forward to each Sunday as I came to tell them about Jesus. Ten years have flown by. I have so many memories of the children - ones that have gone on to college or university or to their chosen profession. Now, I get the pleasure of teaching a new group of little ones about Jesus. Thank you so much. I would be remiss if I didn't, once again, acknowledge Brenda Marshall and all the work that she does as well as Jeannette van Hoeve and their faithfulness to the children. I really couldn't do it all without them.



All this to say - thank you so much. It is a blessing and an honor to serve here.
 God bless, Karen Hodges

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Adopt a Family - some advance information.

Once again, with your help we're going to work together to make Christmas special for a couple of families from our community who are supported through the Salvation Army. This will be a short campaign with drop-offs on December 3rd and 10th. We'll find out about our families and put the tags on our special tree at the back of the sanctuary next Sunday November 26th. There will be an opportunity for buying gifts for the family members and for providing gift cards to Wal Mart for the grocery purchases. Cash donations can be made through the office before December 8th. Some special treats and wrapping paper and bags would be of help too!

Hope you'll join this program. It's been a long tradition for this church family. Once the program is rolled out, please call Marianne Ferris if you have questions at: 519-788-4323 or email at marianneriach@gmail.com. Thanks in advance for your support.

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CRAFTY FRIDAYS



Come and join us Friday mornings 10-12 noon in the Friendship room for a social time of crafting, fun and conversation. Bring your knitting, crocheting, quilting or any craft to share. No experience required.

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Do you like to sing? Would you like to entertain some seniors?

Would you like to go **Christmas carolling?**

December 09, 1:30 p.m. to around 3:30 p.m.

Maple Manor, Woodingford, Hospital, Tillsonburg Retirement Centre. Please talk to Karen Hodges or Brenda Marshall to sign up or for more information.



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Helping Hand Foodbank needs:

Canned good with pop top lids - fruit, meat, vegetables, soups. Rice - small packages of instant, Instant Coffee - small jars, Hot Chocolate - instant packages - Mac and Cheese

DID YOU KNOW?	...that the MFC committee sends cards to members over the age of 80 and to those celebrating their 50 th + anniversary?
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