

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**  
**St. Paul's Pastoral Charge, Tillsonburg**  
**March 22, 2026 – Lent 5**

**PRELUDE**

**GREETING AND WELCOME**

**GATHERING HYMN: "Grateful" MV#182 chorus**

**Grateful for the life you give us. Thankful for your Holy Son.  
Joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of Love.  
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven. Thankful for your Holy Word.  
Joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.**

**WELCOMING THE LIGHT AND LOVE OF CHRIST**

**ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY:**

We gather in worship on this sacred land, giving thanks for all those who have come before us. As God's stewards of the land, water and air, may we always be respectful of all nature and everyone who depends on it for enjoyment, health and prosperity.

**GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER**

**L:** Have you come seeking to know God better?

**P: Yes. We have heard God calling us to worship.**

**L:** You are invited, in the name of Christ, to acknowledge your need for repentance and for the forgiveness proclaimed by Christ himself.

**P: By prayer, by works of love, by forgiving ourselves and others, and by meditating on the Word of God, together we continue to walk the Lenten journey.**

**L:** Come, with open hearts and minds, let us worship together.

**HYMN: "There is a Wideness in God's Mercy" VU #271**

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
Like the wideness of the sea;  
There's a kindness in God's justice,  
Which is more than liberty.
  
2. There is welcome for the sinner,  
And more graces for the good;  
There is mercy with the Savior,  
There is healing in His blood.
  
3. But we make God's love too narrow  
By false limits of our own,

And we magnify its strictness  
With a zeal God will not own.

4. For the love of God is broader  
Than the measures of the mind,  
And the heart of the Eternal  
Is most wonderfully kind.

5. If our love were but more simple,  
We should rest upon God's word,  
And our lives would be illumined  
By the presence of our Lord.

**PRAYER OF APPROACH (*in unison*)**

**As we walk the Lenten Road with Christ, Father and Mother God, we come to you with humbled hearts, wanting to become better disciples. We need your forgiving love. Help us to prepare ourselves to learn, to discern and to be renewed in our strength and passion once again. May your Holy Spirit now move among us nudging us to new thoughts, new visions and clearer understandings, we pray. Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S TIME: "*The Berenstain Bears and the Forgiving Tree*"**

**PRAYING WITH ALL GOD'S CHILDREN & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**CHILDREN'S SONG: "How Deep the Peace" MV# 95 (sung twice)**

**How deep the peace, the confidence,  
Of those whose wrongs are forgiven.  
How deep the peace, the confidence,  
Of those whose hearts are healed.**

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

**GOSPEL READING: Luke 23:33-34**

**MESSAGE: "*Father, Forgive Them*"**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORLD**

**HYMN: "*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*" VU #664**

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,

all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer!

2. Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!
3. Are we weak and heavy laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Christ the Savior, is our refuge--  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do our friends despise, forsake us?  
Are we tempted to despair?  
Jesus strength will shield our weakness,  
And will find new courage there.

## **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY HYMN: VU #581 vs. 2**

**Through all our living, we our fruits must give.  
Good works of service are for offering.  
When we are giving, or when receiving,  
We belong to God, we belong to God.**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER** (*in unison*)

**Gracious God, we offer our gifts of time, talents and monies. We also bring our faltering steps, our brokenness, our hopes and our open hearts. Transform all we offer that we and each gift we bring may be blessed to bring honour and glory to your name. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS: Shirley Godfree**

**IN JESUS' NAME WE GO TO SERVE**

**CLOSING HYMN: "Great is Thy Faithfulness" VU #288**

1. Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

**Refrain:**

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see:  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided--  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

- 2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **Refrain**
- 3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide! **Refrain**

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**SUNG BENEDICTION: "All the Way My Saviour Leads Me"**

**VU #635 vs. 2**

**All the way my Saviour 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 a thirst may be  
Gushing from the rock before me, lo, a spring of joy I see!**

**L. All the people of God, together joyfully proclaim  
P: AMEN!**

**POSTLUDE**

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We welcome all who join us for in-person and on-line worship today  
We welcome and thank Cheryl Buchner our worship leader today.

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Everyone is invited to join for fellowship and refreshments  
in the Friendship Room down the hall after today's service.  
Members of the UCW are hosting this month.

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**Our reader today is Shirley Godfree**



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**Celebrating Three March 22 birthdays today are:**

**Bob Cook his 83rd birthday, Jim Donaldson is 80 and**

**Mark Lopenen Happy 53rd birthday - Cheers to another year for all!**

**Celebrating 90 wonderful years Margaret Vanderzweerde - March 27th**

**And last but not least Desmond Palmer – Happy Birthday on March 28th**



**Let's welcome SPRING!!!**  
**Flowers will be delivered after worship.**



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**Rev. Pat is available for emergency Pastoral care.**

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**March 25 Friendship Circle Meeting \*1:30pm**

\*(please note the time change) Friendship Room at St. Pauls

Guest Speaker - Tamara Bull

**Topic** - Another look at those who are homeless in Tillsonburg.

**Follow Up:** We will be assembling Blessing Bags containing useful, small items for those living rough. i.e `toothbrush, disposable razor, small toothpaste, lipsil, band aids, nail clippers, Tim Horton gift cards or fast food cards, sealed snacks,`

Donations of items for these bags are gratefully received.

Please place in the box at the back of the rotunda.

See the Sign Up board in the Bidwell St.entrance for other item suggestions.

Check out the **fantastic photo display** created by Beth Sandor that is on display on the downstairs bulletin board. These are photos taken at the

**February Messy Church christening.**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- March 25 - 12 noon lenten service at St. Paul's - juice & cookies afterwards
- March 28 - AOTS spaghetti dinner
- March 29 - Palm Sunday: Cheryl Buchner is worship leader.
- April 3 - 10:30 a.m. Good Friday service: Marianne Ferris
- April 5 - 10:30 a.m. Easter; communion: Rev. Margaret Trapnell
- April 12 - 10:30 a.m. Marianne Ferris is worship leader
- April 26 - Camping & Environmental Sunday: hot dog lunch; Beth Sandor presents: "Nature's Beauty".

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**SPAGHETTI SUPPER:** St. Paul's United Church AOTS FELLOWSHIP Club, Tillsonburg invite you to a Spaghetti Supper to be held Saturday, March 28th, 2026 from 5 to 6:30 pm at the Church, 88 Bidwell St. Tillsonburg. Tickets \$15 for adults, children under 10 \$8 available from members, at the Church Office or at the Door. Takeout Available. All Welcome.

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Chair Yoga is every Thursday at 2:15pm. We do gentle stretching and breathing exercises while sitting in a chair. Follow the video and work at YOUR ability level.



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The Lenten Special Offering envelopes will be for (DASO) Domestic Abuse Services Oxford. Please mark your envelope or e-transfer.



The Easter Special Offering envelopes will be for Tillsonburg Salvation Army and Youth for Christ/Upper Deck ministry.

**TILLSONBURG MINISTERIAL LENT SERVICES**  
**Wednesdays 12-12:30 p.m.**

The Final service:

March 25 St. Paul's United - Ryan Hutchins

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**St. Paul's Yard Sale is getting closer: May 30**

We are collecting gently used items (except large furniture) Monday to Friday from 9-12 p.m. drop off in the hallway or call Nancy at **519-550-4663** for other times.

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**March Foodbank needs:**

This month, the Foodbank is asking for:

- Cereal
- Canned proteins
- Cookies
- Peanut butter, Jam

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If anyone is sick or in the hospital, please call and let us know so we can visit or call. (519-688-0011).

**It's that time again!** A spring cleanup for St Paul's yard work has been scheduled for Friday, April 24th from 9 am-noon. Rain date will be Saturday, April 25th.

Please bring your own rake and gloves.

A sign-up sheet will be posted.

A light lunch will be provided volunteers.



LicenSing #2401; CCLI: #239572