

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

St. Paul's Pastoral Charge

March 30, 2025

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Brenda Marshall

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: May the God of grace be welcome in our midst.

All: May we receive the power and peace of divine love.

One: Come let us worship with our hearts and minds and bodies.

All: Let us become one seeking justice and compassion.

One: Blessed be God who challenges, heals, and unites us.

All: Blessed be our learning and blessed be our vision.

One: Blessed be God who inspires all things to be new.

OPENING HYMN VU # 653 "Come, Let Us to the God of Love"

1. Come, let us to the God of love
with contrite hearts return;
our God is gracious, nor will leave
the desolate to mourn.
2. God's voice commands the tempest forth,
and stills the stormy wave;
and though God's arm be strong to smite,
'tis also strong to save.
3. Long has the night of sorrow reigned;
the dawn shall bring us light;
God shall appear, and we shall rise
with gladness in his sight.
4. As dew upon the tender herb,
diffusing fragrance round;
as showers that usher in the spring,
and cheer the thirsty ground:

5. So shall God's presence bless our souls,
and shed a joyful light;
that hallowed morn shall chase away
the sorrows of the night.

PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: Merciful God, we come to you for a moment of quiet in our self-made busyness.

All: We come to you for energy in our weariness.

One: We come to you for challenge when we are willing to settle for our own small plans and dreams.

All: We long for the peace of your presence, even as we are afraid of the urgency of your call.

One: Enter, Spirit of God, into each of our lives and enliven us.

All: Enter, Spirit of God, into our community and enable us to love and serve you and all your children. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

O God who will not let us go, today come confessing that we have been so wrapped up in ourselves that we have taken little note of either you or those around us in need. We confess that we have rebelled against you. We have allowed doubts and fears to hold us back from being the servants you have chosen us to be. We readily blame others for our weakness and refrain from accepting our responsibilities. Loving God forgive us, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, God hears our prayers and sets before us the way of Jesus.
God calls us and gives us enough grace and mercy to follow the way.

All: Thanks be to God.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

CHILDREN'S HYMN: VU # 365 "Jesus Loves Me" (1 & Refrain)

Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong; in his love we shall be strong.

Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me! X 3
The Bible tells me so.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE:	Gospel:	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 pg. 78
	Reader:	This is the Word of the Lord.
	All:	Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE: "The Family Circle" Rev'd Karlene Brown-Palmer

SELECTION: The Choir

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERTORY HYMN: VU # 642 "Be Thou my Vision" (vs. 4)

4. Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only the first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

OFFERTORY PRAYER (Unison)

Gracious God, bless and transform all that we offer: our faltering steps, our brokenness, our hope, and the gift of our earnings that as we do, your love may be written on our hearts and we may learn to be a blessed and transformed people. In Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also, with you.

One: Lord, we ask you to challenge and change our Church. Judge us and cleanse us and help us to be what you called us to be.

All: Help us to embody you on earth, and make your presence real for everyone in the here and now. Help us to feed your people with bread instead of stones. And, Lord, we ask you to begin with each one of us.

One: Lord, as we seek to serve you among our fellow human beings, keep us mindful that the simplest task as a member of the community can lead others to you.

All: Let us rejoice in each other and the work that we do together, building the foundations of your kingdom on earth.

One: Lord, we pray for all those who are suffering, whether mentally or physically.

All: Any help that we can offer or any kindness that we can show, let us do it now, not defer or neglect it. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

IN JESUS' NAME WE GO TO SERVE

CLOSING HYMN: VU # 691 "Though Ancient Walls"

1. Though ancient walls may still stand proud and racial strife be fact,
though boundaries may be lines of hate, proclaim God's saving act!

- Refrain:** Walls that divide are broken down; Christ is our unity!
 Chains that enslave are thrown aside; Christ is our liberty!
2. When vested power stands firm entrenched and breaks another's back,
 when waste and want live side by side, it's Gospel that we lack. **(R)**
 3. The truth we seek in varied scheme, the life that we pursue,
 unites us in a common quest of self and world made new. **(R)**
 4. The church divided seeks that grace, that newness we proclaim,
 a unity of serving love that lives praise to God's name. **(R)**
 5. This broken world seeks lasting health and vital unity.
 God's people, by God's Word renewed, cast off all slavery. **(R)**

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION
 POSTLUDE**

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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.

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Flowers are given by worship committee and will be delivered to shut ins or persons with special celebrations.

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On April 3rd Bill & Maida Chanyi are celebrating "67" years of marriage, we hope you both have a wonderful day!

Happy Birthday wishes to
 to Jim Withington on April 3 and Paisley Ling on April 4

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**BUTTER TART FUNDRAISER - first Butter Tart buyers' market
 - Sunday March 30th**

This is a fundraiser for our general fund in memory of Doreen's famous butter tarts! We will be selling them after church on SOME Sundays in the friendship room when they are available.

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



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Tillsonburg and Area Ministerial invite you to our Lenten Services 12-12:30 p.m.
 April 2 – St. Mary's Catholic Church – Pastor Benjamin Emery

EASTER SERVICES

- Palm Sunday – April 13 at 10:30 a.m.
- Maundy Thursday – April 17 at 7 p.m.
- Good Friday – April 18 at 10:30 a.m.
- Easter Sunrise – April 20 at 8:00 a.m.
- Easter Sunday – April 20 at 10:30 a.m.

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Celebrate 100

Please remember to make your donation to the special offering – **Celebrate 100**. We are looking for donations that equate to 100. Be creative. All monies collected will be used at St. Paul's. To date we have collected \$1930. Place your donation in an envelope with your name and marked Celebrate 100. Thank you for being a part of the Celebrate 100 Campaign.

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Our Yard Sale is fast approaching. You can drop off sale Monday, Wednesday and Fridays 9-12 noon.



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Foodbank Drive – for March 60lbs of food was delivered to Foodbank



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

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Stay tuned for plans for 100th Anniversary Service



Further details will follow as the dates approach!

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

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Community Kitchen News:

- a) We are looking for a meal delivery driver for our summer session. The time commitment would be approximately 1 hour for 2 different Saturday's (June 7 and August 2).
- b) **Community Kitchen Closet** continues to accept clothing donations to help those in need within our community. As you begin your spring cleaning and find any articles of clothing that you no longer need to please consider donating them to the Community Closet. You can either drop the clothing off in the multipurpose room by the piano or contact Keith or Julie and we can come pick them up from you. kjavery1@gmail.com 519-403-4192.

c) We are having a fundraising BBQ on Saturday **July 12th** at Home Hardware from 11am to 3pm. 100% of money raised will go directly to the **Community Kitchen** outreach program.



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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!!!!



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*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*

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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. call me at 519-409-1058. Lisa



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As the weather gets warmer, our thoughts turn to planting flowers. The UCW Friendship Circle is once again taking orders for geraniums. We are offering four colours: red, white, punch (pink) and orange. Cost: \$3.50 each. Pickup: May 10th. To order please call or email Rita Van Lamoen (519) 842-9271 or marita3646@gmail.com or Wilma Jeffery (519) 688-0065 or wjeffery09@icloud.com. Thank you for your support!



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Chair Massage will be May 6 and 7th. More details will follow...

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DID YOU KNOW?	... that teens can serve at our Messy Church and Community Kitchen programs and earn credit towards their Community Service hours.
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