



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
March 18, 2018

*Through Faith, we walk on the path Jesus set for us.
The people of St. Paul's Belong... Believe... Listen... Love... Lead.*

WE APPROACH OUR GRACIOUS GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME In You There Is a Refuge #84 More Voices
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY

Here we gather on land that has been occupied for centuries. Long before Alexander Forbes claimed this site for a Presbyterian church the land was used by First Nations people: the Beaver, the Cree, the Métis. Now we share the land together as Treaty People.

We honour and thank those who cared for this land before us. We pledge to work as partners as we move into the future.

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

May the Peace of Christ be with you

And also with you.

Through these Lenten days and nights we journey closer to the cross.

Walking with Jesus, we seek to learn what it means to follow his Way

Jesus has invited us to journey with him, to learn, to grow, to be transformed.

Jesus commands us to love each other as we have been loved, for God is love.

As followers of Christ we begin our worship by greeting each other with words and signs of Christ's peace.

WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

As we journey through Lent, as we move toward the darkness of the cross, we light a candle to remind us of the Light that can not be put out.

May its light remind us that we are not alone, in the good and the bad of life, we are not alone.

As the candle flickers and moves into a steady glow we quiet our hearts for worship.

OPENING PRAYER

God of love, as we gather to worship,

open our hearts, fill us with love that overflows on all we meet.

God of love, as we sing and pray and listen,

whisper in our ears, encouraging us to live as people of the Way, people of love.

God of love, when we leave this place,

The first Sunday of each month there is a second offering that is dedicated to local outreach. **This month from February 1-23 we gave out 8 food/ gas vouchers for a total of \$625.00 from** our local outreach fund. Please consider donating "in good used condition" warm clothing such as mitts, gloves, socks, toques and bath towels for the Saint Lawrence Center. Thank you for your continued support.

THANK YOU!

St. Paul's Explorers and CGIT want to express our gratitude for your support of our recent Bottle Drive.

We raised, through bottle collection and some cash donations, \$517 towards our Mission Project "Change for Children".

Your ongoing support of our groups is greatly appreciated, thanks so much!

Warm Fuzzies! Explorers and CGIT

Vacation Bible School - please contact Holly (780-933-9937) to volunteer for this week of fun! We will announce the dates and other details in the near future, so stay tuned.

Celebration & Renewal Day for Healers

Saturday, June 9th, 2018

High River United Church

9:00 am to 4:15 pm

Cost: \$50 *Lunch and snacks included*

Maximum: 75 participants.

Please register early by:

e-mailing hruc@telus.net or phoning: 403-652-3168

Come join us in celebrating 21 years of healing ministry at High River United Church, with our guest, Rochelle Graham, founder of the Healing Pathway. Hear Rochelle share her story of the Pathway and her journey with healing ministry. Share stories, joys and challenges with other healing practitioners. Rochelle will also offer a session on the history and cultural use of healing oils. And, everyone is welcome to join in Sunday, June 10th worship at High River United, which will include an anointing and (re)dedication ceremony for those involved in any aspect of healing ministry.

PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE! When locking the church doors please make sure that the door is actually latched. Thank you!

Looking Ahead – Save the Date(s)

Labyrinth Walks

*Please join us for meditation
an inward journey on a sacred path.. 7:00 pm
March 18, April 22, and May 20th*

JUBILOSO! Bells of Concordia from Concordia University of Edmonton will be featured in Concert **April 7, 7:00 pm at St. Paul's United Church** [10206 - 100 Avenue, Grande Prairie](https://www.stpaulsuc.ca). The theme "Bells from the Silver Screen" features a wide spectrum of music from the Sound of Music, Star Wars, The Mission, Shrek, Lion King, The Muppets and other popular movie standards.

JUBILOSO! Bells of Concordia, a sixteen member community-based ensemble, performs on the largest set of handbells and handchimes in Canada and released a CD in 2016. Conductor Debbie Rice is recognized internationally for her work in this unique field. She has served as Executive Director for the International Handbell Committee and as National President for the Handbell Musicians of America, the largest handbell organization worldwide. She travels frequently as a clinician and conductor for international events. In August she conducts the inaugural international handchime festival in Cairns, Australia. In 2019 she leads a handbell tour to Spain. Tickets are \$20.00 for Adults and \$15.00 for Students. Children 14 and under FREE when accompanied by an adult. Tickets available in advance or at the door. For Advance tickets call [\(780\) 532-2415](tel:7805322415) (Mon.-Fri. from 9:00-3:00) or Email: secretary@stpaulsuc.ca

Think De-Clutter, Think GARAGE SALE

"May 2-5, 2018."

Book these important days OFF right now!
Tell your friends to tell their friends about the
Amazing St Paul's Garage Sale. Start sorting!

We are in need of Scripture Readers and Door Greeters every Sunday. Please sign the lists in the foyer if you would like to volunteer to help during the worship services.

speak through our voices, sharing the promise and reality of love with the world that you love.

WE pray in the name of Jesus, who commands us to love as we are loved and teaches us to pray saying...

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering Hymn: Love Divine All Love's Excelling

#333 Voices United

WE SHARE AS GOD'S CHILDREN THE BIBLE'S STORY IN WORD AND IN SONG:

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

PRAYER FOR AND ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God who is love, through Jesus you give us a new commandment,

to love as we are loved, to be known by our love for each other.

God who is love, in Jesus you challenge us to follow the Way of truth and love and life,

we try, but sometimes we lose sight of the path, sometimes loving each other feels too hard.

God who is love, God who challenges us to be people of love,

in your loving grace and mercy help us to love both when it is easy and when it is hard. Help us follow the Way.

God who is love is gracious and patient. In love God sent Jesus to save the world, not to condemn it. In love God pulls us back to the true path. We are forgiven and sent back out to live and love

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

1 John 4:7-8, 18-21

John 13:33-35; 14:1-11

SILENT REFLECTION

(trusting that God is at work in our midst we allow the words we have heard to settle and stir in our souls)

SERMON *Love...The Way, The Truth, The Life*

Hymn: They'll Know We Are Christians

(See insert)

WORDS ABOUT LOVE

(with thanks to the Beatles, and the Gospel of John, and Huey Lewis and the News, and Jacques Brel)

All you need is love!...Love is all you need.

God grant us the ability to love deeply, to love with our whole being.

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you...
We strive to follow the words and example of Jesus, loving neighbours and enemies.

Tougher than diamonds and stronger than steel...that's the power of love
May love be our strength, keeping us solid and soft all at once.

If we only have love...then death has no shadow

Held in the arms of your love, gracious God, we face life and death and life beyond death with hope and confidence.

If we only have love...Then with nothing at all but the little we are We'll have conquered all time All space, the sun, and the stars.

The greatest gift the Holy Spirit gives us is indeed love. God help us to remember to keep this love at the core of our life, of our actions, of our very being.

For in love we meet you and know you, and are known.

Amen.

WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD AND PREPARE FOR MINISTRY IN THE WORLD

THE OFFERING

Mission Minute

The Invitation:

Dedication Offering Hymn: The Church of Christ is Every Age
#601 Voices United –Verse 5 THEN Verse 3

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns
Prayers of the People

Hymn: Love Is the Touch (Tune of #642 VU) #89 More Voices

COMMISSIONING:

We have been given a new commandment

We go out seeking to love one another as we are loved.

The commandment is a challenge and a blessing.

To love and to be loved, it is a part of how we are able to live together.

We go out knowing that we do not try this alone.

We are able to live out God's love because God is with us on every step of life's path, for God is Love and Love is the Way.

Go with the love of God, go with the power of the Risen Christ, go with the support of the Holy Spirit.

Sung Benediction: Let My Spirit Always Sing Verses 1&4 #83 More Voices

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Ministry by: The Congregation

Enabling Minister: Rev. Gord Waldie Church Office: Carla Johnson

Telephone: (780-532-2415) Email: secretary@stpaulsuc.ca

Sunday School: Holly Loughhead

Youth Ministry: Janis Schau-Steinke

Music Director: Alison White.



Our Prayers are offered for, Allison Blanchard and Family, Art Macklin and Eathyn Anderson and Family

Church Office Hours!

Our Office is open Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm

*the Office is closed during the lunch hour.

If you have a prayer request, please write it down in our prayer book on the table at the entrance into worship. Your needs will be added to our community prayer.

Thank you

If you have noticed someone missing from our congregation, please contact them by phone or visit them in person. You may be their "angel"

Easter will soon be here, and the sanctuary can once again look cheerful and full of flowers. Let's celebrate the resurrection and fill the church with hydrangeas. If you would like to **purchase a potted hydrangea**, UCW we will buy them and have them available for you to take home after the service on April 1st. Please order in advance. The form is in the foyer and a UCW representative will be glad to assist.

Line Dancing has been discontinued - THANK YOU to Joshua Benson for his time and effort. THANK YOU to all who joined us, brought their family and friends and gave it a try. However, it is time to think of something new to do as there has not been a lot of interest lately. Is there something you'd prefer we try? A monthly or quarterly family game night? A movie night? Feel free to throw some ideas around and let's talk. With thanks, Sharon Adams

Would you like to put an announcement in the Sunday bulletin? Please have them to Carla in the Church office by **Wednesday at noon** in order to have them in for the current week's bulletin.

At St. Paul's We Are So Fortunate to have a church that is busy and full of life please be sure to check with Carla in the church office before you expect a room will be free for your use. Rooms booked with Carla in the office will have first priority.

Offering Envelopes - Making your donation using a set of offering envelopes is the easiest way to ensure you receive a tax receipt for your givings. If you don't have a set of offering envelopes, and would like some, please contact Carla in the church office. Also please make sure you have envelope # on your givings so it can be record to the correct person.



JUST A REMINDER...

For those parents with small children, please be reminded there is a nursery available when your children need more room to run around, or are upset and inconsolable. The nursery is conveniently just down the hall across from the Friendship Room.

New to the church? Want a photo directory? See Carla in the church office to buy your copy for \$15.00

ATTENTION ALL HOUSEHOLDS

Have you joined St. Paul's Recyclable program yet?

St. Paul's has an easy fund raiser to help with the Church renovations. All you need to do is bag up all your empty bottles, cans and milk jugs and put our **church id # 1468-2415** visible on each bag and drop them off at the bottle depot on Resources Road and before you leave, check in with the cashier and let them know how many bags/boxes on bottles/can you dropped off.

***** \$727.40 has been brought in since January 1, 2017****

Looking Ahead – Save the Date(s)

St. Paul's Council is seeking a Treasurer and a Member at Large.

If you are interested in please contact Karen Scott or Rev. Gord.

Moved?? New to the Church??

If you have moved, or you are new to the Church, please stop by the church office or send Carla a quick email (secretary@stpaulsuc.ca) with your new details so we can keep our records up to date! Thank you!

Thursday is "coffice" day! Remember that on Thursday afternoons from 1-4 pm Gord can be found at the West end Starbucks. Join him for a drink and a chat.

Parents – If your children are using the nursery, please tidy it up before leaving.