



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
March 25, 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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Look! Over there! Can you see it?

What? All we see are branches waving?

Listen! In the air! Can you hear it?

What? All we hear is people cheering?

Stop! Open your senses! Can you feel it?

What? That strange electricity in the air?

Yes. The branches, the cheering, the electricity. Something exciting is happening. Hope is coming. The king is near.

What are we waiting for? Let's go join the excitement!

Good idea! Let us worship together in prayer and speech and song...

PALM PROCESSIONAL: Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

#123 Voices United

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

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.

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 we gather on this day to begin a week of contrasts.

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.

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

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.

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

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

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*

JUBILOSOS! 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](#)**. 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.

JUBILOSOS! 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.

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

From hope to despair to hope again.

As we begin the week, as we join with the crowd

help us cut through the noise to see what is happening, to see what is at stake.

As the story unfolds,

open us to both the hope and the pain.

In this time of worship,

prepare us to celebrate, to weep, and to wait.

We pray in the name of the one who leads the parade as we share the words he shared with his closest friends...

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering Hymn: He Came Riding on a Donkey

#124 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, on this day of great joy and excitement,

it is easy to get caught up in the hopes and the shouting.

But there is something else lurking around the corner,

a shadow of doubt and testing. A shadow of death and devastation.

Even as we join in the joy,

we admit that we may also join in the voices of another crowd, shouting NO in the face of your offer of a new world.

For the times we choose the easy parade over the hard road of change. For the days we choose to remain in the shadows...

forgive and strengthen us. Set us free from fear so that we can proclaim openly the coming of your Reign.

...time of silent prayer...

As we wave the branches we proclaim that the Reign of God is here and now! As citizens of God's Kingdom we are forgiven in our doubts and our mis-steps. We are set free of the past to move toward a hope-filled future.

Hosanna! The King is here! Praise and thanks to God! Amen

GIFT OF MUSIC: Entry Into Jerusalem

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

John 12:12-36

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 *This Hour*

Hymn: Ride On, Ride On, the Time Is Right #126 Voices United

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: Ride On! Ride On in Majesty! #127 Voices United
(Tune of #100 VU)

COMMISSIONING:

We have joined with the crowds in the cheering and celebrations.

We look forward to the coming time of glory.

As part of the hope-filled crowd we go to tell those around us of the possibilities that lie before us.

We share the promise of the Peaceable Kingdom found in a king on a donkey.

But off in the distance a shadow looms, a threat to all our hopes.

Nevertheless we will walk boldly toward the shadow, trusting in the light that lies beyond it.

Go out into this Holy Week to walk the path that leads to the cross. Walk that path knowing that we do not walk it alone: the Crucified One goes with us, the Creator is there to strengthen us, the Holy Spirit fills us with hope everlasting.

Amen.

Recessional: Sanna, Sannanina #128 Voices United

Join the choir in the Palm Parade!

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 Loughead

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.

Top of The Morning To You

Thank you to everyone that helped put together the March 17th "Embrace Your Inner Leprechaun" St. Patrick's event. Our event was successful in food , fun and financially to the tune of \$4000. Thank you again to everyone for working and playing together and giving St. Paul's budget a little boost so we can continue to be present helping in our community. Thanks again Sherry and Neil Alstad

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.

Looking Ahead – Save the Date(s)

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.

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****

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.

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.

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