



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
September 17, 2017

*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: Open Our Hearts (3X) #21 More Voices

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY LAND

We gather here on land that is covered by Treaty #8, specifically the traditional land of the Beaver in the traditional territory of the Cree.

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning there was God,
present where we may not expect, offering comfort, support and blessing
 As this week begins, there is God,
calling us to gather together, calling us to live and love in the world.
 As we gather in worship, we greet our kinfolk in faith with words and signs of Christ's Peace

WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

In the beginning, God said "Let there be light", and there was light
As we begin a new week we invite the God-light which shines throughout our faith story to shine in our midst
 As God's Light shines in our midst we center ourselves for worship.

GIFT OF MUSIC: All Are Welcome

Choir

OPENING PRAYER

God we gather for worship,
here we sing and pray and listen, we might even dream.
 God we gather seeking your comforting presence,
to remind us that we are not alone, to share a blessing.
 God we gather to be changed,
to be moved from lives of fear to lives of love.
 God we gather to be sent back out,

This is an invitation to the ladies of the congregation to attend the fall gathering of the UCW on Wed, Sept 27th at 7pm in the Friendship room. HIV North will be doing a presentation and, in the spirit of sisterhood, we will be collecting "feminine products" to donate to their cause. Please join us for squares, coffee and info, hosted by Unit 4!

Saturday, Sept 30 - Orange Shirt Day 2017 is on as part of Alberta Culture Days. The City of Grande Prairie and the Grande Prairie Aboriginal Circle of Services (GPACOS) are once again presenting this event to continue the dialogue on the effects of the residential school system, particularly children's loss of culture and sense of belonging and how the community can move forward. Orange shirt day grew out of Phyllis Webstad's story of having her new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually. This free community event takes place from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Mamawe Concourse outside the Montrose Cultural Centre 9839 103 Ave. There will be a lot of great activities such as bannock making, blanket exercise, scavenger hunt, drum making and beading. For more information go to the City of Grande Prairie website - Events calendar <http://www.cityofgp.com/index.aspx?recordid=10179&page=21>

Sunday School is in need of a new teacher for the Junior group. Please contact Holly (780-933-9937) to volunteer.

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

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.

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.

Looking for someone to maintain the church scrapbook and update it monthly or as needed. Please see Carla in the church office if you are interested.

to share the blessings of life, to remind folks that you are with them, to declare “surely the Lord is in this place”.

We offer these prayers, we offer ourselves, in the name of Jesus, who teaches us to pray saying...

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering Hymn: Who Is my Mother

#178 More Voices

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 of grace, like Jacob we sometimes use trickery and deception for personal gain,

assuming that we need to look out for ourselves first.

God of grace, like Rebekah we sometimes plot against others to support a favoured one,

seeing our own agenda, our own hope, as the best way.

God of grace, like Esau we are sometimes overcome by our anger and plot revenge,

because life is unfair and we feel that we have lost something precious.

God of grace, like Jacob we sometimes find ourselves bound by rules that do not allow us to correct the wrongs done to others,

and so withhold blessings that should be shared widely, increasing anger and hurt.

God of grace, we acknowledge our shortcomings and open our hearts and souls to your grace **even as we pledge to live differently, to put aside deception and anger, to work for the advancement of all.**

God of grace, in and through your grace and mercy,

forgive us, empower us, move us forward as your beloved children, each of us with our own blessing. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17

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 *God Blesses HIM?!?!*

Hymn: Spirit God, Be Our Breath

#150 More Voices

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

THE OFFERING

Mission Minute

The Invitation:

Dedication Offering Hymn: Come Touch Our Hearts vs. 1 #12 More Voices

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Hymn: God Says

#172 More Voices

COMMISSIONING:

Like Jacob, we are people on a journey,

sometimes fleeing from danger, sometimes heading home.

As we journey, we meet other travellers.

Sharing with them the words of comfort we have gained along the path.

And when we find shelter,

we offer a safe place to those who continue to journey.

Journey with God, who guides us, who supports us, who comforts us, who blesses us

Wherever we go. Thanks and praise. Amen.

Sung Benediction: May God's Sheltering Wings (2X) #214 More Voices

POSTLUDE

“As stewards, what we give is not as important as that we give.”

STEWARDSHIP Campaign has begun. Please pick up your letter of invitation at the back of the church. If you see one in there, for someone who isn't in church, please take the opportunity to deliver it and acquaint yourself with them.

Dates to Remember:

Jr. Choir starts -

Sunday, September 17 after worship

Congregational potluck -

Sunday, September 24 after worship

Senior Lodge service, Wild Rose –

Sunday, September 24 at 6:00 pm

Beginner bells-

Sunday, September 24, 11:20 - Noon

Handbells -

Monday, September 25 at 7:00 pm

(Must have music background and / or handbell experience, with communication and try out with conductor. Please contact Jeannette 780 356-2866.)

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.

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!"



Our Prayers are offered for, 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.

HELP WANTED – Next week we will restart using PowerPoint during the services and Carla is making the schedule for PP operators. We could use a few more. Are you interested in taking this on? Do you know someone who would be interested? Let Carla know. (It really is fairly easy--as long as the machinery behaves) It's not a big commitment and it's greatly appreciated by the congregation.

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.

September 24, 2017 is going to be our "COIN" collection for M& S, so please bring you spare change to church. We all like to "Hear the 'pennies' dropping"!!!! Thank you all for your wonderful STEWARDSHIP!!!

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

The Observer – Renewal Time If you receive the United Church Magazine "The Observer", your subscription is coming up for renewal shortly. The price is \$25.00/year. If you would like to renew your subscription, you can either put the renewal amount of \$25.00 in an envelope clearly marked "Observer" in the Sunday collection plate separate from your regular Sunday offering or drop it into the office or to Bruce White by October 15th. If you would like to start receiving the Observer please contact the office. There are copies in the Foyer if you would like to take a look at one before you order.

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.

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.

The first Sunday of each month there is a second offering that is dedicated to local outreach. **This month from August 1-31 we gave out 11 food/ gas vouchers for a total of \$940.00 from** our local outreach fund. The food bank is experiencing a shortage; consider bringing a non-perishable food donation. Thank you for your continued support

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!

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.

***** \$259.35 has been brought in since January 1, 2017*****