



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
September 20, 2020

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

WE APPROACH OUR GRACIOUS GOD

PRELUDE
WELCOME

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

We have been called and we have come,
but where are we, where are we going?

We find ourselves in a wilderness time, and the future is uncertain,
will we have everything we need? Were we better off before?

We need hope, we need faith, we need trust.

God has brought us here, God will take us forward, let us worship the God of the journey.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

As the candle flame flickers to life then burns with a steady glow

So may the Spirit move in and around us so that God's light would shine through us.

Gathered as Spirit-filled disciples of Christ, we quiet our hearts for worship

OPENING PRAYER

God of the desert, the urban jungle, the wilderness places, we come together again in worship.

During this time of prayer and listening and reflection reawaken in us the hope of the unknown.

May this time together empower us to go forward boldly even when we want to go back to the familiar. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering Hymn VU #650 O God of Bethel <https://youtu.be/nPbedZEJY1Y>

Naramata Centre has a number of online programs coming up you may want to participate in? The full calendar is at

www.naramatacentresociety.org/online-programs-1

- **Sing*Play*Breathe – Ukulele for Beginners With Linnea Good**
7 sessions, weekly on Wednesdays – Sept 16 – Oct 28, 2020 \$110.00
- **Awaken the Goddess within – with Leona Finlayson**
Tuesday, September 22nd – 5:30 – 6:30 PDT
A little fun **free** sampler in the beauty and grace of Belly Dance – Ages 12+
- **Beautiful Beginner Belly Dance – with Leona Finlayson**
4 sessions weekly starting Sept 29 – Oct 20, 2020 – 5:30 – 6:30 PDT - \$65.00
- **Rebirthing the Soul with Kim Marie**
Thursday evenings – 4 sessions Sept. 24th – Oct. 15th, 2020 Ages 16+
we'll connect to the Great Mother, the ultimate archetype of the Sacred Feminine allowing us to experience deep nourishment, wholeness and alignment with our own Inner Wisdom and sense of empowerment.
- **Conversations that Matter – Coming Out in Faith with Pam Rocker**
Wednesday, Sept 30th – 6:30 – 8:00 pm PDT - \$10.00 admin fee.
In this fun and interactive session, LGBTQ2S+ activist and performer Pam Rocker will share her coming out journey and how transformed spiritual perspectives can have a vital and life giving role to play for all of us. Questions are welcome and we invite you to bring your curiosity with you.

You can check out the October offerings too...Sound Meditations on Wednesdays;
October 10th – Crafting Your Heart Story – Harvest 9am to 3 pm
Oct 15th – 31st – Thurs and Sat – Being an Everyday Mystic with Bill Booth
Oct 17th – Nov 7th Saturday 10 am – 11 am – Photography 101
Oct 17th – Nov 7th Saturday 1 pm – 3 pm – Creative Journaling from Home



Interac e-Transfer is a simple, convenient, and secure way to send and receive money directly from one bank account to another. All you need is access to online or mobile banking through a participating financial institution, and you can send money to St. Paul's United Church — without sharing any personal financial information. It's a great alternative to cheques and cash.

To give using Interac e-Transfer please use this email address to send your donation to St. Paul's United Church - secretary@stpaulsuc.ca

In the note field of your transaction request, please indicate your envelope number (if you have one, if not contact the Church office to get one) and what fund(s) you are wanting your donation to go to. You can split your donation between funds if you so desire. (Example: If your donations is \$100 your note could say - \$25 GF, \$50 MS, \$25 OU or any other combination of amounts and funds you would like to support).

Fund: (Code)

- General Fund (GF)
- Mission and Service (MS)
- Capital Fund (CA)
- Outreach (OU)

Any donations made without a fund code will be considered a "General Funds" donation. After you have selected the amount and the fund, please email the answer to your security question to secretary@stpaulsuc.ca so that we can accept your donation.

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 indicate your envelope # on your givings so it can be accorded to the correct person.

We still have a few **Photo Directories** available. Please stop in the church office to buy your copy for \$15.00

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

Guiding God, you lead us into the wilderness, with a promise of new life on the other side.

And to be honest we are not always willing to go.

We mourn for what we leave behind, what we have lost.

We want to go back to the comfortable, the known, the familiar.

Gracious God, in this COVID-tide season,

we carry grief and anxiety, we wish we could go back to a more comfortable place.

Feed and sustain us in our desert time, we pray.

Hear our cries and share our grief.

Then, when the time comes, lead us into a future with a mix of familiar and new ways of being

Gracious God, when we chafe against the changes and chances of life,

strengthen us, embolden us, and forgive our doubting that this is the path of promise.

...time of silent prayer...

In Grace God leads us into the wilderness, in Grace God sustains us in the wilderness, with Grace God hears our griefs and complaints and anxieties in the wilderness. Still God leads us into the future, sharing a promise of life renewed.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS <http://bible.oremus.org/?q=467022390>

Exodus 16:2-15

Psalm 78 (VU p.792)

CONTEMPORARY READING: "For One Who Is Exhausted, a Blessing." (John O'Donohue)

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 *Can We Go Back?*

Hymn MV #150 Spirit God, Be Our Breath https://youtu.be/A1ZB8Y16e_I

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

THE OFFERING

Mission Minute
The Invitation:

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns
Prayers of the People

Hymn VU #647 Travel On, Travel On <https://youtu.be/XyZ-LN1Ukt8>

COMMISSIONING:

As our worship concludes, we go out into the world to live and love and serve.

We carry with us our hopes for the future, but also our grief for what we have lost.

In the midst of hope and fear and grief and possibilities we meet God,
the one who continues to sustain us, the one who feeds with us in the desert.
And so we can share the promise that there is hope beyond the grief, even if we can't go back to where we once were.

Thanks be to God who leads and sustains us into a new way of being.

Sung Benediction: VU #884 You Shall Go Out with Joy <https://youtu.be/5KNEoNAOJck>
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 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"

Church Office Hours!

Our Office is open Monday to Friday 9am to 3 pm.
but closed over the noon hour.

A minute or three for (financial) stewardship - Revenue for local for the week ending September 13th is \$3010 including Sunday offering, PAR, and rent. The net receipts of the garage sale were \$10,679 (this is a correction from last week's report). Thank you for your stewardship of time, talent, and treasure – always, but especially in the past six months. In September we also received Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy grants amounting to \$6127. For the next few weeks, I am going to pose a question for you to ponder from Mandate Magazine, November 2011 "Open to Change and Transformation" - "In the past, when has our congregation taken faithful risks?".

Martha for the Stewardship and Finance Team

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.

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!

Senior Handbell's starting September 14th, Monday nights, 7:00-8:30 pm, with new protocols in place. Junior bells will have a later start. If anyone is interested in playing bells, or learning to play bells, please call the Church Office.

Labyrinth Walks

Please join us for meditation

an inward journey on a sacred path.. 7:00 pm

September 27, October 25, November 22 and December 20th

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.

Monday, September 21st – Council Meeting 6:00 pm