

Order of Worship for October 3, 3031 – Worldwide Communion Sunday

Watch the livestream at 10:00 am here <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-aWw0Tc165vh6Epdr-XBxw>

WE APPROACH OUR GRACIOUS GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME *Welcome In, Welcome All* verses 1&2 (Written by Bryan Cook *Gathering: Pentecost 2 2021* p.55)

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

The God who invites us to the table,

The God who speaks to our hearts

The God who challenges and comforts us

Invites us to gather together for worship, for prayer, for renewal.

Come, now is the time to worship...

WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

(those present online are invited to use the chat function on YouTube, those present in person are invited to turn and wave or bow to the people around you as you exchange words of peace)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

In a world that can be chaotic and frightening,

we light a candle of hope.

In a world where the way is uncertain

may this light of Christ show us the way.

Let us centre ourselves for worship....

(written by Beth W Johnston *Gathering: Pentecost 2 2021* p.30)

OPENING PRAYER

God of life and love,

we open our hearts and souls, our very beings, to your presence.

God made known in the love of family and friends,

renew our hearts, renew our capacity to love our friends and neighbours, families and enemies.

God who invites us to and serves us at the table of faith,

as we sing and pray and eat together, move in us, renew our vision of what the world could be.

God who promises that we are never alone,

when our time of worship concludes lead us back into the world to share the promise of love and hope and Shalom.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Christ, who shows us the path of Kingdom living.

Amen

Gathering Hymn MV80 Beyond the Beauty and the Awe (1L)

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

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART *Blessing of the Pets*

PRAYER FOR AND ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God, when we are honest there are a lot of things we don't really understand.

So help us, please.

We want life to be fair, for people to deserve what they get.

But so often that is not the reality.

Bad things happen to good people, good things happen to bad people.

And we don't think that is fair – especially when bad things happen to us.

We want to believe there is a plan, a reason and a logic to life.

But the plan is hard to understand, the logic hard to see at times.

Random chance and coincidence seem to shape so many things.

And so we lament, we fret, we get angry.

God of Grace, God of Presence, hear our prayers,

our laments, our confusion, our anger

...time of silent prayer...

When life seems neat and orderly God is there. When life seems random and unfair God is there. God is there to offer love and comfort, support and strength. With Grace God absorbs our tears and rage and bewilderment, then leads us onward into another day.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Job 1:1; 2:1-10

A MOMENT OF 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 *When Life is Unfair...*

Hymn MV73 O God, Why Are You Silent (1L)

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

THE OFFERING

Mission Minute *Your Support Is There When Disaster Strikes*

(<https://united-church.ca/stories/your-support-there-when-disaster-strikes>)

The Invitation:

Sung Dedication VU518 verse 3

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Celebration of Communion

Inviting

As the seed which was scattered to all corners of the field comes together to make bread on our table,

So God's people gather from all corners of the world to share the great Banquet of thankfulness and hope.

At God's table there are no divisions. At God's table all are welcome to share in the bounty of abundant life.

Here at God's table we join with all who seek to follow The Way. Here we taste the grace eternal. Here we know that God is Good.

Great Thanksgiving

The Spirit of the Living God be with you all

And also with you.

In this place and time we pause to give thanks to God.

It is a good thing to give thanks for all God has given us.

God of growth, God of seed-time and harvest, God of gifts, here we pause to give thanks for the abundance of our lives.

For the fruit of the earth, for the food on our tables, for the love of our siblings in faith around the world.

For the promise of hope in a world given to despair, for the possibility of peace in a world torn apart by violence,

For these, and many other, things we offer our thanks and praise.

We remember the stories of our ancestors in the faith,

People like Sarah and Abraham, Miriam and Moses, Peter and Mary,

Prophets and leaders and all who have proclaimed your hope over the centuries.

We lift up the countless saints who have gone before us to teach about the possibilities of being your people.

And so we lift our voices in song,

singing together the praises of ages (MV #203 tune: *Kingsfold*)

O holy holy holy God,

O God of time and space.

All earth and sea and sky above

bear witness to your Grace.

Hosanna in the highest heav'n,

creation sings your praise.

And blessed is the One who comes

and bears Your name always

Remembering

In the middle of our thankfulness we give special thanks for a man from Nazareth, Jesus, the one we call Christ.

Child of Mary, child of grace, he came to teach about the wonders of Your love. He came to break down the walls of division among Your people.

As he ate with the despised and the least of his world he showed us what the Glorious Banquet of life could be like.

We give thanks for his witness and commitment to The Way. We give thanks for his healing of broken spirits and broken bodies.

We give thanks for his life, his death, and his resurrection.

Here, now, as we gather at the table to which Jesus calls us, we remember another table long ago and far away.

At that table Jesus gathered with friends to tell again the ancient story of liberation from bondage.

And then at the end of the meal he took bread, blessed it, broke it, and passed it among them saying:

This is my body, broken for all. Take, eat. And whenever you eat it remember what I have taught.

Then he took a cup of good wine, blessed it and passed it to them saying:

This is the seal of the new covenant. Take and drink and remember.

And so, God of Cross, Empty Tomb, and Banquet, we eat and drink and remember.

Giving thanks for the Love Jesus poured out on all he met: Jew and Gentile, sinner and saint, healthy and broken.

And in our remembering we sing the mystery of faith

(MV #204 tune: *Kingsfold*)

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!**

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!**

Transforming

God, you call us to sing the songs of faith in places both familiar and strange. You call us to share the Banquet of faith with long time friends and new acquaintances.

Pour out your Spirit on this table and these people. As we eat and drink may we feel the wind of the Spirit in our hair, the fire of the Spirit in our bellies, and the love of the Spirit in our hearts.

May the presence of the Spirit make this meal an occasion of transformation for we who gather to eat it together. **Amen.**

God of the Banquet that is and is to come, on this day we gather with people all around the world to share this meal.

Creator, our Source of Love; Christ, Love Incarnate; Spirit, Love's flowing power be praised, now and forever.

And the people all sang: (MV #205 tune: *Kingsfold*)

Amen, amen, O Holy One!

Hosanna and amen!

Amen, amen, O Holy One!

Hosanna and amen!

And now, as beloved children of a loving Parent, we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name...

Breaking, Pouring, Serving

The Bread we break is the Bread of Life.

The Cup we Share is the Cup of Love.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Come and eat, the banquet awaits.

Closing

We have eaten, we have drunk, we have tasted your goodness. May this meal we have shared here today fill our souls with Love. May the meal we share with all the world fill the world with Hope. May we leave this table refreshed and replenished, ready to be recipients and agents of Grace. Amen.

COMMISSIONING:

As our time of worship closes,
our time of service continues.

The world around us sometimes seems unfair,
**and still we choose to love and serve each other
still we choose to be faithful, to trust in God**

still we choose to be who Christ calls us to be, people of Shalom, citizens of God's Country.

Go out to love and serve in the name of God made known as Parent, as Child, and as Holy Spirit

Go to love and serve trusting that you are never alone, for God is with you.

Thanks be to God! Amen

SUNG BENEDICTION: *Welcome In, Welcome All* verses 4 & 3

(Written by Bryan Cook *Gathering: Pentecost 2 2021 p.55*)

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: **Your Name Here??***

Youth Ministry: Holly Loughead 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 will be open Monday to Friday 9am to 3 pm.
but closed over the noon hour.

Thinking About Financial Stewardship –After saying that I would not be reporting weekly financial figures I am going to do that because the week ending September 26 was an encouraging one. Revenues for local expenses were 4,111 including Sunday offering, PAR, and a \$1000 donation delivered to the office. The budget for local expenses is 4,912 per week. “Stewardship is Discipleship” -the United Church of Canada Stewardship program. Thank you for being “disciples”.
Martha for the Stewardship and Finance Team.

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

COVID UPDATE Council made a recommendation that all St Paul's groups wishing to use the premises, check the rules on gatherings set out by the Alberta Government and ensure that we are meeting and/or exceeding their guidelines, please.

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!

Scrapbooker Wanted....we have a lot of newspaper clippings about members and events that need to find a good home in a scrapbook.

If you can put your talents to use in this worthwhile project it will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Carla in the office and she can show you the documents that need to be tenderly organized for family history purposes :)

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

Monetary donations can be made in many ways:

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

Indicate how much to each of these funds, or if no funds are selected the donation will be considered a General Fund donation:

Fund: (Code) General Fund (GF); Mission and Service (MS);
Capital Fund (CA); Outreach (OU)

After you have selected the amount and the fund, please email the answer to your security question to secretary@stpaulsuc.ca so 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

Sign up for PAR contact Carla in the office for details.

Donate through the website <https://stpaulsuc.ca/index.php/donate/>

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.

Looking Ahead – Save the Date(s)

Come join in on a Sound Bath - Friday, October 8 - Time: 7 to 8 pm

(doors open at 6:45) Large Basement NW Door.

Take some time to relax, release and renew as we contend with the stress and anxiety in our everyday lives with the healing sounds of the

Alchemy Crystal Singing Bowls.

Due to the Covid 19 precautions, space is limited to 10 participants.

If you plan to attend please let Liz McCallum know by sending

a text at 780 832 8452 or email at Liz.mccallum@gmail.com.

Please bring a water bottle and what you need to feel comfortable lying or sitting on the floor. Cost: Donations welcome..

SUNDAY, October 31st – Congregational Update after church.

Council has agreed that we will gather after church for a Congregational Update. Martha will share a report on our current financial update and if others wish to speak about their activities that will be the time to catch up on what's happening. We may replay a few videos or PowerPoint shows of things we've done as a review of the past year or so. We hope we'll be able to have some refreshments safely by then and as it is All Hallow's Eve – **costumes are welcomed**.

WE'RE COOKING UP AN IDEA

We'd like to make pies for sale in November!

- If anyone has Rhubarb left and could cut it up and bag it, and donate it for the church freezer we'd appreciate it .
- Also when your large apple trees produce we'd use cut up, frozen apple too!
- There is a freezer in the storage room ! Let's fill it up !!!

Contact Marge Riley (780-518-5361) or Betty McNaught if you have questions!! and let them know how many bags/boxes on bottles/can you dropped off.

Save the weekend! October 22 to 24th! The St. Paul's Affirm Team

special guest Shylo Rosborough. St. Paul's Wesley United Church in Edmonton topics and opportunities for community to be an affirming congregation. The groups in an effort to be able to focus Mark your calendar! Watch for updates

Planning is going well!
However, the Affirming Team have decided to postpone to Spring 2022, in the hope that it will then be safe to invite many from the community to join us for various activities/events.



Clothing FONDdrive

Partnering with Value Village



We will be accepting
ONLY
bagged donations of

Clothes - Shoes - Boots

Purses - Belts

Towels - Bedding

It's time to tackle that closet
cleanout you've been putting off!
Bag and donate items to
St. Paul's to support this simple
fundraising initiative!

DROP OFF DAY:

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16
10AM—2 PM**

**St. Paul's United Church
10206 100 Ave GP**

If you have any questions or
require pick-up please contact:

**Brenda Stouffer
780-832-9371**

HELPING YOU GET THE
*Urge to
Purge!*





St Paul's United Church

10206 100 Ave, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 0V6 -- 780-532-2415



4th Annual Online Time and Talent Auction



- ❖ What special talent can you share?
- ❖ What have you created, sewn, quilted, carved, or painted that someone would enjoy in their home?
- ❖ Can you offer "help" to someone who might need: a ride, furniture moved, snow shoveled,?

**Accepting donations of time, talent and treasures...
including gift cards, vouchers, and products now.**

For more information on where to send the picture and description of your time, talent, or treasure call the office 780-532-2415.

A link to the website and login instructions will come once we have the items ready for viewing.
Then you can tell your friends and neighbours.

Just think your Christmas shopping done a month early!
(then you just need to remember where you hid them in December)

Ready....
Set... **BID**



Auction

Opens for Bidding:

Sat., Nov 6th at 9 a.m.

Bidding Closes:

Sat., Nov 13th at 9 p.m.