

Order of Worship for November 7, 2021, 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

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

Gathered in person, gathered on-line, connected by technology, by community, by love  
**we open our hearts, our minds, our souls, our very selves to God's presence.**

Pausing from the busy-ness of life, we begin our time of worship.

**As we sing and pray and listen, as we break bread together,**

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

**And also with you!**

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

Ever-present God, the One who gives us life,  
**you have called us together today.**

In this time of song, of prayer, of a shared meal,  
**speak to our hearts, touch our minds, refresh our souls.**

In a world where we often wonder what we have to give,  
**open our eyes to see what we have to share,**  
**open our arms to embrace our neighbours near and far,**  
**open our hearts to let love overflow into the world.**

We pray in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

Gathering Hymn VU 361 Small Things Count (CCLI)

### 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, we hear you calling us to assist in the mending of the world.

**And we really want to. But sometimes we are not sure what we can do to help.**

You call us to share the abundant gifts you have placed in our lives.

**And we are not sure that our mite is big enough to make a difference.**

You ask, but do not demand, that we find a way to participate in the Kingdom of hope, peace, joy, and love, the Reign of Shalom.

**Help us respond to your invitation, help us to feel your grace at work in our lives, help us to pass that grace and love on to the world around us.**

God is Gracious and invitational. God invites us to offer what we have, big or small, to the service of God's Reign. Whether the gift is ostentatiously large or two small copper coins, the power is in the giving, in the sharing of love

**May we be empowered to respond to God's grace-filled invitation. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Mark 12:38-44

## 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 *Why Did She Do It?*

Hymn MV 127 I Saw the Rich Ones (1L)

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

### THE OFFERING

Mission Minute *A Step Toward Peace*

(<https://united-church.ca/stories/step-toward-peace>)

The Invitation:

Sung Dedication VU518 verse 3

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Anthem : In the Singing, words by Shirley Erena Murray; Music I-to Loh

Celebration of Communion

*We Invite All to the Table*

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

**for they shall be filled.**

The God who promises life, and that in abundance, invites us to the table.

**Where we share in the abundance of life, where we practise living in the Kingdom of God.**

This table is God's Table. This table is open to all who seek to follow God's Way, to live as people of the Promise.

**Here we meet friend and stranger, and recognize all as family.**

Come and taste the grace eternal, come and see that God is good.

*We Give Thanks to God*

Children of God, lift up your hearts.

**Our hearts are lifted by God's Spirit in our midst.**

Inheritors of the Promise, sing songs of thanks.

**We sing our praises for what God has done in our midst.**

Partners in the Covenant, open your souls.

**To feel God moving among and within us, strengthening us to live out the covenant of life**

God of the Promise, from the beginning you have lived in relationship with your Creation.

**Walking in the primeval garden with Adam and Eve, speaking with their children and grandchildren.**

And as that relationship developed you made covenants, agreements about how we would live together.

**Promises made on both sides so that life would flourish as you hoped.**

And so we remember Noah and the rainbow

**Your sign that the world would not be washed away again, your reminder that we live in relationship.**

And we remember Abraham,

**The promise of land, of a mighty people, of a blessing to the world.**

And we remember Moses on the mountain,

**Where you renewed your relationship with your people, laying out a way they should live with each other, with their neighbours, and with you.**

As time went on, your people, your beloved children, did not remain faithful to the covenant.

**They forgot their promises, they did not live up to their side of the deal.**

But you remained faithful, you continued to hold up the possibility of the Promise, of the Covenant.

**And so you sent prophets and messengers, who reminded their neighbours about the Covenant and called them back to the path of wisdom.**

But still the people moved from the path, and so you chose a new path, a New Covenant.

**One that would not be shown by a bow in the clouds, or by a new land, or by laws and rules.**

This Covenant would be written on the hearts and souls of your people.

**To begin this covenant you chose a young woman in a small town, Mary of Nazareth.**

In her womb grew a child, who would be named Jesus.

**In his adulthood he would share the wonders of your love, the glory of your forgiveness, the possibility of your Reign.**

He would invite his friends and all who would follow them, including us, to participate in the New Covenant of Life and Love. As participants in the community of the faithful we echo the ancient cry:

**Holy, holy, holy God. source of power and light.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in your name.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

### *We Remember the Story*

As it would happen, the world was not ready for the message of Jesus.

**As he shared your vision and hope he challenged the way the world already operated,**

Which led those with power to move against him.

**He was arrested, tried, and executed.**

But that was not the end of the story, or of the New Covenant.

**You raised him, breaking the bonds of death, shattering the powers of the world.**

We remember that on the night before his death Jesus shared the feast of liberation with his friends. At that table he took bread, blessed it, broke it, and passed it to them saying:

**Take, eat, this is my body broken for you.**

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

**Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant. Whenever you eat and drink, remember me.**

We do remember. And as we remember we also remember the promise Jesus gave,

**the promise of a Comforter, of the Spirit, to sustain us always.**

Pour out that Spirit upon and among us God.

**May the Spirit move in this loaf and cup, in the sharing of this meal,  
transforming them, transforming us.**

And when our gathering is ended,

**Send us out with the fire of the Spirit in our souls, ready to live out the Covenant of Life and Love with  
all we meet, wherever we go.**

These things we pray in the name of Jesus, whose life, death, resurrection and passion write the words of the  
New Covenant on our hearts and souls, and who taught his friends to pray together saying...

**Our Father who art in heaven...**

*We Break and Pour and Share*

The Bread we share is the Bread of Life.

The Cup we share is the Cup of the New Covenant

These are signs of the Promise, from the God who gives us the Promise

**Thanks be to God.**

Hymn MV 147 God Help Us to Treasure (1L)

COMMISSIONING:

We have sung, we have prayed, we have broken bread together.

**Now we continue to live and serve as followers of Christ.**

In a world where the needs are so many, we may wonder what we have to give.

**We pledge to share what we can, big gifts or two small copper coins.**

As you go to share the love of God, trust that you are never alone.

May God be with you as you live, as you love, as you serve, and as you share.

**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](mailto:secretary@stpaulsuc.ca)**

**Sunday School: Your Name Here??**

**Youth Ministry: Holly Loughead Music Director: Alison White.**

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*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** –The revenue for the week ending on Sunday Oct 31<sup>st</sup> was encouraging – thank-you! Revenue for local expenses was 4,453 including Sunday offering, PAR, eTransfers, and rent. The budget for local expenses is 4,912 per week (annual budget divided by 52). “You are sent into this world to believe in yourself as God’s chosen one and then to help (others) know that they also are beloved (children) of God who belong together”. Henri Nouwen Let us be grateful for each other and for what each contributes to the life of our community of faith.  
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!

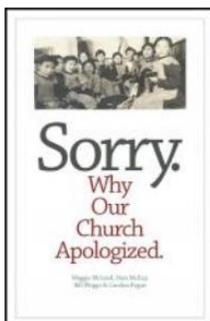
**We are in need of Scripture Readers and Door Greeters every Sunday.** Please sign the lists in the foyer if you would like to volunteer to help during the worship services.

This is **TIME AND TALENT AUCTION WEEK**: - don’t miss out. – the fun is over at 9:00 PM Saturday, November 13th

A promotional banner for the 4th Annual Online Time and Talent Auction. On the left, there is an illustration of a hand holding a smartphone displaying a clock. The text reads "4th Annual Online Time and Talent Auction". In the center, there is an illustration of a person standing on a globe. To the right, the text says "Ready.... Set... BID" with a computer mouse icon. Further right, it states "Auction Opens for Bidding: Sat., Nov 6th at 9 a.m." and "Bidding Closes: Sat., Nov 13th at 9 p.m.".

Register here.... and check out the items....[www.auctria.events/spuctimeandtalent](http://www.auctria.events/spuctimeandtalent)

**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.



### ***Sorry Why Our Church Apologized.***

This is the story of why the United Church people apologized for the suffering caused by Indian Residential Schools as written by Maggie McLeod, Stan McKay, Bill Phipps and Carolyn Pogue. There are a number of these in the narthex if you would like to borrow or take one.

You can also read it for free online here

[https://www.woodlakebooks.com/files/sorry\\_download\\_2015.pdf](https://www.woodlakebooks.com/files/sorry_download_2015.pdf)

There are also other books available **in the Library** for your reading pleasure that you may find inspirational, educational or useful for devotionals etc. Check it Out!

### **Scrapbooker Wanted. PLEASE:**

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 :)

### **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](mailto: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

### **LOOKING AHEAD:**

#### **Continuing in Hope: 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of United Church Women**

**The UCW turns 60 in 2022!** Registration is now open for the national 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration to be held **July 11-15**, in Sydney, Nova Scotia. For more information, or to register please see the Friday email for the link. Please note that registrations are limited to 22 participants from each Regional Council.

#### **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

Fri., Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> – 102 Street Stitchers – 10 am – 3 pm

#### **Festival of Trees – Runs Thu. Nov 25<sup>th</sup> to Mon. Nov 28<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Seniors Day – Friday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> – 10 am to 6 pm**

To purchase tickets, go to <https://www.festivaloftreesgp.ca>

You must also purchase a General Admission ticket to enter the facility

Seniors are free but still require a ticket sold at \$0.

Support the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Foundation...

<https://gphospitalfoundation.ca/the-festival-of-trees-is-happening/>

Sat. Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> – 10 am – decorating the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas