



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH  
November 5th, 2023

*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 MV12 Come Touch Our Hearts (verses 2,3) (1L)

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Voices of truth come to us,  
voices from ancient people of faith,  
voices from the history of the church,  
voices of the followers of Jesus in every part of the world today.  
**Each voice witnesses in its own way, opening to us one perspective on the reality of God at work through Jesus Christ. As we come to worship, may our voices be joined with theirs, in one great chorus of praise to the Holy One!**  
Let us worship God.

**The piano/organ duet during the prelude today is played in honour of Edna Sparkes, beloved grandmother and devoted organist at the Beaverlodge United Church for 58 years.**

Sanctus by Charles Gonoud is played by Laurie Anderson and Erika Sherk Dart. Erika and her gran, Edna, played Sanctus together for many years. Erika's mom Wendy also played the piano part with Edna on organ. Edna always said she wanted Sanctus played at her funeral, as she felt it represents life: starting very sweetly and quietly, with many highs and lows along the way, and turning quiet and gentle again at the end. Edna died in 2022 at 96 years old. Her funeral was held out of doors due to the pandemic. Erika is playing today in tribute to her gran, a very special person who is deeply missed here on earth.

(By Rod Sykes <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/>)

WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

We live in a time of turmoil.  
**It is hard to find peace in the world or in our hearts.**  
In this anxious time, we turn to the light of Christ to ground us, to guide us, to comfort us.  
**May this light be our peace, always. Amen.**

(Written by Beth W. Johnston <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/>)

OPENING PRAYER

For all the saints who went before us,  
who have spoken to our hearts, and touched us with your fire,  
**we praise you, O God.**  
For all the saints who live beside us  
whose weaknesses and strengths are woven with our own,  
**we praise you, O God.**  
For all the saints who live beyond us  
who challenge us, to change us, to change the world with them,  
**we praise you, O God. Amen.**

(Celebrate God's Presence p.214)

Gathering Hymn VU 710 Shall We Gather at the River (PD)

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

*Where Have You Seen God This Week?*

## A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

### 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 Prayer*

**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.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Hebrews 11:8-16, 32-12:2

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 *Who Is In Your Cloud?*

Hymn VU 705 For All the Saints (CCLI)

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

THE OFFERING

Mission & Service Story *Anti-Racism Learning, Reflection and Action*

(<https://united-church.ca/stories/anti-racism-learning-reflection-and-action>)

The Invitation:

Sung Dedication VU 544 In Gratitude and Humble Trust (1L)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of our ancestors, ourselves, and our children,

**as we live out our faith, surrounded and supported by our cloud of witnesses,**

we give thanks for all those who have gone before us:

**for their faithfulness to a new vision of what the world could be,**

**for the ways they passed on the story and the hope,**

**for the foundation they left for us to build on.**

And we give thanks for those people in our cloud who are still living:

**the ones who taught and teach us the stories of faith,**

**the ones who show us daily what it means to live as people of love,**

**the ones who give us hope for the future.**

God of our children, ourselves, and our ancestors, we sing songs of thankfulness and praise

**for the witnesses who have told, tell now, and will tell, the stories that reveal Your activity in the world.**

**for the clouds of people that have done, are now doing, and will do, things to increase the amount of faith, hope and love in the world;**

We offer these words in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

Hymn VU 707 For the Faithful Who Have Answered (1L)

COMMISSIONING:

Go from here both challenged and comforted by the Spirit!

Go from here surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses!

Go from here to praise your Maker while you have breath, and to love your neighbour as yourself!

**We go with God! Alleluia!**

(By Robin Wardlaw *Gathering: Pentecost 2 2020* p.51)

SUNG BENEDICTION: VU 424 May the God of Hope Go With Us (1L)

POSTLUDE

# Announcements

*Ministry by: The Congregation*

*Enabling Minister: Rev. Gord Waldie Church Office: Carla Johnson*

*Telephone: (780-532-2415) Email: [stpaulsucgp@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsucgp@gmail.com)*

*Sunday School: Your name here?*

*Youth Ministry: Your name here? 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!**

Regular Office Hours are Monday to Friday 9 am to 3 pm.  
but closed over the noon hour.

"Would you like a visit with Rev Gord? This can be easily arranged by contacting the office. Call Carla and she will arrange something for you " 780-532-2415



**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 to [stpaulsucgp@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsucgp@gmail.com) with the details.

**We are in need of Scripture Readers, and Door Greeters, and Coffee Hosts / Hostesses every Sunday.**

Please sign the lists in the foyer if you would like to volunteer to help on any given Sunday.

**Have you joined St. Paul's Recyclable program yet?** St. Paul's has an easy fundraiser to help with the Church renovations. Just 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. Check in with the cashier and let them know how many bags/boxes of bottles/cans you dropped off.

**At St. Paul's** the calendar is filling up as groups are starting to meet again. **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.** You can also check out our new calendar on the church website, to get an idea who else is in the building and in what room(s) to know if it will conflict with your plans. <https://74071685.view-events.com/calendar/74071685/>



Missing the choir? Do you have musical talent you could share with St Paul's.

We welcome the gifts of music!

Come talk to Alison after the service, we'd love to hear you!!

**Budget forms for 2024 have been distributed.** Please have them back in to the office by **November 30** so Stewardship and Finance can review the budget requests at their meeting on December 6.

**\*\*\* NEW \*\*\* Keep the Light(s) Burning Fundraiser** We are partnering with a company called Fundscrip to raise money for St Paul's General Fund by selling Gift Cards. There are over 170 retailers in Alberta that you can buy gift cards for. We thought we'd give it a try for November at least. If you buy gift cards for family, friends, co-workers, or employees this month buy them through us. **We will take orders until Sunday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> and the cards will be delivered by Sunday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>** in plenty of time for Christmas giving. The other thing you can do is buy gift cards for stores, restaurants, and purchases such as gas that you make all the time. They do not expire, and they spend just like cash. Take an order form for yourself and one for a neighbour, co-worker, family member or friend and let's see if we can raise enough to help decrease the deficit. You can print your own [order form](#) from here if you wish. If you have any questions feel free to ask Sharon Adams, Margaret Taylor or Betty McNaught.

### THIS COMING WEEK

**Sun., Nov 5<sup>th</sup> - after church - Congregational Information Meeting** – The St Paul's Future's Task Group will present their findings, along with details for some viable options, to the congregation. The November 5<sup>th</sup> YouTube meeting link is available at: <https://youtube.com/live/vkEvTjt0c2Q>

**Sun., Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm – Pioneer Lodge Seniors Service** - all are welcome

**Mon., Nov 6<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm - Council Meeting** in the Foyer

**Tues., Nov 7<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 – 8:30 pm – CGIT / Explorers**

**Tues., Nov 7<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm - Bible Study (on ZOOM until Dec 19, 2023.** The link and scriptures will be sent out in the Friday e-blast the week before and on Tuesdays.

**Thu., Nov 9<sup>nd</sup> – 10:30 am - Music Morning** Music fun for 2-4 year olds and their caregivers. Cost is \$5 per family per week.

**Thu., Nov 9<sup>nd</sup> - 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm – Embers** –in the small basement.

**Fri., Nov 10<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 am - 12 noon – 102 St Stitchers** – Come help with a toque, and mitten making project. Bring your scissors to help with cutting out the pieces, or help with the sewing, or donate any spare fleece you may have.

### LOOKING AHEAD

**Mon., Nov 20<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm - Council Meeting**

**Thurs., Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> - 7:30 pm - Calling all singers!!** Join us for Advent and Christmas anthem prep starting Thursday Nov 23 at 7:30 in the choir room! **Commitment to most Sundays in Advent and Christmas Eve service is required please.**

**Fri., Nov 24<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 – 8:30 pm – Pizza 'n' Games Night** – in the Friendship Room.

**Sun., Nov 26<sup>th</sup> – after church – Congregational Meeting** – To discuss / vote on our future plan options and move forward. You will need to be physically present to vote and the plan is that voting will be done by secret ballot.

**Sat., Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8:00 am - Property & Maintenance Team meeting**

**Sat., Dec 2nd - 10:00 am - Decorating the Church for Advent and Christmas.** The more volunteers we get the faster it will all get done :) Hope to see you there

**Sat. Dec. 2nd – 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm –Christmas Bake Sale and Carolling**

Save the date, invite your friends, Bake Sale will be in the Kid;s Corner and those that wish to visit, or sing along with the carols or just have a nice Advent music afternoon with a cup of tea or coffee can hang out in the Friendship Room. Donations of time and baking should be coordinated with Kathy Horrell, 780-832-8672. We will need someone to make and provide tea and coffee; someone to greet folks at the front door and direct them to the Kid's Corner and/or Friendship room.

**Sun., Dec 3rd - 10 am - First Sunday of Advent**

**Sun., Dec 3rd - CGIT Vesper Service** - save the date, more details next week.

**Mon., Dec 11th - UCW Christmas Potluck** - Doors will open at 6:00 supper at 6:30.

**Sun., Dec 17th - Compassionate Friends - 6:00 pm - Friendship Room**

**FINANCIAL DONATIONS**

*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 - [stpaulsucqp@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsucqp@gmail.com)*

*In the note field of your transaction request, please indicate your envelope number (if you have one) and what fund(s) you are wanting your donation to go to. You can split your donation between funds (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.*

**Offering Envelopes** - Making your donation using a set of offering envelopes is the easiest way to ensure you receive a tax receipt for your donation(s). 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 donation(s) so it can be accorded to the correct person

**Sign up for PAR** (Pre-Authorized Remittance)...just talk to Carla and she'll send you the form to fill out, or adjust the amount you wish to remit each month, at any time.

**Canada Helps** – You can also donate through Canada Helps. (Please note - These donations will be receipted by Canada Helps directly, not St Paul's United Church)

<https://stpaulsuc.ca/index.php/donate/>

