



**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**January 7, 2023 – Baptism of Jesus Sunday**  
*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 MV 122 This Is The Day (2x) (1L)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY

The land where we live and work is ours to use for a moment in time. This land has been home to many before us and will be home to many after us. Here in Grande Prairie we live and work on land shared under Treaty #8. It is the homeland of the Beaver and the Cree. Now we live together as treaty peoples.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS - Saint Lawrence Center - Jarred Gossen

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

May the Peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you**

We have been called together...

**Called by the One who Created us, called by the One who names us as Beloved Children.**

As we gather to worship together, we greet our Beloved sisters and brothers with signs and words of love and peace...

WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Jesus said "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. "

**As this candle light is set up high so all can see by its light, so may we shine in the world.**

As people of faith we centre ourselves for worship

OPENING PRAYER

God, where do I find myself  
when the Christmas angels disappear  
and no longer sing of peace and good will?

**When the shepherds go back to their flocks  
and the magi return to the east?**

**Where do I find myself now, when the Christ Child  
has outgrown his manger bed?**

Jesus calls us to join him at the River Jordan,  
to be baptized with him and receive the Holy Spirit.

**May I find myself at the river, beside Jesus, today. Amen.**

(Written by Fern Gibbard <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/>)

Gathering Hymn VU 99 Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized (1L)

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

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

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.**

#### *We Pray After the Sharing*

God of the rainbow, God of the promise, God of the table;

**we have broken the bread and shared the cup. We have tasted your goodness. We have shared the meal that ties us to each other and to you.**

God of the past, the present and the future;

**you have been faithful, you are faithful, you will be faithful. You will live out the covenant of life. May**

**we who have shared this meal, we who gather in community, be transformed by our gathering and our sharing, so that we too will live out the covenant of life. Amen.**

#### PRAYER FOR GRACE

God? Are you here?

**Would you remind us again of the promise you have made with us, and the promise we have made with you in baptism? Will you wash us again with your love?**

**So that we will be filled.**

**So that we will be Christ's body.**

**So that we will live the Spirit's love in a world that is broken.**

**Please. Let it be so. Amen.**

(Written by Richard Bott <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/>)

#### SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

#### 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 *Washed With Spirit*

Hymn VU 451 This Is the Spirit's Entry Now (1L)

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

#### THE OFFERING

Mission & Service Story *Learning the Gospel at Camp*

(<https://united-church.ca/stories/your-january-2024-mission-and-service-stories>)

The Invitation:

Sung Dedication MV 143 We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky (vs3) (1L)

*How Has God Touched Your Life This Week?*

Hymn VU 93 When Heaven's Bright with Mystery (1L)

#### COMMISSIONING:

Jesus came up out of the water of baptism  
and saw the heavens open  
and the Spirit descend upon him like a dove;  
as you leave this church, may you discover  
that the heavens have opened for you.  
May the presence of the Spirit light upon you  
and the world around you,  
so you might be both blessed  
and a part of God's blessing for the world. Amen.

(Written by Allan Warren <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/>)

SUNG BENEDICTION: VU 298 When You Walk From Here (3X) (1L)

#### POSTLUDE

# Announcements

*Ministry by: The Congregation*

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

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

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



**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/>

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

**Thinking About Financial Stewardship** – Revenue for local expenses in the period December 19<sup>th</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> is \$10,648.00 (includes PAR \$1814.00; Sunday and Christmas Eve offering and e-transfers).

“Happy New Year! Praise God! Give thanks! Give generously!”

UCC Stewardship Second

Thank you to our team of counters in 2023 – Sharon Adams, Lisa Gillis, and Sherida Rossol.

Martha for the Stewardship and Finance Team

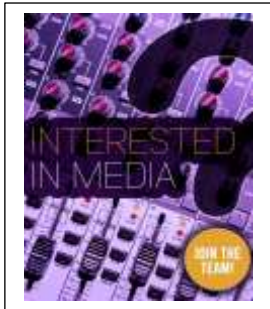


### Explorer's Blessing Bags

Supporting the Grande Prairie Friendship: The bags will be put together and delivered to GPFC in time for Valentine's Day. Centre Please take note of the donation box throughout January to collect the following recommended items

Warm socks, gloves, hats, for men and women  
Underwear for men and women  
Razors  
Pads/Tampons (personal pkgs)  
Brushes, combs  
Toothbrushes / Toothpaste

Lip Balm  
Tissue Packages  
Personal Size Wet Wipes  
Nutrition bars  
Dried Fruit / Nuts – indiv. Pkgs  
Ind. Pkg. peanut butter or cheese & crackers



**NEW AV TECH TEAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** We are in need of some more people for the Audio / Video Tech Team who livestream services and gatherings such as weddings or celebration of life events etc. Two of our team are away from January to March so now would be a good time to get some new folks trained to help with this ministry. If you are interested please talk to Sharon Adams, Bruce White, Nancy Magrum, Scott Maitland, or Gord Waldie. We'll make sure we find someone to show you the ropes on our sound board, cameras and video screens.

We are also always happy to train more folks on the PowerPoint assistant side of things too. Feel free to speak to Sharon Adams if you are more interested in helping on that team instead.

### THIS COMING WEEK

**Mon., Jan 8<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm – Handbell Practice**

**Tue., Jan 9<sup>th</sup> – Bible Study on Zoom – restarts** The link and scriptures will be sent out in the Friday e-blast the week before and on Tuesdays.

**Tues., Jan 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 – 8:30 pm – CGIT / Explorers**

**Jan 10<sup>th</sup>– 1:30 pm. – UCW AGM Meeting** in the Friendship Room

**Thu., Jan 11<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am - Music Morning** Music fun for 2-4 year olds and their caregivers. Cost is \$5 per family per week.

**Thu., Jan 11<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm – Embers** –in the small basement.

**Thu., Jan 11<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm – Pathfinders Discussion on ZOOM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8197056422?omn=87833080863> book a spot with Patti Stebbing 250-262-6173.

**Thu., Jan 11<sup>th</sup> – Newsletter Deadline for submissions** . Please let Sharon Adams know about any events others might be interested in; recipes to share; pictures of St Paul's events or people and your thoughts about the "theme" for this issue.

This year we are going to focus each issue on a different "Fruit of the Spirit".as described in Galatians 5:22-23. Our first issue will be themed on "LOVE"

***the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.***

**Fri., Jan 12<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 am – 12 noon – 102 St Stitchers** – in the Friendship Rm.

**Fri., Jan 12<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm – Sound Bath** – in Large Basement – NE doors open 6:45. Bring a mat, water and whatever else you need to feel comfortable lying or sitting ... Cost: donation ( suggested \$20)

### LOOKING AHEAD

**Sun. Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 11:30 am – Pathfinders Lunch ‘n’ Dialogue** book a spot with Patti Stebbing 250-262-6173.

**Tue., Jan 16<sup>th</sup> – 6: 00 pm - Compassionate Friends** in the Friendship Room

**Wed. Jan 17<sup>th</sup> - 12 noon – Pathfinders Lunch ‘n’ Dialogue** book a spot with Patti Stebbing 250-262-6173.

**Thu., Jan 18<sup>th</sup> – Wed. Jan 25<sup>th</sup> – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

**Fri., Jan 26<sup>th</sup> – Pizza ‘n’ Games 5:30 – 8:30** in the Friendship Room  
Pizza \$2 / slice; Canned beverages \$1. Then stay for conversation and / or games.

**Sun., Jan 28<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm – Labyrinth Walk**

### **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/>

