



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
February 4th, 2024

*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 MV122 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.

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come! Come you who are wounded and you who are whole!

We come bearing our wounds and scars, we come to worship.

Come! Come to hear about the one who is known to be a healer .

We come to sing and to pray, to feel God's healing love in our lives.

Come! Come young and old, come and take your place as members of the family of God.

We come to worship with our brothers and sisters.

Let us greet each other with words and signs of Christ's 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 who does not faint or grow weary, Source of life and renewal and wholeness,

we come together today, some of us full of energy and some of us full of weariness.

As we sing, pray, listen, and eat together today,

renew our strength, help us rise as on wings of eagles, energize us to be who you formed us to be.

And when we leave this time of worship,

may we carry the promise of healing and renewal to a world that is often tired and wounded.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who brings healing and renewal to our lives.

Amen

Gathering Hymn MV144 Like a Healing Stream (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

God be with you.

And also with you.

Open your hearts.

We open them to the Holy.

We give thanks to God.

It is good to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks Maker of all, for through your gift you have formed us as part of your wonderful creation. Together with all you have made, we share the beauty of this, our home. We join with all creation in this act of worship, joining their chorus of thanksgiving and praise. We give thanks for the land which nurtures our food, fertile fields and abundant orchards. We give thanks for the prairies and rolling hills, the mountains and high valleys, the meadows of wild flowers and summits of silence.

We give thanks for the oceans and rivers that nourish us with life-giving water, the rains that fall upon our gardens and fields. We give thanks for the forests, for the great trees reaching out to the sky and pushing their roots deep into the ground – the aspen and birch, the spruce, fir and pine.

We rejoice and join the creatures of the farm, field and forests, the rivers, seas and sky in their act of praise – horses, wolves and deer, the chicken and eagle, the trout, whales and salmon.

We rejoice and give thanks as we remember those who have lived on this earth before us, our ancestors and friends; as we join with all who share this earth today; as we pray with hope for future generations from whom we borrow this land.

We rejoice and give thanks, joining in the hymn of all creation, both on earth and in heaven, calling out your praise:

**Holy, holy holy, God,
maker of heaven and earth,
all creation shines with your presence
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in God's name
Hosanna in the highest.**

We give thanks, Creator God, for the words of prophets and sages who taught your way of justice and peace, stewardship and love, who called us to tend the earth and care for each other.

We give thanks most of all for your Beloved Child Jesus, remembering how he dreamed the best for us and this earth which we share. At his invitation, we consider the lilies of the field and birds of the air. They neither spin nor sow. Yet they are blessed.

If like them you gave us only life, that would be enough.

Yet we are blessed with far more than we need

– enough to feed all the earth's people.

We remember the lilies and birds, and hear Jesus' invitation to care for all creation, to look after one another.

This is what he taught as he reached out to all people with a message of love, extending your compassion and caring for all.

**For this he was betrayed and abandoned;
killed for his outspoken commitment to life.**

And so we remember how on the night before his death, he gathered with his friends to give thanks for life, to celebrate his commitment to love.

He took bread and, after giving you thanks, gave it to them saying:

"Take this all of you and eat it. This is my body broken for all."

In the same way he took the cup of wine and gave it to them saying,

“This is the cup of blessing, sign of the new covenant. Whenever you do this, remember me.”

In this meal we remember the love and truth that flowed from Jesus’ words and actions, a love and truth that continues to flow through all creation. In sharing this bread and wine we give thanks for all life, for Jesus and his way of peace and compassion, for his call to us to share what we have and welcome all in your love.

Loving Creator, bless these simple gifts, fruit of the field and fruit of the vine. Send your Spirit upon us and these gifts that in sharing this meal, we may be a community concerned for all the earth, committed anew to it and all people.

Holy One we give you praise: Creator God, we praise you, through Your Word made flesh, in the power of your life-giving Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

And now, as children of a loving Parent, we share the words that Jesus taught his friends. **Our Father...**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Bread of life, broken in union with the brokenness of the world.

Cup of blessing, poured out as an act of hope.

Sacred meal, shared in commitment to the way of truth and love.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer after Communion:

We give thanks for bread for the journey, for your wisdom guiding us along the way. May there be friends to share the road as we dare to dream of creation renewed, and hope in the promise of justice for all. Amen.

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SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 40:28-31

Mark 1: 21-45

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 *The Healer, the Renewer*

Hymn MV 82 Bathe Me In Your Light (1L)

How Has God Touched Your Life This Week?

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

THE OFFERING

Mission & Service Story *Lessons About Racism Learned When Young*

(<https://united-church.ca/stories/lessons-racism-learned-when-young>)

The Invitation:

Sung Dedication MV143 We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky (vs3)

PRAYER FOR HEALING & RENEWAL

God of life, God of our broken-ness, God of wholeness,

we come in search of healing.

In a world of idols and demons,

we admit that there are things which take hold of us, which possess our minds, which control our lives.

And so we seek to be set free so that we could be who you call us to be,

we seek to be made whole, to have our broken parts mended, to have our strength renewed.

God of healing and wholeness, God who the demons recognize and obey,

set us free, release from those things that possess us, cast out our demons, that we would be more able and willing to follow the Way.

These things we pray in the name of the Great Physician, Jesus of Nazareth,
Our healer, our guide, our Saviour, the one we know as Christ. Amen.

Hymn MV 98 Like a River of Tears (1L)

COMMISSIONING:

God has gathered us together to worship this morning.

Now God is sending us back out to serve the world.

God calls us to embrace the energy of wholeness and healing.

And also to carry healing and wholeness to the world at large.

So go, filled with the hope of God, ready to proclaim that healing is possible, that we are not alone, that we are loved and accepted.

We go with opened eyes, ready to see the world as God sees it, ready to be agents of God's love.

As you go out into the world this week, may you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet.

And may everyone we meet see the face of Christ in us. AMEN

SUNG BENEDICTION: VU 298 When You Walk From Here (2X) (1L)

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Ministry by: The Congregation

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

Telephone: (780-532-2415) Email: stpaulsucqp@gmail.com

Sunday School: Your name here?

Youth Ministry: Your name here? 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"

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

Thinking About Financial Stewardship – Revenue for local expenses in the week ending January 28th is \$3,735 (includes PAR, Sunday offering, and e-transfers). To meet the budget, we need \$5,231 (total budget divided by 52) "Healing was one of Jesus' gifts. Much gratitude to all who care and heal...sharing your energy, skill, and time is noble and necessary" (UCC Stewardship Second) The 2023 total to Mission and Service was \$24,360. This includes \$1,000 contributed from UCW. Thank you so much for helping us come close to our commitment of \$25,000.
Martha for the Stewardship and Finance Team.

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.

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 with the details.

JOIN US....after worship SUNDAY to hear the latest information that our hard-working Pathfinders Task Group has for us on options to consider going forward. Coffee time is in the sanctuary.



“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

FUNDSCRIP – Gift Card Orders – All Year Fundraiser - We are proposing submitting an order every couple of months for those that are interested in ordering more Gift Cards for everyday food, gas, eating out, clothing retailers etc, to help St Paul's raise money by getting a percentage of the gift card value for our church. Order forms are available on our website, at the back of the sanctuary or from the office.

Next order will be going in Sun., February 25th. Gift Cards will be here March 3rd.

This is open to you and your neighbours and friends, as a way to buy gift cards but also support a local charity, St Paul's.

Feel free to just email us the order details: for example...1- \$100.00 Extra Foods; 2 - \$10 A&W; 2 - \$25 Canadian Tire – Total \$170.00 or submit an order form indicating the amounts and values. Send a payment by cheque, or e-transfer indicating Fundscrip order.

If you have any questions feel free to talk to Margaret Taylor 780-882-3803, or Sharon Adams 587-297-1570.

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 quite busy. **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 online 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/>

LAST CHANCE TO DONATE – THIS SUNDAY



Explorer's Blessing Bags

Supporting the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre Please take note of the donation box through January to collect the following recommended items:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Warm socks, gloves, hats, for men and women | Lip Balm |
| Underwear for men and women | Tissue Packages |
| Razors | Personal Size Wet Wipes |
| Pads/Tampons (personal pkgs) | Nutrition bars |
| Brushes, combs | Dried Fruit / Nuts – indiv. Pkgs |
| Toothbrushes / Toothpaste | Ind. Pkg. peanut butter or cheese & crackers |

If you would prefer to make a financial donation please drop off a cheque or e-transfer the church stpaulsucgp@gmail.com and indicate that your donation is for the Explorer's Blessing Bag project. **Donation Deadline is February 4th.**

THIS COMING WEEK

Monday, February 5th , 2024 . Ministry Team Narrative Reports due!

Mon., Feb 5th – 1pm – 4 pm – Pie and Crisp Making Bee - Bring your rolling pins to help with pies or work on the crisps. Happy to see all volunteers downstairs that day!

Mon., Feb 5th - 7:00 pm – Handbell Practice

Tue., Feb 6th – Bible Study on Zoom –The link and scriptures will be sent out in the Friday e-blast the week before and on Tuesdays.

Tues., Feb 6th – 7:00 – 8:30 pm – CGIT / Explorers

Wed., Feb 7th – 1:30 pm - UCW Meeting – See you in the Friendship Room

Thu., Feb 8th – 10:30 am - Music Mornings Music fun for 2-4 year olds and their caregivers. Cost is \$5 per family per week.

Thu., Feb 8th - 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm – Embers –in the small basement

Fri., Feb 9th – 9am – 12 noon – 102nd Street Stitchers – See you in the Friendship Room to work on a project, bring your own knitting, crocheting or stitching project to work on, get help with a sewing problem, or just drop in for a coffee.

LOOKING AHEAD

Wed., Feb 14th – 10:00 am - 11:30 am - Stephen Lewis – Grandmothers to Grandmothers Muffin Morning



The annual coffee and muffins party hosted by the UCW will be held Wednesday, February 14th at 10:00 a.m. This will be the 15th fund raiser the St Paul's United UCW has had in support of the Stephen Lewis Grandmothers to Grandmothers' campaign! Please plan to attend and bring a friend. Bring your Valentine.

Wed., Feb 21st – 1:30 pm – Coffee's On - See you in the Friendship Room, to chat or puzzle and visit.

Fri., Feb 23rd – 5:30 – 8:30 pm – Pizza n Games Night – in the Friendship Room

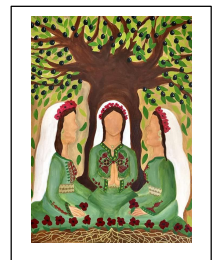


Are you a music maker, a dancer, an orator, a magician, a clown? Do you like to tell jokes, use puppets, perform skits? Then we want you to share your skills at

“St. Paul's and Friends Talents Unleashed”. **Friday, March 15 @ 7:30pm**

Entry deadline: March 1 to Paula Anderson 587-343-0878 or Karen Scott 780-933-4055

Friday, March 1st – 7:00 pm – World Day of Prayer. St Paul's is hosting the other churches this year. The service was written by the women of Palestine. The theme scripture is: Ephesians 4:1-3 *I beg you.....bear with one another in love.*



Sun., Mar 3rd – Annual Congregational Meeting - after church in the Sanctuary.

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 - stpaulsucgp@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/>