

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
September 15, 2024

*Through Faith, we walk on the path Jesus set for us.
The people of St. Paul's Belong... Believe... Love... Listen... Lead.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME MV2 Come All You People (2x) (1L)

WORDS OF WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us enter this place together, ready to worship with thanksgiving for the abundance of God that we experience every day.

God gave us a wide and wondrous world in which to live.

Here, in this holy place, in community, surrounded by the wonders of God's glorious Creation, we will worship with prayer, song, hearts, and minds.

This is the day that God has made! Let us rejoice and be glad!

(Written by Allison Abbott-Wiebe <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer>)

WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

In the beginning God spoke into the chaos and said: "Let there be light"

And there was light.

We light this candle to remind us that the light called forth by God continues to shine in God's Creation

As we watch it glow may we grow in wisdom and love.

As people of God we centre ourselves for worship

OPENING PRAYER

What are we without you, O God?

**A puff of smoke that dissipates,
a blade of grass amongst millions.**

Who will remember us in a hundred or a thousand years?

We cast these thoughts aside when we embrace the fact that you, the Creator of all, know every hair on our head and love us as your own.

You have created the seen and the unseen.

You are within us by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

You are immersed in and surround all things.

We live in a holy place.

Continually remind us of the lessons of Christ. Help us remember that a million years is a second to you and a billion people are one to you, and that every creature is precious to you.

Let us hold tightly to the fact that you love us and all of creation unconditionally and eternally. Amen.

(Written by Tom Walking <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer>)

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering Hymn MV163 River Running in You and Me (CCLI)

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

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God, the old stories tell us that we are to have dominion over the earth.

And we have interpreted that as freedom to treat Creation as a tool that can be bent to our purposes.

The old stories also tell us about a covenant between God and Humanity, a promise for all time that You will not destroy the earth.

But we have not always lived up to our part. We have not always been good caretakers of Your Creation.

Our current stories encourage us to change our approach to life.

However, sometimes those stories leave us feeling nothing but hopelessness and guilt.

We need to find the balance point.

Help us learn how to live where human activity can continue and also Creation can be protected.

Help us learn from the mistakes from the past.

Help us move past the guilt even as we acknowledge our mis-steps.

...time of silent prayer...

The God who Created is also the God who is Creating. Creating new opportunities, creating new life, forgiving the past in hope for the future. We are a forgiven people!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Genesis 2:4b-22

Psalms 104:14-23

SERMON *How Important Are We?*

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)

How Has the Creator Touched Your Life this Week?

Hymn VU27 Creator God You Gave Us Life (1L)

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

THE OFFERING

Mission & Service Story *A Journey of Faith and Peace*

(<https://united-church.ca/stories/journey-faith-and-peace>)

The Invitation:

Sung Dedication VU537 Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands (PD)

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Hymn VU307 Touch the Earth Lightly (1L)

COMMISSIONING:

God looks upon Creation and says it is good.

You are not a being that exists outside of Creation;

you are a part of God's creation, made from the soil of the good earth.

God looks upon you and says you are good.

Go from this place, knowing you have found favour in God's eyes.

Return to God's world to live in harmony and balance within the web of life the Creator has placed us in. **Amen.**

(Written by Taylor Croissant <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer>)

SUNG BENEDICTION: Go Gently Go Lightly (1L)

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Ministry by: The Congregation

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

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

Sunday School: Lori Ellis, Susan K Thomson

Youth Ministry: Valerie Jenner 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.

“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 every Sunday. Please sign the lists in the foyer if you would like to volunteer to help during the worship services.

Thinking About Financial Stewardship – Revenue for local expenses in the week ending September 8th is \$2,862 (includes PAR, Sunday offering and eTransfers). To meet the budget, we need \$5,247 (total budget divided by 52) “Jesus came that we might have life and have it in abundance. We honour Jesus when we share our abundance with others. (UCC Stewardship Second) Thank you for supporting the mission of St. Paul’s so that as a community of faith we may share generously. Martha for the Stewardship and Finance Team.

Planned Giving in the United Church -You are invited to think about financial stewardship at a special presentation on “Planned Giving” with Vicki Nelson, Stewardship Support person for the Prairie Regions of the United Church of Canada on Sunday October 6th after worship. A sandwich lunch will be provided by our UCW in the large basement. Please come and enjoy a light lunch and learn about how you may give a lasting legacy gift to St. Paul’s. The presentation is via Zoom and arranged for by your Stewardship and Finance Team. (Please note there will be no coffee in the Friendship Room that Sunday; A free will offering is invited.)

THIS COMING WEEK

Sun., Sept 15 – 7:00 pm – Handbell Practice - We are currently looking for a new member to join our choir, and we also need substitutes. If you or someone you know is interested, please let us know!

Additionally, if there is enough interest, we are considering launching a junior/beginner handbell group. This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone who wants to learn and participate in our musical ministry. Come join us as we ring in the new season!

Tue. Sept 17th – 7:00 – 8:30 pm - CGIT / Explorers

Wed., Sept 18th - 7:00 pm Council Meeting - in the Kids Corner

Thur., Sept 19th - 10:30 am - Music Morning - in the Kids Corner

Sat., Sept 21st - 8:00 am - Property and Maintenance Meeting

Sat., Sept 21st - 1:00 pm - Pet Blessing service at Christ Church Anglican

The Newsletter is currently on hold, and we are unsure when the next issue will be released. We apologize for the inconvenience. Thank you for your understanding. Sharon Adams

LOOKING AHEAD

Mon., Sept 23rd – 7:00 pm – Building Transition Task Group

Fri., Sept 27th – Pizza N Games – 5:30 pm – in the Friendship Room

Fri., Oct. 4th – 7:00 pm - Yee Haw – The Scott Woods Show

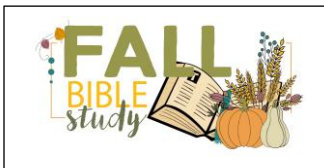
Tickets are available through the church office now by cheque, cash, or e-transfer. Price is \$45.00.

The Scott Woods Show changes to a brand new theme every year and consistently delivers quality, family entertainment with plenty of variety including trick fiddling, step dancing, old time country & Gospel music, inspirational stories and home spun family humour.

Come and bring your neighbours.

Thu., Oct 10th – 7:30 pm - Choir begins again. YEAH

September is nigh! Which means it is time to talk about **Bible Study**.



For the last few years we have done an online (via Zoom) study looking at the readings for the coming Sunday. The online format has allowed folk from outside GP to join us. Tuesday evenings have worked well in the past and is the plan at this point again.

If there is interest (and we can find a time that works) There is a chance of having an in-person version of that study as well.

Let Gord know if you are interested.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

THIS CAME IN FROM GPFCjust wondering if we would be interested as a congregation in adopting a tree for \$450.00.

If yes, please put your donation towards it in a Local Outreach envelope and write "Adopt a Tree" on the outside so we know it is for this program; or send an e-transfer with a note saying it is for "Adopt a Tree".

Your Outreach, Social Justice and Affirming Team.



Traditional Healing Garden Adopt a Tree Program

Join us in preserving the environment & promoting the healing power of nature by adopting a tree for our Traditional Healing Garden. By taking part in this initiative, your company can make a meaningful impact on the well-being of our community & contribute to a sustainable future.

- * FOSTER ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
- * PROMOTE TRADITIONAL HEALING
- * ENHANCE CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
- * RECOGNITION & BRAND EXPOSURE

Together, let's create a greener, healthier, and harmonious community for generations to come

Adoption fee \$450.00

Includes plaque & photo opportunity

Payment can be done by cheque to Grande Prairie Friendship Centre memo Garden or by e-transfer gpfcpayment@gmail.com with Password: Friend include memo Garden



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 (stpaulsucgp@gmail.com) with your new details so we can keep our records up to date! Thank you!.

Do you have a special family member you'd like to celebrate by creating an LED slide to commemorate the occasion. We can post the slide for a day or a week.

We can include a picture, or just have a generic slide with their name and their school logo and colours. Contact the office with the details of the occasion.... A birthday, a graduation, a special milestone and how long you'd like the slide to be up and the date(s) you

want it to run. Do they have a favourite animal, colour, or “passion” that we can use to personalize the slide?

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

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/>

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

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/>

