

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

September 29, 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

Our faith story begins in a garden

where God set humanity to grow and flourish.

Our faith story ends in a garden

a return to paradise, where we can grow and flourish.

God the Gardener invites us to come together,

to sing and to pray, to listen and to speak, to grow together in faith

As we respond to Go's invitation let us greet our neighbours with words and signs of Christ's peace

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

Creator God, as we gather, your greatness is all around us. We come with gratitude for your love, mercy, and compassion offered freely for all. We praise you and give you thanks that you are faithful in your promises. You have plenished the earth enough so that all will be satisfied. We thank you for the harvest of our gardens and crops that feed us.

We come to you, O God, with praise and thanksgiving for your promises of enough for all. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

(Written by Irma Nadeau <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer>, Adapted)

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering Hymn VU296 This is God's Wondrous World (PD)

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

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

PRAYER FOR & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God of life, in the beginning, you gave us a garden.

Where the tree of life grew. Where we were invited to live in community with you and all creation.

In the end, in the midst of the New Jerusalem, there will be a garden.

Where the tree of life will grow. Where the river of life will flow. Where we are welcomed back into paradise.

In between we search for the garden.

Looking for signs of paradise in a world where paradise sometimes seems far from real.

Gardener God,

In grace lead us to find the gardens in our lives, reveal where paradise lies waiting to be found.

And when that seems impossible,

remind us of another garden,

where your grace and power were revealed in the face of death and disaster,
where resurrection returned paradise to the world.

Gracious God, reveal your grace and power and life to us
throughout our lives. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Genesis 8:1-22

Revelation 22:1-5

SERMON *Paradise is a Garden?*

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 VU295 The Earth and All Who Breathe (1L)

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

THE OFFERING

Planned Giving – What is That?

The Invitation:

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

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Hymn MV135 Called By Earth and Sky (1L)

COMMISSIONING:

Be a gardener for creation.

Dig, toil, and sweat, and turn the earth upside down,
seek the deepness, and water the plants in time.

Continue this labour, and make sweet floods to run,
and noble and abundant fruits to spring.

Then take this food, drink, and beauty,
and carry it to God as your true worship.

(by Julian of Norwich, *Celebrate God's Presence* p.623)

SUNG BENEDICTION: Go Gently Go Lightly (1L)

POSTLUDE

Thinking About Financial Stewardship – Revenue for local expenses in the week ending September 22 is \$2,627 (includes PAR, Sunday offering, rent, and eTransfers). Last week we received a payment on the annual lease of Cards Café of \$8,100. The annual amount is \$24,605. To meet the budget, we need \$5,247 (total budget divided by 52) “We are all recipients of the gifts others have made. May we all be givers too” UCC Stewardship Seconds Thank you for supporting the mission of St. Paul’s through your gifts of energy, experience, and money .

Martha for the Stewardship and Finance Team.

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.

Announcements

Ministry by: The Congregation

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

Telephone: (780-532-2415) Email: stpaulsucqp@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

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".

We have raised \$397.21 so far!

Your Outreach, Social Justice and Affirming Team.

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/>

THIS COMING WEEK

Sun., Sept 29 – 9 am – Jr Handbell Practice

Sun., Sept 29 – 7:00 pm – Handbell Practice

Come join us as we ring in the new season!

Tue. Oct 1 – 7:00 – 8:30 pm - CGIT / Explorers

Tue., Oct 1 – 7:00 pm - Bible Study on Zoom

Wed., Oct 2nd - 1:30 pm - United Church Women - Join us in the Friendship for a time of fellowship and reflection.

Thur., Oct 3 - 10:30 am - Music Morning - in the Kids Corner

Thurs., Oct 3 – 6:30 pm – Embers – in the Friendship Room

Thu., Oct 3rd – 7:30 pm - Choir begins again. All voices welcome, please join us as you are able.

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.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sun., Oct 6th - After church - Planned Giving Workshop - 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.)

Sun., Oct 6th - Fundscrip Orders Due Today!

Please make sure to submit your orders to **Margaret Taylor** by the end of today.

October Fundscrip Specials:

- **Chapters, Coles, Indigo, Simons**
Regular 5%, now 7%
- **Walmart**
Regular 3%, now 3.5%

Support our church while you shop! Thank you for participating.

Fri., Oct 11th - 9 am to 12 noon - 102nd Street Stitchers - Stop in and help with a project; bring your own project or just come for coffee.

Fri., Oct 18th - 7 pm - Sound Bath - In the large basement

Sat., Oct 19th - afternoon - Heritage Tea - In the Friendship Room - more details to follow.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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!

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/>

