



**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**January 12, 2025**



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

PRELUDE

WELCOME VU78 Sing till Sundown (1L)

WORDS OF WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning, the Spirit of God moved over the primordial waters

**as God spoke Creation into being**

At the Jordan, as Jesus emerged from the water, the Spirit descended as a dove

**as God affirmed Jesus as Beloved, as one we should listen to.**

Here, in this place, God's Spirit invites us to gather,

**that we would be renewed, filled with the Holy Spirit, as God reminds us who and whose we are.**

Let us sing and pray together as God moves within this community.

WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

As we greet one another with the words "The peace of Christ be with you," may we discover the Spirit of God naming and blessing us with the promise and hope of the Holy Spirit.

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

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

**The Magi followed a star leading them to the Light of the World**

**The candle flame reminds us that the Light of the World is in our midst**

Gathered as people who are drawn to the light, 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/>)

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering Hymn VU 388 Spirit Dancing (1L)

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

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART *God Knows Our Name and Loves Us* (Isaiah 43)

PRAYER FOR & ASSURANCE OF 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 8:14-17

Luke 3:21-22

SERMON *Spirit-Filled*

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)

Hymn To the River Jesus Journeyed Tune VU 374 (1L)

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

THE OFFERING

Mission & Service Story *Faith In Action: Empowering Global Peace*

(<https://united-church.ca/stories/faith-action-empowering-global-peace>)

The Invitation:

Sung Dedication VU93 When Heaven's Bright with Mystery verse 4 (1L)

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Hymn VU 87 I Am the Light of the World (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 VU82 A Light is Gleaming vss3, 4 (CCLI)

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: Lori Ellis, Susan K Thomson**

**Youth Ministry: Valerie Jenner    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: Mon–Fri, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
(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.

**“Your Giving Matters”** – Revenues for local expenses for the second half of December are; week ending December 15 - \$5454; Christmas Eve offering - \$1788; from December 16 to 31 - \$9,907 (includes PAR, Sunday offering, rent and E-Transfers); for week ending January 5 - \$3,288 (Sunday offering and PAR); Cards rent - \$4,050. ‘Trusting in God’s abundance by sharing generously helps generate a culture of love and good deeds’. (UCC Stewardship Seconds) Thank you for believing that your giving matters!  
Martha for the Stewardship and Finance Team.

**Newsletter Editor & Contributors Needed!** Are you gifted in putting words and pictures together? We’re looking for a Newsletter Editor for 2025 to share all the exciting events, activities, and goings-on for St. Paul’s United Church. You’ll work closely with our Communications Team, who are ready to support you every step of the way!

If you’re interested or would like more details, please contact Carla in the church office.

Going to an event? We would also love people to contribute photos and/or individual write ups! Share them with us at [communications@stpaulsuc.ca](mailto:communications@stpaulsuc.ca)

**What questions do you have about being a disciple of Jesus?** What does it mean to be a member of the church? I know there are people out there who are interested in exploring these questions so Gord is inviting us to get together and explore them together with the aim of welcoming new members and/or renewing our faith promises in the spring, possibly on Easter Sunday. Let Gord know if you are interested and what day of the week would work best for us to get together.

**Coming Up This Week**

**Sun., Jan 12<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm – Handbell Practice**

**Tue., Jan 14<sup>th</sup> – Bible Study on Zoom – restarts** The link and scriptures will be sent out on Tuesdays morning.

**Tues., Jan 14<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 – 8:30 pm – CGIT / Explorers**

**Jan 15<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm. – Council Meeting** in the Kids Corner

**Thu., Jan 16<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 16<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm – Embers** –in the Friendship Room

**Mon., Jan 20<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 am – 4:00 pm -** The UCW and 102 Street Stitchers invite you to a workshop on, to create and finish items for **Days for Girls**.

We'll be working with scrap flannel and quilting cottons, focusing on cutting, sewing, and placing snaps on products that will be passed on to the local Days for Girls leader in Grande Prairie.

**No sewing experience is required!** If you'd like to sew, we have an older sewing machine available, or you're welcome to bring your own machine or serger. We also need a team for snap placement and everyone will take part in quality control.

We'll share a **potluck lunch**, with coffee and tea provided. Bringing food isn't necessary, as a few of us will handle this part of our outreach mission to support the community.

Feel free to bring a friend and join us, whether you're active in the UCW or not. Let's come together to make a difference in the new year!

**Looking forward to seeing you,**

Heather Fedoruk

**102 Street Stitchers**

#### **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](mailto: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?

#### **ATTENTION ALL HOUSEHOLDS**

##### **Have you joined St. Paul's Recyclable program yet?**

St. Paul's has an easy fund raiser to help with the Church renovations. All you need to do is 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 a recycling depot.

**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/>

## **PowerPoint Tech Help Needed!**

Do you enjoy technology or want to lend a helping hand on Sunday mornings? We're looking for volunteers to assist with running the PowerPoint slides during our worship services.

- **No experience necessary** – we'll provide all the training you need!
- A great way to serve and be part of our worship team.
- Perfect for teens, adults, or anyone eager to help.

**Interested?** Contact the Church office - Thank you for considering this opportunity to support our church community!

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## **Financial Donations**

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Interac e-Transfer is a simple, secure way to give directly to St. Paul's United Church.

- **Email for e-Transfers:** stpaulsucgp@gmail.com
- **Note Field:** Indicate your envelope number (if applicable) and the fund(s) your donation supports. For example:
  - \$25 GF (General Fund)
  - \$50 MS (Mission and Service)
  - \$25 OU (Outreach)

### **Fund Codes:**

- **GF:** General Fund
- **MS:** Mission and Service
- **CA:** Capital Fund
- **OU:** Outreach

*Donations without a fund code will default to the General Fund.*

### **Other Ways to Give:**

- **Offering Envelopes:** Contact Carla for envelopes to ensure your donations are receipted.
- **PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance):** Sign up or adjust your giving anytime by contacting Carla.
- **Canada Helps:** Donate online at [Canada Helps](#) (*Receipts issued by Canada Helps*).