



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
February 2, 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 Open Wide the Church's Door (vss 1, 3, 5) (1L)

WORDS OF WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

It is good to gather with friends

who know and accept us as people of faith.

It is good to gather with enemies

who seek the meaning and purpose of life.

It is good to gather with neighbours

who wish to make a difference in our world.

Friends, let us worship!

(By Karen Boivin <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/>, adapted)

WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

God is here! Among us, within us, bringing Light to our lives!

We light this candle to remind us of God's Light that can never be extinguished.

Gathered as people who are drawn to the light, we centre ourselves for worship.

OPENING PRAYER

**Gracious God, who creates, sustains, and redeems all life,
we come seeking your disturbing presence and comforting peace.**

We praise you for the joy of being your people.

May your Spirit be with us and move within us, in this time of worship.

Give us hearts that hear your Word,

and minds that are open to the transforming power of your love. Amen

(Celebrate God's Presence p.29)

Gathering Hymn VU477 I Come With Joy (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.

(©2009 Rev. James Ravenscroft St. Albert United Church, Adapted)

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Luke 4:21-30

SERMON *How Dare You?!?*

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 VU700 God of Freedom, God of Justice (1L)

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

THE OFFERING

Mission & Service Story *A Classroom of Care*

(<https://united-church.ca/stories/classroom-care>)

The Invitation:

Sung Dedication Take My Gifts (vss 1,3) (1L)

PRAYER FOR & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God, you share with us words of hope, words of Good News.

But sometimes we are unable to hear them because the source is too familiar.

You call us to share the Good News with those around us.

But sometimes we are unable to share, because the people know us too well.

You encourage us to send messengers to other places where they will be heard better.

But we can be jealous, wanting the Good News to be for us, not them.

In the multitude of ways we can and have subverted your message of freedom and healing, in all the ways we have kept the Jubilee year from happening,

we have left the path of true wisdom and call upon your Grace to lead us back on track.

...time of silent prayer...

This is the time of God's favour, God's grace continues to proclaim release to the captives, sight to the blind, Good News to the poor and freedom to the oppressed. We live as loved, forgiven and free people through the grace of God!

HALLELUJAH!!! Amen.

Hymn VU626 I Heard the Voice of Jesus (PD)

COMMISSIONING

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us!

We have been called, we have been anointed, we have been given a task.

So go out from this place into the mission field that is the world.

We go carrying Good News to the world, News about freedom from oppression and healing for the afflicted.

The time of the Lord's favour is now!

Hallelujah! Amen.

SUNG BENEDICTION I Wish You the Blessing (2x) (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: 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

Your 2024 tax receipts are ready for pick-up today! Help us save on postage (and brighten our morning) by grabbing yours before you head out. They're available in the foyer. Any receipts not picked up by February 26th will be mailed, but we'd much prefer to see your smiling faces today. Thank you, and have a wonderful Sunday

"Your Giving Matters" – Revenue for local expenses in the week ending January 26th is \$2,633 (receipted offerings). We need \$5,247 (total 2024 budget divided by 52). "Let us challenge ourselves to see the unended width and breadth of God's mercy "(Gord's Early Thoughts) and to take action – your giving matters!
Martha for the Stewardship and Finance Team.

Call for Submissions: Next Newsletter Theme – “Kindness”

You are welcome to submit contributions for the upcoming edition of our newsletter, as we explore Paul's list of the *fruit of the Spirit* from Galatians 5:22–23. This edition focuses on *kindness*—a beautiful and transformative quality that reflects God's love in action.

Galatians 5:22–23

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

We welcome articles, reflections, poems, prayers, or creative expressions inspired by *kindness*. How have you experienced kindness in your life? How can we embody kindness in our relationships, communities, and beyond?

Deadline for submissions: February 15, 2025

Please email your contributions to communications@stpaulsuc.ca.

Let's share and celebrate the power of kindness together!

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?

Coming Up This Week

Sun., Feb 2nd - 7:00 pm – Handbell Practice

Tue., Feb 4th – Bible Study on Zoom – restarts The link and scriptures will be sent out on Tuesdays morning.

Tues., Feb 4th – 7:00 – 8:30 pm – CGIT / Explorers

Thu., Feb 6th – 10:30 am - Music Morning Music fun for 2-4 year olds and their caregivers. Cost is \$5 per family per week.

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

Wed., Feb 12th – 10:00 am – Grandmothers to Grandmothers Tea – in the Friendship Room

Thu., Feb 13th – 7:30 pm - Lent/Easter Choir . Come join us and add extra meaning to your Easter season worship!

Fri., Feb 14th – Ministry Team Narrative Reports due!

Fri., Feb 14th – 9:00 am - 102 St Stitchers- in the Friendship Room

Sun., Feb 16th – Heritage Lodge Senior Service – All Welcome to attend.

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.

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.



St. Paul's is again privileged to host the U of A Mixed Chorus and Handbell Choir on Tuesday evening, April 29th. We have hosted these choirs several times and their concerts are always inspirational and very enjoyable.

We will be responsible for hosting approximately 50 students, providing supper Tuesday night, billeting, and a bag lunch for Wednesday.

Further details will be shared closer to the event, but please mark it on your calendar to help out with billeting or food if you can, and come to the concert - spread the word and bring a friend!

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

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!

Financial Donations

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)

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*).

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!.