



**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**February 16, 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

Children of God! Gather together to worship!

**We come to share the life of faith with friends new and old.**

Children of God! Open your hearts and souls and minds and ears!

**We open our very beings to let God speak and move in our midst.**

Children of God! Your brothers and sisters in faith are all around you. Let us greet them with words and signs of God's peace...

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

**O Holy Spirit, Breath of God, blow in our lives this day.**

**Fill us with the freshness of your living love.**

**Cleanse and renew us that we might go from this place,  
ready to be your people in the world. Amen.**

*(Celebrate God's Presence p.27)*

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering Hymn MV10 Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom (1L)

**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

Blessed are those who...

**God of life, we give thanks that we have been blessed in so many ways.**

But woe to those who...

**God of life, we wonder if we are the hungry or the filled, the winners or the losers in the game of life.**

Blessings and curses, praises and woes, all seem so intermingled.

**God of life, help us to sort them out, help us to seek the path of blessing.**

As we walk the road that leads to the Kingdom,

**may we be open to the upturning of the world, ready to challenge the injustices we see, willing to risk the changes that Kingdom living brings.**

And may we be graceful and grace-filled as it happens.

**God of grace, God of blessings, God of the Kingdom, we pray and wait in hope. Amen.**

#### SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 1

Luke 6:17-26

SERMON *Blessed or Cursed?*

#### 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)

#### AFFIRMATION OF BLESSING

Blessed are you.

**Me?**

Yes! Blessed are you!

**By whom?**

By God.

**Why?**

Because.

**Because? No, really—why!?**

Because God loves you.

Because God's love is overwhelming.

Because God's love is never-ending.

Because God's love is grace—freely given.

**I am blessed.**

**We are blessed—**

any who are grieving or impoverished,

any who are hungry or hated,

any who are defamed or reviled.

**All are blessed by the grace of God.**

**All creation is blessed.**

Exactly! Alleluia!

**Alleluia! Amen!**

(Written by Richard Bott <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/>)

Hymn VU896 Blest Are They (1L)

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

#### THE OFFERING

Mission & Service Story *Farming Against the Odds*

(<https://united-church.ca/stories/farming-against-odds>)

The Invitation:

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

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Hymn VU647 Travel On, Travel On (1L)

#### COMMISSIONING

Children of God! Our time of worship draws to a close.

**And we prepare to return to the mission field, the world where we live and work and serve.**

Children of God! As those who have been blessed,

**we go out to share our blessings with others.**

Children of God! In a world where there are winners and losers,

**we go to share God's word of hope and promise for the Kingdom of Justice and peace.**

Children of God! Go with God: Parent, Child and Spirit; One in Three.

**We go secure in the knowledge that God is with us every step of the way. 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.**

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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 from Rev. Gord?**

Arranging a visit is easy—simply contact the office. Call Carla at **780-532-2415**, and she will be happy to assist you.

**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

## **Watch Party & Discussion: Supporting Our Local Libraries**

 **When:** Friday, February 21 @ 7:00 PM


 **What:** Watch Party & Discussion on how to support our local libraries

**Feature Program:** *CBC's Fifth Estate – “Shadow War on Libraries”* (aired Feb 7, 2025)

 **Where:** St. Paul's United Church, Grande Prairie

**Friendship Room** (Use Northwest door)

 **Refreshments provided!**

 **Remote Option:** If you can't attend in person, watch *Fifth Estate* at home and join the discussion via Zoom at ~8:00 PM.

**Hosted by:** Social Justice & Affirming Ministry Team, St. Paul's United Church! Join us for an insightful evening!

**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?

**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/>

### Coming Up This Week

**Sun., Feb 16<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm – Handbell Practice**

**Sun., Feb 16<sup>th</sup> – Heritage Lodge Senior Service – All Welcome to attend.**

**Tue., Feb 18<sup>th</sup> – Bible Study on Zoom – restarts** The link and scriptures will be sent out on Tuesdays morning.

**Tues., Feb 18<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 – 8:30 pm – CGIT / Explorers**

**Wed., Feb 19<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm – Council Meeting – in the kids Corner**

**Thu., Feb 20<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., Feb 20<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm – Embers –in the Friendship Room**

**Thu., Feb 20<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 pm - Lent/Easter Choir .** Come join us and add extra meaning to your Easter season worship!

**Sun., March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Annual General Meeting – After Worship**

**The Forbes Presbyterian Church** will be hosting the service for the **World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 7, 2025, at 7:00 PM**, with snacks and fellowship to follow afterward. The service will include participation from various churches in our city.

**"I Made You Wonderful"** was prepared by the **World Day of Prayer Committee (WDP) of the Cook Islands** for the 2025 Annual Celebration worship service. It is based on **Psalm 139:14:**  
*"I will praise thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."*



**St. Paul's is again privileged to host the U of A Mixed Chorus and Handbell Choir on Tuesday evening, April 29<sup>th</sup>.** 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!

## 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.

**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)

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### 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](mailto: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](https://www.canadahelps.org/) (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](mailto:stpaulsucgp@gmail.com)) with your new details so we can keep our records up to date!

Thank you!.