



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
February 23, 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

O come let us sing to God;

let us shout with joy to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

let us joyously shout to God with songs of praise.

Psalm 95:1, 2

In the name of Jesus Christ,
who calls us to seek justice and resist evil, to love and serve others,
let us worship.

(Celebrate God's Presence p.18, 19)

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

Eternal God,

you are the light of the minds that know you,

the joy of the hearts that love you,

and the strength of the wills that serve you;

grant us so to know you that we may truly love you,

and so to love you that we may fully serve you,

whose service is perfect freedom,

in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Attributed to St. Augustine, Celebrate God's Presence p.12)

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering Hymn VU405 New Every Morning (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

Source of life and love, you challenge us to love and serve each other.

And we commit ourselves to do that.

Source of life and love, you challenge us to go further, to love and serve those who mistreat us.

That is harder, but we commit ourselves to try our best.

Source of life and love, you challenge us to avoid judging each other.

Help us offer forgiveness, forgiveness that runs over.

Source of life and love, in your grace help us grow in faith hope and love.

Help us learn from our successes and failures, help us treat others as we would be treated, help us love and serve our friends *and* our enemies as we strive to follow The Way of Jesus.

God, who is our source of life and love, does challenge us to go beyond the simple, to go the extra mile in love. The same God shows us grace and mercy when that extra step feels just too much. In grace God picks us back up and helps us try again, offering forgiveness that runs over whatever measure we might use.

Thanks be to God! Hallelujah! Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Luke 6:27-38

SERMON *Go Beyond*

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 VU595 The Servant Song (CCLI)

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

THE OFFERING

Mission & Service Story *Hope in Action*

(<https://united-church.ca/stories/hope-action>)

The Invitation:

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

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Hymn MV171 Christ Has No Body Now But Yours (1L)

COMMISSIONING

It is very easy to point out those whom we deem rotten people. As Jesus reminds us, it's wrong for us to judge, but it still happens. This week, let's consider people in a new way. Let's make the effort to discover how the Holy Spirit might be present in their actions. It is guaranteed to be a most satisfying exercise!

May God bless and surprise us in this experience.

(Written by Mark Dutkoski <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/>)

SUNG BENEDICTION: I Wish You the Blessing (2x) (1L)

POSTLUDE

📄 FundScrip Order Announcement 📄

We're placing another **FundScrip** order! 🎉

Order forms are now available for pick-up in the foyer.

All orders must be submitted by **Saturday, March 30th, at 5 PM.**

Thank you for your support! 🙏 If you have any questions, please reach out.

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 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

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?

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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 23rd - 7:00 pm – Handbell Practice

Tue., Feb 25th – Bible Study on Zoom – restarts The link and scriptures will be sent out on Tuesdays morning.

Tues., Feb 25th – 7:00 – 8:30 pm – CGIT / Explorers

Thu., Feb 27th – 10:30 am - **Music Morning** Music fun for 2-4 year olds and their caregivers. Cost is \$5 per family per week.

Thu., Feb 27th - 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm – **Embers** –in the Friendship Room

Thu., Feb 27th – 7:30 pm - **Lent/Easter Choir** . Come join us and add extra meaning to your Easter season worship!

Sun., March 2nd – **Annual General Meeting** – After Worship

Fri., March 14th – 9:00 am – Noon – **102 St Stitchers** – in the Friendship Room

Fri., March 14th – 5:30 pm –

🍕🍷 **PIE Day Celebration!** 🌈

What: PIE Day Celebration

PIE stands for being **Public, Explicit, and Intentional** in our affirmation and support of **2SLGBTQIA+ persons and community**.

Pizza Pie and refreshments will be provided!

📍 **Where:** St. Paul's United Church, Grande Prairie
(Friendship Room – Use Northwest Door)

Hosted by: Social Justice and Affirming Ministry Team, St. Paul's United Church

Sun., March 30th — **Fundscrip Orders Due Today!**

Please make sure to submit your orders to **Margaret Taylor** by 5 pm today.

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 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!

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

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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
- **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!.