



**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**September 7, 2025**

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



**WE APPROACH OUR GRACIOUS GOD**

PRELUDE

WELCOME MV130 Rise Up Rise Up (twice) (CCLI)

WORDS OF WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are clay in the Potter's hands,

**worked on the wheel of life,**

moulded and shaped by God's touch,

**sometimes gently turned,**

sometimes forcefully moved,

**always being changed by God's love.**

We offer ourselves to God Most Holy this day.

**We offer our lives, our fears, and our loves,**

trusting that God will mould us as God wills.

**We come to worship God the Potter.**

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

WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The embers of a campfire produce a red glow. The sun rising and setting makes a brilliant array of pink and purple and orange shadows. A lighthouse emits a flashing beam of light, warning of danger. Lightning flashes a dazzling streak of light across the sky during a storm. And our Christ candle sends out gleams of soft light, reminding us of Christ's presence in our lives. We light our Christ candle and we quiet our hearts for worship.

(Written by Laura Turnbull <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/> Adapted)

OPENING PRAYER

Creator God, you have shaped us, moulded us formed us,

**you are with us always.**

You continue to re-shape, re-form, re-create us,

**pushing us to grow into who we could be.**

Today, as we sign and pray and eat together,

**open our hearts, our souls, our very beings to the renewing power of your Creative Love,**

**and then send us back out re-formed and renewed to love and serve in the world you have created.**

We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen**

Gathering Hymn MV131 You, Creator God Have Searched Me (1L)

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

### A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, our faith stories tell us that we were created from the clay of the earth. We know that, like a potter, you are continually guiding us into the shape that you need us to be.

**Yet we resist.**

**We insist on staying exactly as we have been. We resist learning how to stretch into different places, different shapes, different attitudes. Your hands, gentle yet firm, continue to work with us, moving us up and down.**

You cover us in the blessings of the water of life, adding just enough, time and time again, to make us malleable, flexible, willing to become a thing of service, a thing of beauty, a vessel for your justice and care to be carried into the world.

There are times when you must begin again. When we need to be reduced, once again, to our beginnings, so that you can, once again, add the water of life, remould us, give us a second chance to be your vessels of justice and care.

**Forgive us, Potter God,**

**for those times we resisted, for those times we preferred to stay as lumps of clay, for those times we insisted on creating our own shape, for those times we forgot that you know us. You know who we are and whom we are meant to be. Help us to become what you intend. Amen.**

(Written by Helen Reed <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/> Adapted)

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

At the beginning of our story humanity is formed in God's image. In Jesus God reminds us that we are God's Beloved Children. We are Holy Lumps of Holy Clay, constantly be re-shaped by the Potter who forgives us and calls us to be more than we have been before.

**Thanks be to the Potter, the God who has created and is creating!**

#### SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Jeremiah 18:1-6

Psalms 139:13-16

Genesis 2:7-9

#### SERMON *Made of Clay, Shaped by God*

#### 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 VU276 (Tune 120) O God Who Shaped Creation (1L)

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

#### THE OFFERING

Mission & Service Story *ST. Paul's Local Outreach*

The Invitation:

Sung Dedication Off: MV104 Know That God is Good (Twice)(1L)

Dedication Prayer

**As we gather around this table to share in communion, we are reminded that sharing is an important part of the Christian life. Bless what we share in this offering, that it may play a part in providing abundant life.**

(Written by George Allan <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/>)

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Celebration of Communion

INVITATION

The God who calls us to follow welcomes us to this table.

**The God who calls us to share in the Kingdom invites us to share in the Banquet.**

This is God's table, foretaste of the Banquet that is to come. And so all who seek to follow The Way are free to eat and drink here.

Come and taste the Grace eternal.

**Come and see that God is good.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

God is here, among us, within us.

**God is here, and so we give thanks.**

Creator God,

in the beginning you spoke into the chaos saying "Let there be light".

**Nearly 14 billion years from the beginning we gather here to give thanks for the world of which we are a part.**

"For rocks and tree for skies and seas,"

**For mountain ranges and deep valleys,**

**For open plains and ancient forests.**

**For birdsong, whistling wind, and children's laughter.**

"Your hand the wonders wrought"

Guiding God,

over the eons You have moved within and among Your people.

**Giving them hope, giving them vision, giving them a Way to live.**

But time and time again Your children have strayed.

**Making poor choices, following other paths.**

And so you sent prophets, people with a vision.

**Challenging the world as it was, sharing what the world could be.**

And so we today listen for their voices, ancient and modern, as You call us into the future,  
**as You challenge us to take new paths, to climb new hills.**

TELLING THE STORY

Immanent and Present God,

centuries ago You broke into the world in a new way/

**Born of the woman Mary, Jesus of Nazareth revealed Your love, Your hope, Your path in a way that was not seen before nor has been seen since.**

Eating with outcasts, he broke down the social boundaries of his world.

**Proclaiming Your forgiveness, he reminds us that we are Your Beloved Children.**

Speaking truth to power, he challenged "the way it is" with a vision of "the way it should be". And for that he was condemned to death.

**But death could not contain Your power. And so we celebrate his resurrection.**

As we gather at this table, as we share the meal Jesus told us to share, we remember a special meal he shared with his closest followers.

**As they gathered to remember the ancient story of liberation,**

**Jesus shared with them the hope and promise of the Kingdom's Banquet.**

During that meal he took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and passed it to them saying:

**"This is my body, broken by and for the world. Eat it and remember me"**

Then later he took a cup of wine, blessed it and passed it to them saying:

**"This is the cup of the New Covenant, sealed in my blood. Whenever you drink from it remember me"**

So it is that we continue to share the loaf and the cup,  
remembering Jesus, Crucified and Risen,  
and waiting for the Banquet that is to come.

SPIRIT-INVOKED

Spirit God,

blow among us here and now.

**As we share this meal together may we be emboldened.**

May Your Spirit ignite the fires of hope and change in our hearts and souls.

**May we see the hope of the future.**

**May we be made ready to follow The Way through new territory.**

CONCLUSION

Threefold God: Parent, Child and Spirit,  
we gather here together in body.

**We gather with the whole of Your global family in Spirit.**

And as we come together to share the meal which makes us one we say together the prayer which also makes us one...

**Our Father...**

And the people called out **AMEN!**

FRACTION & DISTRIBUTION

The Bread we Break is the Bread of Life, Food for the Journey.

The Cup we share is the Cup of Love, Sustaining moisture on The Way.

These are the Gifts of God, for the People of God

**Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**God of the Table,**

**we have eaten, we have drunk, we have tasted your goodness.**

**Grant that the meal we have shared here today will fill our hearts with hope.**

**May the fellowship we share today fill our hearts with love.**

**May the worship we share today, fill our souls with You.**

**And as we go out, may we carry Christ to friend and stranger.**

**AMEN.**

Hymn VU477 I Come With Joy (1L)

## COMMISSIONING

The potter shapes and moulds the clay,  
trusting that the final product will serve a purpose.

God has helped our shaping and formation,  
and now we go out to serve our purpose

As we go remember that the Potter is always with us to guide and protect. The Potter is always there as  
we are fired in life's kiln.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

SUNG BENEDICTION: TLUS105 May You Be Held (thrice) (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 in the **Prayer Book** on the table at the entrance to worship. Your needs will be included in 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: Tue–Thurs, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
(Closed over the noon hour)

✈ **September 8–12 Carla will be away from the office and will return on**  
Monday, September 15

**'Your Giving Matters'** – Revenue for local needs the week ending August 31 st is \$2,755 (receipted donations) . The amount required to meet the budget is \$5,481 – total budget divided by 52. Garage sale proceeds were close to \$15,000. Volunteer hours for the garage sale, clothing drive and Sunday morning were approximately 1,000 hours "Stewardship is everything you do after you say "I believe".  
Martha for the Stewardship and Finance Team

✈ 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

✈ **Volunteers Needed!** We are looking for Scripture Readers, Door Greeters, and Coffee Hosts/Hostesses every Sunday. Please sign the volunteer lists posted in the foyer if you would like to help.

## Coming Up This Week

**Tuesday, September 9**

• 7:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study

We will be looking at September 14th readings. Join here <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84226204858>

### Thursday, September 11

• 10:30 a.m. – Music Morning fun for 2-4 year olds and their caregivers. Cost is \$5 per family per week. - (*Kids Corner*)

### Friday, September 12

• 9:00 a.m. – 102 St Stitchers (*Friendship Room*)

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#### FundScrip Order

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

 **Order forms** can be picked up in the foyer.

 If you wish to **E-transfer your payment**, please include "*FundScrip Order*" in the message box.

 **Deadline:** All orders must be submitted by **Sunday, September 28, at 5 PM.**

 Thank you for your support! If you have any questions, please reach out to the **church office** or **Margaret Taylor**.

 **Interested in a St. Paul's T-shirt?** Visit **Jill Harsch at Prosport Clothing Company** (11500–100 Street, GP | 780-814-6199) to choose your T-shirt style, size, and colour from their in-stock options OR bring your own t-shirt!

You can select the message or logo you'd like printed on your shirt. **Select from these design options for \$8 each:**

- "God's love is totally inclusive"
- St. Paul's logo (green & blue)
- St. Paul's logo (rainbow dove)
- "We are all Treaty People"

#### **Add-ons:**

Small versions of the UCC and Affirm United crests or the St. Paul's logo (@\$6 each), are available, which can be placed on a shirt pocket, or added to the "God's love is totally inclusive" shirt.

#### **Have You Joined St. Paul's Recycling Program Yet?**

St. Paul's has an easy and ongoing fundraiser to support our church renovations—and you can help! Simply bag up your empty bottles, cans, and milk jugs, label each bag clearly with our Church ID: 1468-2415, and drop them off at your local bottle depot. When you arrive, check in with the cashier and let them know how many bags or boxes you're donating on behalf of St. Paul's. Every little bit adds up—thank you for supporting our community!

#### **Reminder: Space Bookings at St. Paul's**

St. Paul's is a busy place with lots going on throughout the week. If you're planning to use a room, **please assume the space is already booked** and check in with Carla at the church office to confirm availability.

All rooms must be booked through the office to ensure fair use and avoid conflicts. Bookings made with Carla will always take priority.

You can also view our **online calendar** to see what's already scheduled and which rooms are in use:

<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.

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

✂ **Newsletter Editor & Contributors Needed!** 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. 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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## Financial Donations

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### Interac e-Transfer

A simple and secure way to give directly to St. Paul's United Church.

- **Email for e-Transfers:** [stpaulsucgp@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsucgp@gmail.com)
- **In the Note Field:** Please include your envelope number (if applicable) and designate how you'd like your donation to be used. For example:
  - \$25 GF (General Fund)
  - \$50 MS (Mission and Service)
  - \$25 OU (Outreach)

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

### Other Ways to Give:

- **Offering Envelopes:** Contact Carla to receive envelopes and ensure your gifts are receipted.
- **PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance):** Start or update your monthly giving anytime — just reach out to Carla.
- **Canada Helps:** Donate online at [Canada Helps](https://canadahelps.org). *(Tax receipts issued directly by Canada Helps.)*

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### Moved? New to St. Paul's?

If you've recently moved or are new to the congregation, we'd love to hear from you!

Please drop by the church office or email Carla at [stpaulsucgp@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsucgp@gmail.com) with your updated contact details.

*Help us keep our records current — thank you!*



ST. PAUL'S UNITED  
— CHURCH —

