

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH COMMUNITY OF FAITH

*A spiritual hub for
creativity, discovery and growth*



**Sunday, March 10, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Fourth in Lent**

Guest Licensed Lay Worship Leader
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St. Paul's United Church, Perth
Sunday March 10, 2024
The Fourth in Lent

✠ *invites us to rise in body or spirit*



God Calls Us Together

Lighting the Christ, Affirm and Prayer Candles

One: We light the Christ candle as a sign that Christ's Spirit alights us all:

All: **this day, this moment, and every moment.**

One: We light the Affirm candle to remind us to be a place of belonging and acceptance,

All: **to learn and grow together in love that protects and celebrates and uplifts.**

One: The Prayer candle reminds us to hold one another in prayer:

All: **to raise prayers of thanks and concern for one another, and any in need.**

Gathering Song: "Rise Up, Rise Up" MV 130

Rise up, rise up, rise up, O my soul.

Rise up and sing this blessing to God's name.

Rise up, rise up, rise up, O my soul.

Rise up and sing this blessing to God's name.

All Our Relations: "Akwe Nia'Tetewá:neren"

phonetically: AW GWAY NYAH DAY DAY WAY NAY REN

All God's Children (Affirming Statement)

Life of the Community

Organ Prelude: Meditation on HYFRYDOL (Love Divine, All Loves Excelling) - Elizabeth Krouse

Gathering Words

One: God invites us to journey in faithfulness,

All: **to follow Jesus toward the Cross.**

One: Journey confidently, for God is with us.

All: **Thanks be to God for God's steadfast love.**

✠Hymn: "Let There Be Light" VU 679

1 Let there be light,
let there be understanding,
let all the nations gather,
let them be face to face;

2 open our lips,
open our minds to ponder,
open the door of concord

- opening into grace;
- 3 perish the sword,
 perish the angry judgement,
 perish the bombs and hunger,
 perish the fight for gain;
- 4 hallow our love,
 hallow the deaths of martyrs,
 hallow their holy freedom,
 hallowed be your name;
- 5 your kingdom come,
 your spirit turn to language,
 your people speak together,
 your spirit never fade;
- 6 let there be light;
 open our hearts to wonder,
 perish the way of terror,
 hallow the world God made.

Gathering Prayer

Children and Youth Time and the Prayer of Jesus (VU 959 – Sung)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil,
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.**

Children proceed to the Gathering Room.

We Listen for God's Word

Prayer for Understanding

Scriptures: *Mary Oliver*

Psalms 107: 1—3, 17—22 (VU p. 831 Parts One and Two)

R: O give thanks to God for steadfast love.

Part One (1-9)

O give thanks, for God is gracious;

God's steadfast love endures for ever.
Let the redeemed of God say so, those redeemed from trouble,
whom God gathered in from the lands,
from the east and the west,
from the north and the south. R

Some lost their way in desert wastes, finding no place to settle;
hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.
Then they cried to you, God, in their trouble;
you rescued them from their distress.
You led them by a straight path,
till they reached a place to settle.
Let them thank you, O God, for your steadfast love,
for the wonders you do for us.
For you satisfy the thirsty,
and fill the hungry with good things. R

Part Two (17-22)

Some suffered because of their sinful ways,
afflicted on account of their wrongdoing.
They loathed every kind of food;
they came close to the gates of death.
Then they cried to you, God, in their trouble.
You rescued them from their distress.
You gave the word and healed them;
you saved them from the grave.
Let them thank you, God, for your steadfast love,
for the wonders you do for us.
Let them offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy. R

And the Gospel: John 3:14—21

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.^[a]

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather

than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”^[b]

One: For the wisdom that guides us, the word that inspires us
and the truth that enlightens us.

All: We praise you, O God.

Sermon

✠ Hymn: “Draw the Circle Wide” MV 145

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side,
Draw the circle wide.

1. God the still point of the circle, round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever, in God’s gracious arms.
2. Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders, faithful to God’s call.
3. Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we’ve ever dreamed
before; let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door.

We Respond to God

Community Prayers

Senior Choir: “Come, Follow Me!” - lyrics Mary Kay Beall, music John Carter

Come, my child, you hear me calling;

Come, follow me!

I will light the path before you. Come, follow me!

Come and share my joy, my glory,

Come and live the gospel story,

Come, my child, you hear me calling;

Come, follow me!

Leave your nets like Simon Peter,

Come, follow me!

Touch my garment; I will heal you.

Come, follow me!

Let my presence go before you.

Let me comfort and restore you.

Come, my child, you hear me calling;

Come, follow me!

Though the night be dark around you,

Come, follow me!

Let my love and care surround you.

Come follow me!

I will be your crown, your treasure.

I will bless you without measure.

Come, my child, you hear me calling;

Come, follow me!

Let your song be "Alleluia!"

Come, follow me!

Let your prayer be "For God's glory!"

Come, follow me!

I have chosen you and named you,

With the Word and water claimed you.

Come, my child, you hear me calling;

Come, follow me!

Come, follow me!

Come, follow me!

Our Tithes and Offerings

✠ Offertory Hymn

TUNE: FRANCONIA VU # 542

**We give you but your own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone,
we give it gratefully.**

Prayer of Dedication (In Unison)

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**Merciful God,
we thank you for your
wonderful works among humankind.
Accept this offering with the dedication
of our lives
and help us be for the world an emblem
of your steadfast love,
in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

God Sends Us to Be the Church in the World

✠Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" VU 333

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.
- 2 Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.
- 3 Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

✠The Blessing for Lent

✠Sung Blessing: "When You Go From this Place"

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**When you go from this place be true.
May the blessing of life find you.
May the winds of the Spirit guide you,
'cross the ocean of all your days.
May the seeds of your love - your life
a-dorn the Way.
A-dorn the Way.
A-dorn the Way.**

Piano Postlude: Praise His Greatness - arr. by Mark Hayes