

# **ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH COMMUNITY OF FAITH**

*A spiritual hub for  
creativity, discovery and growth*



**Sunday, March 3, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.  
Third Sunday in Lent**

Minister  
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**St. Paul's United Church, Perth**  
**Sunday March 3, 2024**  
**The Third 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

Piano Prelude: "This is my Father's World" – Sheppard, arr. Shackley

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: "God, Reveal Your Presence" VU 391

1 **God, reveal your presence: as we now adore you  
and with awe appear before you.**

**Here in this your temple: all within keep silence,  
gather now with deepest reverence.**

**You alone God we own,**

**you, our God and Saviour: praise your name for ever.**

- 2     **God, reveal your presence: hear the harps resounding;  
          see the crowds the throne surrounding.  
      'Holy, holy, holy!' Hear the hymn ascending,  
          angels, saints, their voices blending.  
      Bow your ear to us here;  
      hearken, O Lord Jesus, to our humble praises.**
- 3     **O great Fount of blessing, purify my spirit,  
          trusting only in your merit;  
      like the holy angels gathered all before you,  
          may I ceaselessly adore you.  
      Let your will ever still  
      rule your church terrestrial, as the hosts celestial.**

Gathering Prayer (all)

**Faithful God, always present with us: open our hearts to the cries of people in the world who demand justice. Help us accompany all who seek justice, truth and reconciliation in the hard and treacherous places of this world. Ignite within us the spark of persistence; and to live in right relationship with you, with our neighbours, and the earth itself. We give thanks to you, knowing that you hold our hearts in your love. Amen.**

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**

From the Gospels: St. John 2: 13-25 (MSG, alt)     *Gary Waterfield*

<sup>13-14</sup> When the Passover Feast, celebrated each spring...was approaching, Jesus traveled up to Jerusalem. He found the Temple teeming with people selling cattle and sheep and doves. The loan sharks were also there in full strength.

<sup>15-17</sup> Jesus put together a whip out of strips of leather and chased them out of the Temple, stampeding the sheep and cattle, upending the tables of the loan sharks,

spilling coins left and right. He told the dove merchants, "Get your things out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a shopping mall!" That's when his disciples remembered the Scripture, "Zeal for your house consumes me."

<sup>18-19</sup> But the Judeans were upset. They asked, "What credentials can you present to justify this?" Jesus answered, "Tear down this Temple and in three days I'll put it back together."

<sup>20-22</sup> They were indignant: "It took forty-six years to build this Temple, and you're going to rebuild it in three days?" But Jesus was talking about his body as the Temple. Later, after he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this. They then put two and two together and believed both what was written in Scripture and what Jesus had said.

<sup>23-25</sup> During the time he was in Jerusalem, those days of the Passover Feast, many people noticed the signs he was displaying and, seeing they pointed straight to God, entrusted their lives to him. But Jesus didn't entrust his life to them. He knew them inside and out, knew how untrustworthy they were. He didn't need any help in seeing right through them.

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: "no different fellas" Rev. McLean

✠ Hymn: "Come Touch Our Hearts" MV 12 (*alt*)

- 1 Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,  
from failing embers build a blazing fire;  
love strong enough to overturn injustice,  
to seek a world more gracious,  
come touch and bless our hearts.**
- 2 Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,  
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;  
create a space for spirit to grow in us,  
let life and beauty fill us,  
come touch and bless our souls.**
- 3 Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,  
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;  
help us to open doors of understanding,  
to welcome truth and wisdom,  
come touch and bless our minds.**
- 4 Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,**

and in our weakness your great strength reveal;  
that we may rise to follow and to serve  
steady now our nerve,  
come touch and bless our wills.

- 5 Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,  
who\* break the bread and share the cup of peace;  
that we may love you with our heart, our soul,  
our mind, our strength, our all,  
come touch us with your grace.

## **We Respond to God**

### Community Prayers

Senior Choir: "God So Loved the World" *Chilcott*

God so loved the world, so loved the world.  
God so loved the world, so loved the world,  
That he gave his only begotten son  
that whoso believeth, believeth in him,  
Should not perish but have everlasting life,  
Everlasting, everlasting life.

God so loved the world, so loved the world.  
God so loved the world, so loved the world,  
That he gave his only begotten son  
that whoso believeth, believeth in him.  
Should not perish but have everlasting life,  
Everlasting, everlasting,

God so loved the world,  
God so loved the world,  
So loved the world.

### 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 (all)

**Gracious God, we give our gifts, by envelope, through PAR, in our prayers  
and songs and loving deeds, as a sign that all that we have, and all that we  
are, is yours. In faith we offer our gifts, and we offer ourselves, to the glory  
of your name. Amen.**

# **God Sends Us to Be the Church in the World**

†Hymn: "This Is God's Wondrous World" VU 296

- 1     **This is God's wondrous world,  
and to my listening ears  
          all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.  
This is God's wondrous world;  
I rest me in the thought  
          of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,  
God's hand the wonders wrought.**
- 2     **This is God's wondrous world:  
the birds their carols raise;  
          the morning light, the lily white,  
declare their Maker's praise.  
This is God's wondrous world:  
God shines in all that's fair;  
          in the rustling grass or mountain pass,  
God's voice speaks everywhere.**
- 3     **This is God's wondrous world:  
O let me ne'er forget  
          that though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is God's wondrous world:  
why should my heart be sad?  
          Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:  
God reigns, let earth be glad!**

†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.**

Organ Postlude: "Partita on TERRA BEATA" (This is God's Wonderful World)  
- Sheppard, arr. Haan