

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH COMMUNITY OF FAITH

*A spiritual hub for
creativity, discovery and growth*



Sunday, February 2, 2025 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Fourth after Epiphany

Minister

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St. Paul's United Church, Perth
Sunday February 2, 2025
The 4th after Epiphany
✠ *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: "Like a Rock" MV 92

**Like a rock, like a rock,
God is under our feet.
Like the starry night sky
God is over our head.
Like the sun on the horizon
God is ever before.
Like the river runs to ocean
our home is in God evermore.**

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: "The Gift of Love" - Traditional, setting by Carter

Gathering Words

One: Jesus said: "Love one another."

All: **We come to worship God who is love,
that we may learn to love one another.**

One: Jesus said: "No longer do I call you servants;
now I call you my friends."

All: **We come to worship God,
whose friends we are in Christ.**

✠ Hymn: "Lord, Speak to Me" VU 589

- 1 **Lord, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek
your straying children lost and lone.**
- 2 **O lead me, so that I may lead
the wandering and the wavering feet;
O feed me, so that I may feed
your hungering ones with manna sweet.**
- 3 **O teach me, so that I may teach
the precious truths which you impart;
and wing my words, that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.**
- 4 **O fill me with your fullness, Lord,
until my very heart o'erflows
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.**

Gathering Prayer (all)

God, speak to us we pray. We come this day - ready to hear your word and to see your grace working among and through us. Help us be open to your voice as you speak through scripture, sermon, hymns and prayers; through the greetings of friends and strangers, and in the wonders of Creation. Help us to respond to your call among us. We pray to you in the name of Jesus, who teaches us your love. Amen.

Children & Youth Time

Sunday School proceeds to the Gathering Room

We Seek God's Word

From the Epistles: 1 Corinthians 13 (NRSV) *Kathleen Bradley*

13 ¹If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth.⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part;¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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

All: We praise you, O God.

✠ Hymn: “Though I May Speak” VU 372

- 1 Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**
- 2 Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.**
- 3 Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.**

Sermon: “The Greatest Thing You’ll Ever Learn” Rev. McLean

We Respond to God

Community Prayers and The Prayer of Jesus (said)

**Our Father, who art in heaven:
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day. our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Choir: "Love is of God" Ed Harris (words from 1 James 4:7-11)

Beloved, let us love one another,
For love is of God,
And they who love are born of God
And they know God;
But they who do not love do not know God,
For God is love.

Beloved, let us love one another,
For love is of God,
And they who love are born of God
And they know God;
But they who do not love do not know God,
For God is love, love, love, love,
God is love, God is love!

In this the love of God was made manifest,
Was made manifest among us; among us:
God sent His only Son to the world,
so we might live forever through Him, through Him.

In this is love, not that we loved God,
But that God loved us,
And God's Son was sent to die for our sins.

Beloved, let us love one another,
For love is of God.
If God so Holy loved us, then we too should love;
For in loving one another,
We know the love of God.

Beloved, let us love one another,
For love is of God,
For love is of God.

The Blessing of Our Tithes and Offerings

☩ Offertory Hymn

TUNE: OLD HUNDREDTH VU # 822

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
In Heaven and on Earth below,
One God, Three Persons we adore,
And sing our praise for evermore.**

Prayer of Dedication (all)

By envelope, through PAR, or in other ways, receive our gifts, O God. We offer them to be used to reveal your love for the world and all its creatures. We give our gifts, and we give ourselves—our time, our talents, our energies—in the name of Jesus. Amen.

God Sends Us to Be the Church in the World

✠Hymn: “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go” VU 658

- 1 **O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.**
- 2 **O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.**
- 3 **O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.**
- 4 **O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.**

✠The Blessing for Epiphany Season

✠Sung Blessing: “When You Go From this Place”

**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.**

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Organ Postlude: “Prelude and Fugue in B Flat Major” BWV 560 J.S. Bach