

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH COMMUNITY OF FAITH

*A spiritual hub for
creativity, discovery and growth*



March 5, 2023 ~ 10:00AM
Second Sunday in Lent

Minister
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St. Paul's United Church, Perth
Sunday March 5, 2023
The Second Sunday 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: "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

Affirming

Life of the Community

Organ Prelude - Meditation on BEACH SPRING - Krouse

Gathering Words

One: God, revealed in the words and deeds of Jesus:

All: **we long to hear your word in fresh ways.**

One: Open our ears to the call of your voice.

All: **Open our eyes to the dawn of your new day.**

One: Fill us with anticipation for the future,

All: **and give us grace to move into that future together...**

Children and Youth Time

✠Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore You" VU 232

**1 Joyful, joyful we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,**

opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

2 All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
sound their praise eternally.

3 You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

4 Mortals join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

Gathering Prayer (*all*):

**God, great, eternal, wonderful: you give life to us all,
you help those who come to you,
you give hope to those who cry to you.
Set our hearts at peace and grant us to live before you
confidently and without fear.
Hear us, for we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

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 New Testament:

Revelation 3: 7-10 (MSG, alt)

⁷ Write this to Philadelphia, to the Angel of the church. The Holy, the True—David's key in his hand, opening doors no one can lock, locking doors no one can open—speaks:

⁸ "I see what you've done. Now see what I've done. I've opened a door before you that no one can slam shut. You don't have much strength, I know that; you used what you had to keep my Word. You didn't deny me when times were rough.

⁹ "And watch as I take those who call themselves true believers but are nothing of the kind, pretenders whose true membership is in the club of the evil one—watch as I strip off their pretensions and they're forced to acknowledge it's you that I've loved.

¹⁰ "Because you kept my Word in passionate patience, I'll keep you safe in the time of testing that will be here soon, and all over the earth, every man, woman, and child put to the test.

¹¹ "I'm on my way; I'll be there soon. Keep a tight grip on what you have so no one distracts you and steals your crown.

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:

"The open door"

Rev. McLean

✠ 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.**

We Respond to God

Community Prayers

Choir Anthem: "Amazing Grace" *arr. by John Rutter* *Scott Sommerville, soloist*

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come.
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,

As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy, and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright, shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
how sweet the sound.

Our Tithes and Offerings

☩ Offertory Hymn

TUNE: OLD HUNDREDTH VU # 541

**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)

God of love, by envelope, through PAR,* in our labours our cares and prayers, we offer gifts of love. Use them, we pray, to care for those who need caring, and to lift those who need lifting up. Trusting in your grace, we are bold to ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

*PAR is "*pre-authorized remittance*" - a plan to ensure your offering gets to church even when you don't. Please enquire through the Church Office.

God Sends Us to Be the Church in the World

☩ Hymn: "Come and Find the Quiet Centre" VU 374

- 1 Come and find the quiet centre
 in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
 find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
 clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
 be at peace, and simply be.**
- 2 Silence is a friend who claims us,
 cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,**

knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.

3 In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

✠The Blessing

✠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.**

** A reminder that "The Way" has a double-meaning. It was how early Christians referred to their path following Jesus, who, in John's gospel, refers to himself as "The Way (the Truth and the Life)."*

Piano Postlude: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee - Beethoven, arr. by Kauflin

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