

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH**  
***Centre for creativity, discovery and growth***



**Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 ~ 10:00 a.m.**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**

Minister

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Director of Music

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# St. Paul's United Church, Perth

## Sunday, March 1, 2026 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> in Lent



✠ invites us to rise in body or spirit



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## 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"

### All God's Children (Affirming Statement)

### Life of the Community

### Organ Prelude: Repton (A Whisper from the Universe) - Parry, arr. by Callahan

### Gathering Words *(based on Psalm 121, in The Message, alt.)*

One: I look to the mountains;  
does our strength come from the mountains?

All: **No, our strength comes from God,  
who made heaven and earth, and mountains.**

One: God won't let us stumble,  
God our guardian won't fall asleep.

All: **Not on your life!  
God our guardian will never doze or sleep.**

One: God is our Guardian, right at our side to protect -

All: **Shielding us from sunstroke,  
sheltering us from moonstroke.**

One: God guards us from every evil,  
and guards our very life.

**All: God guards us when we leave,  
and when we return;  
guards us now and guards us always.**

✠Hymn: "Unto the Hills Around" (Psalm 121) VU 842

- 1 **Unto the hills around do I lift up my longing eyes:  
O whence for me shall my salvation come,  
from whence arise?  
From God the Lord doth come my certain aid,  
from God the Lord who heaven and earth hath made.**
- 2 **God will not suffer that thy foot be moved;  
safe shalt thou be.  
No careless slumber shall those eyelids close  
who keepeth thee.  
The One who sleepeth not, who slumbereth ne'er  
shall guard thee, Israel, with most holy care.**
- 3 **Jehovah is indeed thy keeper true; thy changeless shade;  
Jehovah thy defence on thy right hand,  
thine own true aid.  
And thee no sun by day shall ever smite;  
no moon shall harm thee in the silent night.**
- 4 **From every evil shall God keep thy soul, from every sin:  
Jehovah shall preserve thy going out, thy coming in.  
Above thee watching, God whom we adore  
shall keep thee henceforth, yea, for evermore.**

Gathering Prayer (all)

**God of Sarah and Abraham, God of Nicodemus and Jesus, God of us  
all: from ancient days you have called people to respond in  
faithfulness. Be with us, we pray, through the days of Lent, that we  
may move with confidence and hope toward Easter's promise. We  
pray in the name of the Risen One, Jesus. Amen.**

Junior Choir: Ha Ha! - *Linnea Good*

There was God in the beginning with the darkness all around  
"Let there be light" she said and it was found.  
And God created ev'rything by saying just one word,  
And if we had been there this is what we would have heard:

Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha! (many times)

Sarah was a woman who was all of ninety one,  
That's pretty old to start to be a mum!  
When God announced that Sarah, she would have a baby soon,  
She fell upon her face, and said in a swoon:

Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha! (many times)

Shadrach, Mechach and Abednego were caught.  
"Bow to my statue" said the king, but they would not.  
They were thrown into a fire, where they surely would be dead.  
But they were cool as cucumbers and sang to God instead:

Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha! (many times)

Jesus got a message that Lazarus had died.  
And visiting the tomb, then, Jesus walked inside.  
He touched the arm of Lazarus and brought him from the dead.  
And this what Lazarus probably said:

Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha! (many times)

It was God who made the heavens; it was God who made the earth.  
It was God who gave us all our birth.  
And God has had a message that She wants us all to share.  
So this is the Word that we're spreading ev'ry where.

Children & Youth Time and The Prayer of Jesus (*sung*)



**Creator God who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Children proceed to the Gathering Room.*

## We Listen for God's Word

From the Gospels: St. John 3: 1 – 18 (*The Inclusive Bible, alt*)      *Leslie Hoyle*

<sup>1</sup> A certain Pharisee named Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin, <sup>2</sup> came to Jesus at night. “Rabbi,” he said, “we know you’re a teacher come from God, for no one can perform the signs and wonders you do, unless by the power of God.”

<sup>3</sup> Jesus gave Nicodemus this answer:

“The truth of the matter is, unless one is born from above, one cannot see the kingdom of God.”

<sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said, “How can an adult be born a second time? I can’t go back into my mother’s womb to be born again!”

<sup>5</sup> Jesus replied:

“The truth of the matter is, no one can enter God’s kingdom without being born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh; what is born of the Spirit is Spirit. <sup>7</sup> So don’t be surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above. <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it will. You hear the sound it makes, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> “How can this be possible?” asked Nicodemus.

<sup>10</sup> Jesus replied,

“You’re a teacher of Israel, and you still don’t understand these matters? <sup>11</sup> “The truth of the matter is, we’re talking about what we know; we’re testifying about what we’ve seen—yet you don’t accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If you aren’t persuaded when I tell you about earthly things, how will you be persuaded when I tell you about heavenly things?

<sup>13</sup> No one has gone up to heaven except the One who came down from heaven—the Chosen One. <sup>14</sup> As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so the Chosen One must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> so that everyone whose faith is in the Chosen One might have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> Yes, God so loved the world as to give the Only Begotten One, that whoever trusts may not perish, but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> God sent the Only Begotten into the world not to condemn the world, but that through the Only Begotten the world might be saved.”

For the wisdom that guides us, the word that inspires us  
and the truth that enlightens us. **We praise you, O God.**

Sermon:

**Back to the Basics aka Ever-present grace**

Rev. McLean

## We Respond to God

† Hymn: “Bring Many Names” VU 268

- 1     **Bring many names, beautiful and good,  
celebrate, in parable and story,  
holiness in glory, living, loving God.  
Hail and hosanna! Bring many names!**
  
- 2     **Strong mother God, working night and day,  
planning all the wonders of creation,  
setting each equation, genius at play:  
Hail and hosanna, strong mother God!**
  
- 3     **Warm father God, hugging every child,  
feeling all the strains of human living,  
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:  
Hail and hosanna, warm father God!**
  
- 4     **Old, aching God, grey with endless care,  
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,  
glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:  
Hail and hosanna, old, aching God!**
  
- 5     **Young, growing God, eager, on the move,  
saying no to falsehood and unkindness,  
crying out for justice, giving all you have:  
Hail and hosanna, young, growing God!**
  
- 6     **Great, living God, never fully known,  
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,  
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:  
Hail and hosanna, great, living God!**

### Community Prayers

Choir Anthem: “Risin’ Out of My Soul” - Joyce Eilers

I was a captive on the rat race of life,  
And I was goin’ out of my mind.  
Making the deadlines but ignoring the lifelines,  
Just to keep from getting’ behind.

Then the spirit of the Lord came down.  
Now I can’t believe the life I’ve found.  
And there is joy, joy,

Risin' out of my soul.  
 Joy, joy, risin' out of my soul.

Ev'ry day problems, they can really get to you  
 If you let them stay on your mind.  
 Lean on the Lord, and put your problems behind you.  
 He can help you put them behind.

He will hear and answer ev'ry prayer.  
 He'll surround you with His love and care.  
 You'll feel the joy, joy, joy, joy,  
 Risin' out of your soul.  
 You'll feel the joy, joy, joy, joy,  
 Risin' out of your soul.

I feel the power of the Holy Spirit  
 a risin' out of my soul.  
 I feel the power of the Holy Spirit  
 a risin' out of my soul.  
 I feel the power of the Holy Spirit  
 a risin' out of my soul.  
 Risin' out of my soul!

☩ Offertory Hymn

*Old Hundredth*

**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*)

**Gracious God, bless and transform all that we offer: our faltering steps, our brokenness, our hope, our risking, our hearts; that your covenant may be written on our hearts and we may be people “born from above.” In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

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

☩ Hymn: “A Whisper from the Universe” TLUS 3

**1 A whisper from the universe  
 as distant stars appear,  
 the murmur of a whippoorwill,  
 the sleeping forest, deep and still:  
 each wordless voice we hear  
 reveals that God is near.**

- 2 But God did more than scatter stars  
or make the planets spin;  
in humble love God came to earth,  
took human form to show our worth,  
when Christ redeemed our sin  
to let new life begin.**
- 3 To guide and guard our live of faith  
the Holy Spirit came,  
as once to breathe life into dust  
now sent again to mend mistrust,  
and sealed with wind and flame  
all those who bear God's name.**
- 4 More named than fathomed Mystery,  
Triune and unbegun,  
reveal through us your boundless life,  
to heal and bless, tame hate and strife,  
and help your will be done  
to make all people one.**

✠ The Blessing

✠ 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.  
A-dorn the Way.**

Organ Postlude: Toccata Eroica - Penfield