

# ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH COMMUNITY OF FAITH

*A spiritual hub for  
creativity, discovery and growth*



**Sunday, May 12, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

Minister

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**St. Paul's United Church, Perth**  
**Sunday May 12, 2024**  
**The 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter Season**  
**Family & P.I.E. Sunday**



✠ *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: "There Is Room for All" MV 62

**There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing:**

**there is room for all sheltered in God's love.**

**And I rejoice and sing,**

**"My Refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."**

**There is room for all,**

**there is room for all.**

### 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

### Prelude: Preludio 'Sine Nomine' - H. Howells

### Gathering Words:

One: Christ is Risen!

All: **Christ is Risen indeed!**

**Hallelujah!**

One: Behold, God is doing a new thing.

All: **Here. Now. In the midst of life.**

One: May the Great Spirit who created heaven and earth form us afresh today,

**All: and may our souls rise in praise.**

**†Hymn: “Come In, Come in and Sit Down” VU 395 (*inclusive version*)**

**Refrain: Come in, come in and sit down,  
you are a part of the family.  
We are lost and we are found,  
and we are a part of the family.**

- 1 You know the reason why you came,  
yet no reason can explain;  
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,  
for we are a part of the family. R**
- 2 God is with us in this place,  
like a mother's warm embrace.  
We're all forgiven by God's grace,  
for we are a part of the family. R**
- 3 Wealthy or homeless, we all belong  
wheel-chaired or walking our spirits are strong.  
If we're Trans or we're Queer, we join in the song,  
for we are a part of the family. R**
- 4 Greeters and shoppers, longtime or new,  
nobody here has a claim on a pew.  
And whether we're many or whether we're few,  
we are a part of the family.**
- 5 There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;  
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.  
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,  
but we are a part of the family. R**

**Gathering Prayer (*all*):**

**We praise you, O God. When you called each one of us into being, you created us totally unique, yet, each one made in your image. Each of your children, whether big and tall or round and small, is a reflection of you. You love each and every one - whether we are lesbian, gay, straight, bi, trans, queer, questioning, gender fluid, intersex, asexual, two spirit, or whatever, and you love us whether we know it or not or accept it or not, because you are you. When we seek to understand the depth and breadth of your love, open our minds and free our spirits. Teach us to love as you love. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## Children & Youth Time

### Junior & Senior Choirs: "Children of God" - Dailey, arr. by Harlan

Children of God, we are marching to freedom.  
 Children of God, we are marching to freedom.  
 Children of God we are marching to freedom,  
 Step by step all the way.

Children of God, we are marching to freedom.  
 Children of God, we are marching to freedom.  
 Children of God we are marching to freedom,  
 Step by step all the way.

Children of God, we are marching to freedom.  
 Children of God, we are marching to freedom.  
 Children of God we are marching to freedom,  
 Step by step all the way.

In my walk you can see me tryin'  
 In my talk you can hear me tryin'  
 In my walk you can see me tryin'  
 Step by step all the way.

Children of God, we are marching to freedom.  
 Children of God, we are marching to freedom.  
 Children of God we are marching to freedom,  
 Step by step all the way.

Christians, pray that we keep on marchin'.  
 Christian, pray that we keep on marchin'.  
 Christians, pray that we keep on marchin',  
 Step by step all the way.

Children of God, we are marching to freedom.  
 Children of God, we are marching to freedom.  
 Children of God we are marching to freedom,  
 Step by step all the way.

Step by step all the way,  
 Step by step, all the way,  
 All the way, All the way, All the way, All the way

*Children proceed to the Gathering Room*

## We Listen for God's Word

From the Acts of the Apostles: Acts 8: 26-40 (MSG) *Mary Oliver*

### Acts 8: 26-40 The Message (alt)

<sup>26-28</sup> ...God's angel spoke to Philip: "At noon today I want you to walk over to that desolate road that goes from Jerusalem down to Gaza." He got up and went. He met an Ethiopian eunuch coming down the road. The eunuch had been on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and was returning to Ethiopia, where they were in charge of all the finances of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. The eunuch was riding in a chariot and reading the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>29-30</sup> The Spirit told Philip, "Climb into the chariot." Running up alongside, Philip heard the eunuch reading Isaiah and asked, "Do you understand what you're reading?"

<sup>31-33</sup> The eunuch answered, "How can I without some help?" and invited Philip into the chariot. The passage the eunuch was reading was this:

As a sheep led to slaughter,  
and quiet as a lamb being sheared,  
He was silent, saying nothing.  
He was mocked and put down, never got a fair trial.  
But who now can count his kin  
since he's been taken from the earth?

<sup>34-35</sup> The eunuch said, "Tell me, who is the prophet talking about: himself or some other?" Philip grabbed his chance. Using this passage as his text, he preached Jesus.

<sup>36-39</sup> As they continued down the road, they came to a stream of water. The eunuch said, "Here's water. "What is to prevent me from being baptized?" and ordered the chariot to stop.

They both went down to the water, and Philip baptized the eunuch on the spot.

When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of God suddenly took Philip off, and that was the last the eunuch saw of him.

But they didn't mind. They had what they'd come for and went on down the road as happy as could be.

<sup>40</sup> Philip showed up in Azotus and continued north, preaching the Message in all the villages along that route until he arrived at Caesarea.

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: "From desolate road to highway of joy..."

Rev. McLean

†Hymn: "All the Colours of Rainbow"

*by: Carl P. Daw from Songs of The Holy Other  
(Tune: God is Here. VU 389)*

**All the colours of the rainbow  
live unseen in daily light,  
but their splendours find expression  
when released to human sight;  
so the church reveals most beauty  
where diversity is real:  
breadth of race and class and gender,  
room for doubt and space to heal.**

**All the body's parts are wanted,  
nor can one despise the rest:  
head and hand must work together,  
as must eye and ear and chest;  
so the church needs all its members  
for a range of ministries:  
varied gifts with one great mission,  
"Do this for the least of these."**

**Teach us, God our need of others;  
through them help us fully live.  
Wean us from our selfish habits;  
let us listen, learn, forgive.  
May we see your longed-for image  
in each human heart and face,  
and behold how those around us  
can be channels of your grace.**

## **We Respond to God**

Community Prayers and the Prayer of Jesus (spoken)

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)

**Loving Creator, inspire us to live generously, that the gifts we give by envelope, through PAR, and in other ways, might make a difference in the world. Use our gifts to help transform desolate paths to highways of joy everywhere, and for everyone. Amen.**

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

✠ Hymn: “My Love Colours Outside the Lines” MV 138

- 1 **My love colours outside the lines,  
exploring paths that few could ever find;  
and takes me into places where I've never been before,  
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.**
- 2 **My Lord colours outside the lines,  
turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;  
and takes me into places where I've never been before  
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.**  
**We'll never walk on water  
if we're not prepared to drown,  
body and soul need a soaking from time to time.  
And we'll never move the gravestones  
if we're not prepared to die,  
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.**
- 3 **My soul longs to colour outside the lines,  
Tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;  
I want to walk beyond the boundaries but I've never been before,  
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.**

✠ The Blessing

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

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arr © 2019 David Kai

**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.**

Postlude: Komm, Gott, Schöpfer, Heiliger Geist - J.S. Bach