

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



**Sunday, May 3, 2026 ~ 10:00 a.m.**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Minister  
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Music Ministry  
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# St. Paul's United Church, Perth

## Centre for Creativity, Discovery and Growth

### Sunday, May 3, 2026 ~ The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter



✠ invites us to rise in body or spirit  
 indicates the printed text or music is by a UCC creator  
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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: "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

Prelude: "Gather Us In" (Marty Haugen, 1982 GIA Publications Inc.)

The Easter Greeting

One: Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!

All: **Christ is Risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

✠ Hymn: "Come, Let Us Sing" VU 222

**1 Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,  
 we have stood silently too long;  
 surely the Lord deserves our praise,  
 so joyfully thank God for our days.**

- 2 O thirsty soul, come drink at the well;  
 God's living waters will never fail.  
 Surely the Lord will help you to stand,  
 strengthened and comforted by God's hand.
- 3 You dwell among us and cause us to pray,  
 and walk with each other following your way;  
 our precious brothers and sisters will grow  
 in the fulfilling love they know.
- 4 Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing  
 to the desire of all living things.  
 Come, all you creatures, high and low,  
 let your praises endlessly flow.

Gathering Prayer (all):

One: Gracious God, you call us to be your own.

**All: Help us to respond to your call: openly, fully,  
 joyfully, and with loving hearts.**

One: Hear our deepest desires and yearnings, we pray.

**All: Reveal yourself in Spirit and in truth. Amen.**

Junior Choir: "We Are Not Alone" (A New Creed) VU 918

*Music by Christopher Bowman*



We are not alone,  
 we live in God's world.  
 We believe in God:  
 who has created and is creating,  
 who has come in Jesus,  
 the Word made flesh,  
 to reconcile and make new,  
 who works in us and others  
 by the Spirit.  
 We trust in God.  
 We are called to be the Church:  
 to celebrate God's presence,  
 to live with respect in Creation,  
 to love and serve others,  
 to seek justice and resist evil,  
 to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
 our judge and our hope.  
 In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
 God is with us.  
 We are not alone.  
 Thanks be to God.

Children and 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**

A Reading from the Psalms: Psalm 91 (*The Inclusive Bible, alt*)      *Anne Bolton*

1     You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High  
      and pass the night in the shadow of Life Giver (Shaddai),  
2     say: "God the LORD, my refuge and my mountain fortress,  
      my God in whom I trust!"  
3     for God the LORD says: "I will rescue you from the snare,  
      and shield you from poisoned arrows.  
4     I will cover you with my pinions;  
      under my wings you will take refuge;  
      my faithfulness will shield you.  
5     You have no need to fear the prowlers of the night  
      or the arrow that flies by day,  
6     the plague that lurks in the shadows  
      or the scourge that stalks at noon.  
7     Though a thousand fall at your left side  
      and ten thousand at your right,  
      it will never come near you.  
8     You will see it pass you by,  
      and witness the punishment of the corrupt  
      with your own eyes.  
9     Because you have made me your refuge  
      and have me as your stronghold,  
10    no evil will befall you,  
      and no disaster will come near your tent.  
11    For I will command my angels

- to guard you wherever you go.  
 12 They'll carry you in their hands  
 so you don't hurt your foot on a stone.  
 13 You'll tread on the young lion as easily as one does a cobra;  
 you'll trample down both lion and serpent.  
 14 Because you love me, I will deliver you;  
 I will rescue you because you acknowledge my Name.  
 15 You will call upon me, and I will answer you;  
 I will be with you in trouble;  
 I will deliver you and honour you.  
 16 I will satisfy you with a long life and show you my salvation."

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:

***"Times of Trouble"***

*Rev. McLean*

Psalm 91: "On Eagle's Wings" VU 808 *seated (Note: During the Sermon)*

- 1 You who dwell in the shelter of our God,  
 who abide in this shadow for life,  
 say to the Lord: 'My refuge,  
 my Rock in whom I trust.'  
 'And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
 bear you on the breath of dawn,  
 make you to shine like the sun,  
 and hold you in the palm of my hand.'**
- 2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
 and famine will bring you no fear:  
 under God's wings your refuge,  
 God's faithfulness your shield.  
 'And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
 bear you on the breath of dawn,  
 make you to shine like the sun,  
 and hold you in the palm of my hand.'**
- 3 You need not fear the terror of the night,  
 nor the arrow that flies by day;  
 though thousands fall about you,  
 near you it shall not come.  
 'And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
 bear you on the breath of dawn,  
 make you to shine like the sun,  
 and hold you in the palm of my hand.'**

- 4 For to God's angels is given a command  
to guard you in all of your ways;  
upon their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.  
'And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of my hand.'  
  
'And hold you, hold you in the palm  
of my hand.'

### **We Respond to God**

✠ Hymn: "Would You Bless Our Homes and Families" VU 556



- 1 **Would you bless our homes and families,  
Source of life who calls us here;  
in our world of stress and tension  
teach us love that conquers fear.  
Help us learn to love each other  
with a love that constant stays;  
teach us when we face our troubles,  
love's expressed in many ways.**
- 2 **When our way is undemanding,  
let us use the time that's ours  
to delight in simple pleasures,  
sharing joys in gentle hours.  
When our way is anxious walking  
and a heavy path we plod,  
teach us trust in one another  
and in you, our gracious God.**
- 3 **From the homes in which we're nurtured,  
with the love that shapes us there,  
teach us, God, to claim as family  
every one whose life we share.  
And through all that life may offer,  
may we in your love remain;  
may the love we share in families  
be alive to praise your name.**
- 4 **Let us reach beyond the boundaries  
of our daily thought and care  
till the family you have chosen  
spills its love out everywhere.**

**Help us learn to love each other  
with a love that constant stays;  
teach us when we face our troubles  
love's expressed in many ways.**

Community Prayers

Choir Anthem "Come Away" *Adapted from Song of Solomon 2:10-13, 8:6-7* Mark Hayes

Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away,  
Arise, my love so beautiful, and come away.  
For lo, the winter is past.  
The rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth.  
The time for the singing has come! Ah!

The voice of the turtledove is heard in the land.  
The fig trees are bursting with buds and the promise of fruit.  
The grapevines are fragrant with blossoms.  
How delicious they smell!  
Spring is here and my heart is filled with love!

Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
As a seal upon your arm,  
For love is as strong as death,  
And passion, fierce as the grave.  
Many waters cannot quench love.  
All the world's riches cannot buy love.

Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away,  
Arise, my love so beautiful, and come away.  
For lo, the winter is past.  
The rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth.  
The time for the singing has come! Ah!

Arise, my love, and come away.

The Blessing of 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)

**O Spirit of God, warm our hearts with the love of God and of Risen Jesus, that we might rise to every opportunity to give our best, to worship and serve you today and every day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*based on John Wesley's "Consecration Prayer"*

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

✠ Hymn: "How Firm a Foundation" VU 660

- 1     **How firm a foundation, you servants of God,  
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!  
What more can be said than to you has been said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**
- 2     **'Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.**
- 3     **'When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.**
- 4     **'When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:  
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.**
- 5     **'The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not - I will not desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,  
I'll never - no, never - no, never forsake!'**

✠ 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.**

Postlude: "Wherever You May Go" MV 216 - David Kai