

# ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH COMMUNITY OF FAITH

*A spiritual hub for  
creativity, discovery and growth*



**Sunday, November 12, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

## **Dedication Sunday**

Minister

*Rev Don McLean*

Director of Music

*Brad Mills*



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**St. Paul's United Church, Perth**  
**Sunday November 12, 2023**  
**Dedication Sunday**  
**24<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost**



✠ *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

### Affirming

### Life of the Community

### Piano Prelude – "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" Atkinson, arr. by Larson

### Gathering Prayer (all)

**God of the Way, you are the road we travel, and the sign we follow; you are bread for the journey, and the wine of arrival. Guide us as we follow in your way, holding on to each other, but reaching out to your beloved world. And when we stray, seek us out and find us, set us back on the right path, and lead us safely home. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Companion and Guide. Amen.**

† 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.**

Children & Youth and The Prayer of Jesus (sung, VU 959)

**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 forever.**

*The Sunday School proceeds to their time together.*

## **We Listen for God's Word**

From the Gospels: St. Matthew 25: 14 - 30 NRSVUE     *Sharon Purdon*

<sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once <sup>16</sup>the one who had received the

five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup> In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup> But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup> After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' <sup>21</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup> And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' <sup>23</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup> Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup> But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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:

"When the roll is called"

Rev. McLean

☩ Hymn: **"Give To Me, Lord, A Thankful Heart"** VU 513

- 1     **Give to me, Lord, a thankful heart  
and a discerning mind;  
give, as I play the Christian's part,  
the strength to finish what I start  
and act on what I find.**
- 2     **When, in the rush of days, my will  
is habit-bound and slow,  
help me to keep in vision still  
what love and power and peace can fill  
a life that trusts in you.**
- 3     **By your divine and urgent claim,**

and by your human face,  
 kindle our sinking hearts to flame,  
 and as you teach the world your name  
 let it become your place.

- 4 Jesus, with all your church I long  
 to see your kingdom come;  
 show me your way of righting wrong  
 and turning sorrow into song  
 until you bring me home.

## We Respond to God

### The Dedication of our Stewardship Intentions

**All: Bless, O God,  
 these plans and intentions for the coming year.  
 As beloved and cheerful givers,  
 we pray that through your grace,  
 all that we give, in many different ways,  
 will be transformed,  
 so that in what we do and are,  
 your good news in Jesus will be celebrated,  
 your peace be felt,  
 and your love for all be made known. Amen.**

[Adapted from "Prayer of Dedication" by Bill Thomas and Cheryl Wood-Thomas,  
 in Sunday 2 Worship in We Sing Thanksgiving  
 (*Called to Be the Church*, program for 2017–2018), page 72.]

### Prayers of the Community

#### Choir Anthem: "O Be Joyful" (Psalm 100) Healey Willan

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:  
 Serve the Lord with gladness,  
 And come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God:  
 It is He that hath made us, and we are his;  
 We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,  
 And into his courts with praise:  
 Be thankful unto him,  
 And speak good of his Name.

For the Lord is gracious,  
 His mercy is everlasting;

And his truth endureth from generation to generation.

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:  
Come before his presence with a song.

### 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

**Gracious God, as we present our gifts by envelope, through PAR, online, and in other ways, we ponder with astonishment the truth they declare: that you can use our help; that your purpose is served by our generosity and faith. Help us to give, to be committed, to be grateful as joyful witnesses to your grace. May the gifts we offer now, and in the future, bring glory to you and advance justice and peace in the world. Amen.**

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

#### ☩ 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;
- 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.**

☩ 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.**

Organ Postlude – Finale in Bb Moore

\*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.

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