

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH COMMUNITY OF FAITH

*A spiritual hub for
creativity, discovery and growth*



Sunday, November 19, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Peace Sunday



Minister
Rev Don McLean

Director of Music
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St. Paul's United Church, Perth
Sunday November 19, 2023
Peace Sunday
25th 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

Organ Prelude Dona Nobis Pacem (Give us Peace) - *Traditional, arr. Sobaje Senior*

Gathering Prayer (all)

O God, you sent the Prince of Peace to teach us your Way – but we are slow to learn and quick to forget. Remind us that small acts, joined together, shape the world. Guide us in our actions so that our small acts of love and kindness shape a world where there is justice, mercy, security, and peace for all. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

† Hymn: "When Will People Cease Their Fighting?" VU 687 (Tune VU 690)

- 1 **When will people cease their fighting?
 When will armies wage no war,
 nations conquer not their neighbour,
 weapons idle, used no more?
 When will guns and bombs be silent?
 When will captives be set free?
 All creation groans in longing
 for the world's true liberty.**

- 2 **Floods and earthquakes, drought and famine
 plague the world with awesome ill,
 but far greater is war's horror
 caused by human, stubborn will.
 Blest are those who, working, praying,
 purpose in their hearts to be
 instruments of peace, committed
 to the nations' harmony.**

- 3 **As we strive for peace with vigour,
 hoping to be shown the way,
 we are strengthened in the knowledge
 of a future, perfect day;
 for we know that deeper, richer
 peace is ours when Christ shall reign;
 then will all our swords be plowshares
 and God's children free from pain.**

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 Prophets: Isaiah 11: 1 – 11 (TIB, alt)

Richard Byrd

11¹Then a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse:
from Jesse's roots, a branch will blossom.”

² The spirit of YHWH will rest on you—
a spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a spirit of counsel and strength,
a spirit of knowledge and reverence for Yhwh.

³ You will delight in obeying Yhwh,
and you won't judge by appearances,
or make decisions by hearsay.

⁴ You will treat poor people with fairness
and will uphold the rights of the land's downtrodden.
With a single word you will strike down tyrants;
with your decrees you will topple the wicked.

⁵ Justice will be the belt around this your waist—
faithfulness will gird you up.

⁶ Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat;
the calf and the lion cub will graze together,
and a little child will lead them.

⁷ The cow will feed with the bear;
their young will lie down together.
The lion will eat hay like the ox.

⁸ The baby will play next to the den of the cobra,
and the toddler will dance over the viper's nest.

⁹ There will be no harm, no destruction
anywhere in my holy mountain;
for as water fills the sea,
so the land will be filled with the knowledge of Yahweh.

One: For the wisdom that guides us, the word that inspires us
and the truth that enlightens us.

All: We praise you, O God.

From the Gospels: "Blest Are They" (Matthew 5) VU 896

- 1 **Blest are they, the poor in spirit,
theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow,
they shall be consoled.
Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God.**
- 2 **Blest are they, the lowly ones,
they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst,
they shall have their fill.
Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God.**
- 3 **Blest are they who show mercy,
mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart,
they shall see God.
Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God.**
- 4 **Blest are they who seek peace;
they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith,
the glory of God is theirs.
Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God.**
- 5 **Blest are you who suffer hate,
all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad yours is the kingdom;
shine for all to see.
Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God.**

Sermon:

“Peace is the way”

Rev. McLean

†Hymn: “Peace Is the Way” (Strathdee)

- 1 **There’s no way to peace,
peace is the way.
The strength of love and justice
will bring the peaceful day.
The power of forgiveness
will wash the blood away.
There’s no way to peace,
peace is the way.**

- 2 **There’s no way to love,
love is the way
to feel each human heartbeat
in all the world today,
to overcome all hatred
and melt the fears away.
There’s no way to love,
love is the way.**

- 3 **There’s no way to justice,
justice is the way
to honour all creation,
all peoples have their say,
to end all domination
with freedom and fair play.
There’s no way to justice,
justice is the way.**

We Respond to God

Prayers of the Community

Choir Anthem: Power and the Glory

I was a sinner, I was slippin’ away,
When the Lord laid His hand on me.
“Come to the water and be born again, and my love will set you free”.

Power! He is the power,
And the Glory! I will give Him the glory!
Hallelujah, He is the power, I will give Him the glory,
And the kingdom of heaven will be mine today.

Power! He is the power,

And the Glory! I will give Him the glory!
 Hallelujah, He is the power, I will give Him the glory,
 And the kingdom of heaven will be mine today.

He knows the worries in a troubled mind,
 And the hurt in a grievin' heart.
 He'll take your burden if you only believe.
 You can have a brand new start.

Power! He is the power,
 And the Glory! I will give Him the glory!
 Hallelujah, He is the power, I will give Him the glory,
 And the kingdom of heaven will be mine today.

Power! He is the power,
 And the Glory! I will give Him the glory!
 Hallelujah, He is the power, I will give Him the glory,
 And the kingdom of heaven will be mine today.
 Mine today!

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, accept our gifts, given by envelope, through PAR, online, and in other ways. Bless them and make them signs of freedom for others: freedom from hunger, from oppression, from conflict, from violence. Use these gifts, and use us we pray, to advance justice and peace in the world. Amen.

God Sends Us to Be the Church in the World

☩ Hymn: "O Day of Peace" VU 682

**1 O day of peace that dimly shines
 through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
 guide us to justice, truth, and love,
 delivered from our selfish schemes.
 May swords of hate fall from our hands,
 our hearts from envy find release,
 till by God's grace our warring world**

shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

- 2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
nor shall the fierce devour the small;
as beasts and cattle calmly graze,
a little child shall lead them all.
Then enemies shall learn to love,
all creatures find their true accord;
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
for all the earth shall know the Lord.

✠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: Trumpet Tune in F Major – *Himmelman*

*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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