

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
COMMUNITY OF FAITH**

A spiritual hub for creativity, discovery and growth



***Sunday, October 10, 2021
Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism
Thanksgiving Sunday***

Minister
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Welcome and Life of the Community

We are part of community worship today, at home and virtually in the sanctuary of St Paul's, Perth, ON.

St Paul's offers worship in various formats during this pandemic time:

- via emailed bulletin with MP3 music files
- On St. Paul's YouTube channel – go to www.stpaulsperth.ca and click on the YouTube icon.
- On Zoom occasionally – check upcoming worship notes below for dates
- During the stay-at-home restrictions, in print at the church door or by mail upon request, please call the office 613-267-2973

If you know someone who has been unable to access these worship options, please contact the office so we can find a way to stay connected to all members of our faith community.

Please read "**What's Happening**" for additional group announcements, dates to remember, team meetings, and upcoming events. Subscribe at admin@stpaulsperth.ca or call 613 267 2973

Upcoming Worship

Today - Sacrament of Holy Baptism: Mya Lillian Eve Hitchcock, daughter of Kathryn Mary Millicent Bowes and Brent Matthew Hitchcock

October 17 - "**Called to be the Church**", congregational giving program

October 24 - Anniversary Sunday

November 7 - Remembrance Sunday

November 14 - ****ZOOM**** service

Dates to Remember

November 4 - Deadline to return Yellow Response Cards

THANK YOU to congregation members for your offerings via PAR, envelopes and online donations.

- Drop a cheque in the outside locked mailbox at the church. Mail is checked regularly.
- Mail a cheque to: St. Paul's United Church, 25 Gore St. W. Perth, ON K7H 2L9
- Sign up for PAR - contact the Office: admin@stpaulsperth.ca
- Send an e-transfer to bookkeeper@stpaulsperth.ca
- Click the Donations link on the website: <https://www.stpaulsperth.ca/donate.html>

Acknowledgement of Land and Affirm United/s'affirmer ensemble

The land on which we live and worship is the land of the Algonquin Anishnaabe Native People. We give thanks for their stewardship of land, and we seek to learn and live in reconciliation and hope. We give thanks for elders who guide and show us the way.



St Paul's is a member of Affirm United/S'Affirmer Ensemble, and continues to educate the faith community to live out the learnings of the blessing of God's creation of the diversity of humanity.

We Gather

Acknowledgements - Projected on screen

Life of the Community/What's Happening!

Piano Prelude: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" - Elvey, arr. by Mark Hayes

Candle Lighting

As we gather to worship, we light this candle to remember the light and love that Jesus shared with so many. He did not keep this light to himself. After Jesus died, his friends continued to share the light. For generations upon generations the light has been shared, and love continues; Jesus is still with us. Today, in love, we welcome the light the light of the world.

Call to Worship

We gather to give thanks, O Creator God.

Be with us as we pray and sing together.

Be with us in our words, in our listening, and in our hearts.

We are here to worship, to remember the gifts flowing from you, O Creator God, and to give thanks.

Opening Prayer

God of infinite blessings, you touch our lives with love and blessings all around.

We come to this place today ready to hear your voice working through us, ready to celebrate your Spirit among us. Help us to be open to your Word and to answer your call to each one of us. **Amen.**

* Hymn: VU519 "Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

- 1 Sing to the Lord of harvest,
sing songs of love and praise,
with joyful hearts and voices
your hallelujahs raise;
by whom the rolling seasons
in fruitful order move;
sing to the Lord of harvest
a joyful song of love.
- 2 God makes the clouds drop fatness,
the deserts bloom and spring,
the hills leap up in gladness,

the valleys laugh and sing.
God fills them all with fullness,
all things with large increase,
and crowns the year with goodness,
with plenty and with peace.

- 3 Bring to this sacred altar
all things God's goodness gave,
the golden sheaves of harvest,
the souls Christ died to save:
your hearts lay down before him
when at his feet you fall,
and with your lives adore him
who gave his life for all.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we know that we can get caught up in feeling powerless and in hopelessness in our situation.

We find it hard to see the blessings that surround us.

We can get rooted in despair, caught up in confusion or anger at what is happening in our world.

We know that you hear our cries, and we know that you seek the wholeness and well being of all creation, shalom.

Come to us in your healing power so that we can help each other to find healing and hope. Amen

Words of Assurance

Our journey of discipleship does not end with powerlessness or lost hope.

Love wins; through the risen Christ we know that hope is eternal.

God's love and grace is all around us, freely and generously given; it is within us and flows through us.

God's love is everlasting and sustains us on the journey. Thanks be to God, Amen.

Children and Youth Time

Celebration of Holy Baptism

ORDER FOR HOLY BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION and PRESENTATION

The Sacrament of Baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God.

By water and the Spirit we are called and claimed and commissioned:
We are called God's own; given our identity as children of God.
We are claimed by Christ; united with Christ, with each other and with
the Christian community of every time and place. We are commissioned to Christ's ministry of
love and peace and justice, strengthened by the Holy Spirit for the work of Christ's church in
the world.

On behalf of the Congregation of St Paul's United Church, I present Mya Lillian Eve Hitchcock, child of Kathryn Mary Millicent Bowes and Brent Matthew Hitchcock for initiation into the
body of Christ through baptism.

Presider:

Hear the commission of the risen Christ to the disciples in the Gospel According to Matthew:
'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples
of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with
you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28: 18-20

In Paul's letter to the Galatians, we read: 'As many of you as were baptized into Christ have
clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or
free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:
27-28

Hear also the record of Jesus' concern for children as told in the gospel according to Mark:
'People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples
spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the
little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God
belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will
never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.'
Mark 10.13-16

PROFESSION OF FAITH (to the parents)

Do you believe in God and God's love?

I do, by the grace of God.

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you turn to Jesus Christ who lived and died and
lives again?

I do, by the grace of God.

Do you believe that God is active in the world, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to direct
and strengthen you?

I do, by the grace of God.

Will you join with your brothers and sisters in the mission and ministry of Christ's Church, liv-
ing in love and justice?

I will.

And will you show your child this Christian life, and grow with your child in faith?

I will.

QUESTIONS TO GODPARENTS

You have accepted a special privilege and responsibility of helping in the spiritual growth of this child; this offers the opportunity of a special relationship of love and concern for the child and parents.

Do you profess your faith, in God and in God's Son, Jesus?

I do.

Will you try by example and effort to support these parents in their task and will you encourage this child in Christian Faith and Christian Living?

I will.

CONGREGATIONAL PLEDGE (all rise, as able)

Within The United Church of Canada, the baptized community accepts the responsibility of the nurture and care of all children under their care as a community of godparents.

Let us pledge to these persons our support and care.

As a baptized and baptizing church, we commit ourselves to support and nurture you within a community which worships God, loves and serves others, seeks justice and resists evil.

May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism.

CORPORATE PROFESSION FAITH

Let us continue with our affirmation of faith by reciting A New Creed of The United Church of Canada:

**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 all 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. (The people may be seated)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND POURING OF WATER

God be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give our thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

(Water is poured into the font)

Blessed are you, O God, Ruler of the universe, Maker of heaven and earth, Keeper of sky and sea. Again and again you have shown your grace to us through water: breaking the waters at creation's birth, cleansing the earth at the flood, parting for the exodus at the Red Sea, flowing from the rock in the wilderness.

Blessed are you, O God.

In the fullness of time, you gave us Jesus: nurtured in the waters of Mary's womb, baptized by John in the River Jordan, giver of living water, wellspring of eternal life, light of the world.

Blessed are you, O God.

Therefore, eternal and present God, we bless you for the water with which you bless us. We pray that those who are given to the waters of life may live in your grace, knowing the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this water, that all who are gathered under this sign, being one in Christ, may be nurtured by the bread of life.

Blessed are you, O God. All glory, praise and honour be to you, now and forever.

Amen.

NAMING (What name has been chosen for this child?)

THE BAPTISM

Presider: Mya Lillian Eve Hitchcock, you are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

SIGNING OF THE CROSS

Presider: Mya, Child of God, with the sign of the cross, you are marked as Christ's forever.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Presider: Mya Lillian Eve Hitchcock, the power of the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful witness to Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

LIGHTING BAPTISMAL CANDLE

Presider: Kathryn and Brent, remember the lighting of this candle and remind Mya of it. It signifies that by our baptism we pass from darkness to light, from death to life. Mya, be as one who lives in the light of Christ.

WELCOMING

Presider: This child has been received into the holy catholic (universal) church and into the family of St Paul's United Church.

BLESSING

RECEIVING GIFTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

SENIOR CHOIR BAPTISMAL RESPONSE: May God's Sheltering Wings (MV214) - Snowdon

May God's sheltering wings, her gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms, her cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love, and hold you in her love.

We Encounter Sacred Story

Scripture :

2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Now it is not necessary for me to write you about the ministry to the saints, 2for I know your eagerness, which is the subject of my boasting about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year; and your zeal has stirred up most of them. 3But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you may not prove to have been empty in this case, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be; 4otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—in this undertaking. 5So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you, and arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised, so that it may be ready as a voluntary gift and not as an extortion.

6The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 9As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." 10He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; 12for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints

but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. 13Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, 14while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. 15Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. 2A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. 3He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. 4So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. 5When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." 6So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. 7All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." 8Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." 9Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. 10For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Meditation: Gratitude & Discipleship including music "The Indescribable Gift" - MP4 video

God cares for the poor, shares freely with all, God's righteousness lives forever. We are planting as disciples, knowing that as we sow, we shall reap. As we give freely, we receive. God's gift of grace; ours to keep.

God gives seed, to the sower, bread to all those who are hungry for food. Supplies and multiplies the gift, increases harvest of good!

Gifts put gospel into action, by gift of grace our spirits lift. Thank God who generously offers this indescribable gift!

Words and Music by David Kai

Our Response to Listening and Hearing

We offer ourselves, time, and talents to serving God's Mission for St Paul's and the World

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, we bring ourselves, our gifts, our talents to you. Bless each one of us. **Take us, our gifts, and all you have made us to be, that your work may be done in this place and in the world. Through the power of your Holy Spirit and in your name, we pray, Amen.**

Anthem: "We Come Rejoicing" - Trumpet - Mark Bailey (mp4 video)

We sing of joys our blessing declare;
We sing of gifts that God's children share:
Love in our hearts, joy in our living,
Peace in our minds and hope neverending.
We come rejoicing! We come with praise.
With true thanksgiving, one voice we raise.
We come rejoicing! We come with song,
Our harvest bringing, our praise to God alone!

Incorporating Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
Words by Alford, music by Elvey
Arranged with new music by Anna Laura Page

Bringing our gifts, we honor God's Son.
We show our thanks for what He has done:
Love for the world, joy for each sorrow,
Peace for each child and hope for tomorrow.
We come rejoicing!
We come with praise.
With true thanksgiving, one voice we raise.
We come rejoicing! We come with song,
Our harvest bringing, our praise to God alone!

Come, ye thankful people, come. Raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.
God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

We come rejoicing! We come with praise.
With true thanksgiving, one voice we raise.
We come with song, our praise to God alone!

Prayers of the People

A bidding prayer: when you hear "let us give thanks," respond with: **"We give you thanks, Generous God."**

We Go Forth to Be the Church in the World

"Thanks for the worship, folks!" 🙌

Hymn: VU520 "We Plough the Fields"

1 We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered

by your almighty hand;
you send the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.
All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
we thank you, God, O holy God,
for all your love.

2 You only are the maker
of all things near and far;
you paint the wayside flower,
you light the evening star;
the winds and waves obey you,
by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children,
you give us daily bread. R

3 We thank you then, O Maker,
for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food;
accept the gifts we offer
for all your love imparts,
and, what from us you long for,
our humble, thankful hearts. R

Commissioning

As you go from this place, go with trust in God, the source of our blessings. Go with the spirit of gratitude, looking for people and places to share generously, as we are a people rooted in God's abundance.

Benediction

May the love of God surround you, the peace of Christ be within you, and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you, now and always. Amen.

Organ Postlude: Aria and Dance on NUN DANKET (Now Thank We All Our God) - Overduin

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What's Happening - October 8, 2021

In person worship on Sunday mornings has resumed. Please self-screen before arriving to church and remember we are still following mask and distancing protocols. Virtual worship continues to be offered on YouTube, go to www.stpaulsperth.ca and click on the YouTube icon.

Called to be Church - Congregational Giving Program: Once again St Paul's is asking for your participation in our 2021 Congregational giving program. Letters have been sent in the mail and you should receive yours soon. Please take time to review the important information in this package. We are asking that you return your yellow response card by November 4th, even if your financial commitment for 2022 will remain the same or if you chose not to make a commitment at this time. St. Paul's 2022 budget will be based on information received, which will be vital for planning what ministries we can continue to offer and where we may have to consider some changes.

UCW Bake Sale: Saturday, October 9 from 9:00AM to 1:00PM. Covid protocols are being followed, please remember to wear a mask and social distance.

St Paul's Property Team URGENTLY needs members. You don't need to be a carpenter, plumber, painter, or repair person to volunteer for this team! If you would like to know more about what the Property Team does or if you are interested in joining, please contact the office, 613-267-2973 or email admin@stpaulsperth.ca

Sunday School is scheduled to start on Sunday, October 17th, pending Covid protocols at that time. Children will come directly to their classes. Ages 2 to 6 years will meet in in the Chapel, all others will meet in the Gathering Room. Please self-screen before arriving, children should wear masks, disinfect hands at the door, and sit in a chair distanced from others outside their household.

Mystery Friends are being sent out by email. If you have not been paired with a friend for 2021/2022 please let Mary know. Thanksgiving and Halloween cards are now in stores. Please send your new friend a card.

Thanksgiving reflection 2021

An often-used scripture for Thanksgiving is Deuteronomy 26. It stands amidst other chapters as to the liturgical rituals and understanding that the children of Israel are a people holy to God. This chapter tells the people to take a portion of the first fruits that grow in the land to the altar and recite a passage that reminds them that God took them out of slavery, took them out of Egypt, gave them land, and it was because of what God gave them. This was to take place yearly, this affirmation of God's presence with the people, the commandments that gave order and justice to all creation, that set the people holy, above other nations, because they were holy to God.

In the affluent, self-centred, self-made society in which we live, we forget who God is and who we are to be to God in our lives and in the world witness. We forget the "alien, the widow, the orphan so that they may eat their fill in your cities." We are seldom embarrassed by the opportunities and the white dominant culture in which we live that have enabled us to possess wealth. The ritual at the altar was a yearly remembrance that brought forth action.

In our covenant with God, it is to be just, merciful, and righteous even as God has been to us, as we see in Jesus' Way, and in our community of disciples.

We daily affirm God's goodness. We may use this thanksgiving time to affirm our actions of justice, care for the vulnerable, and by doing take our light out into a world that greatly needs God's love lived through us. Blessings for this time.