

# ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH COMMUNITY OF FAITH

*A spiritual hub for  
creativity, discovery and growth*



**Sunday, September 17, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.**  
**Second Sunday in Creation Time**



Minister  
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Director of Music  
*Brad Mills*



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St. Paul's United Church, Perth  
Sunday September 17, 2023  
16<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Creation Season



✠ *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 aligns 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: "Dear God Who Loves All Humankind" (Maker, arr. by Rokey)

### Gathering Words

One: We gather to celebrate God's love.

All: **God's love is all around us.**

One: We open our hearts and minds to God's Spirit.

All: **God's love is all around us.**

One: We are God's people.

All: **God's love is all around us.**

One: We seek to follow God's Way.

All: **God's love is all around us.**

- 1 All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing:  
hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Bright burning sun with golden beam,  
soft shining moon with silver gleam,  
sing praises, sing praises,  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 2 O rushing winds and breezes soft,  
O clouds that ride the winds aloft,  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
O rising morn, in praise rejoice;  
O lights of evening, find a voice:  
sing praises, sing praises,  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 3 Earth, ever fertile, day by day  
brings forth rich blessings on our way:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
The flowers and fruits that verdant grow,  
let them God's glory also show:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 4 And everyone of tender heart,  
forgiving others, take your part:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
All who long pain and sorrow bear,  
praise God and yield up all your care:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 5 Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship God in humbleness:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
Praise God eternal, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, three in one:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Gathering Prayer (all)

**Blessed are you, Creator of all.  
To you be praise and glory forever.  
As your dawn renews the face of the Earth  
bringing light and life to all creation**

**bring hope to your people.**

**May we rejoice in this day you have made,  
open our eyes to behold your presence,  
and strengthen our hands to work for justice for all of Creation,  
that the world may rejoice together and give you praise.  
Amen.**

(Adapted from Lancelot Andrewes, 1626,  
presented in Resources for the Season of Creation 2023,  
World Council of Churches)

## Children and Youth Time & The Prayer of Jesus

### The Prayer of Jesus (all) – Inclusive Bible

**Abba God in heaven,  
hallowed be your name!  
May your reign come;  
may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven:  
give us today the bread of Tomorrow.  
And forgive us our debts as we hereby forgive those  
who are indebted to us.  
Don't put us to the test,  
but free us from evil.  
For yours is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Sunday School proceeds to the Gathering Room.*

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

From the Gospels: St. Matthew 18: 21 - 35 (MSG)

Mary Oliver

<sup>21</sup> At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, "Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?"

<sup>22</sup> Jesus replied, "Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.

<sup>23-25</sup> "The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn't pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market.

<sup>26-27</sup> "The poor wretch threw himself at the king's feet and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

<sup>28</sup> “The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, ‘Pay up. Now!’

<sup>29-31</sup> “The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I’ll pay it all back.’ But he wouldn’t do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king.

<sup>32-35</sup> “The king summoned the man and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn’t you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?’ The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that’s exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn’t forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy.”

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:

**“Time For a New Lens”**

Rev. McLean

☩ Hymn: “Dear God, Who Loves All Humankind” VU 608

- 1 Dear God, who loves all humankind,  
forgive our foolish ways;  
re clothe us in our rightful mind;  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise.**
- 2 In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word  
rise up, and follow thee.**
- 3 O sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love!**
- 4 Drop thy still dews of quietness  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess**

**the beauty of thy peace.**

**5 Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire:  
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,  
O still small voice of calm!**

Prayers of the Community

Choir Anthem "Each and Every Day" (Jay Althouse)

Each and ev'ry day we come to praise the Lord,  
Each and ev'ry day we come to praise the Lord.  
Each and ev'ry day we come to praise the Lord.  
Hallelujah! We praise the Lord.

Each and ev'ry day we come to praise the Lord,  
Each and ev'ry day we come to praise the Lord.  
Each and ev'ry day we come to praise the Lord.  
Hallelujah! We praise the Lord.

Each and ev'ry day we come to serve the Lord.  
Each and ev'ry day we come to serve the Lord.  
Each and ev'ry day we come to serve the Lord.  
Hallelujah! We praise the Lord.

Each and ev'ry day in each and ev'ry way,  
We glorify and praise the Lord.

Each and ev'ry day we come to praise the Lord,  
Each and ev'ry day we come to praise the Lord.  
Each and ev'ry day we come to praise the Lord.  
Hallelujah! We praise the Lord.

Each and ev'ry day we celebrate the Lord,  
Each and ev'ry day we celebrate the Lord,  
Each and ev'ry day we celebrate the Lord,  
Hallelujah! We praise the Lord.

Each and ev'ry day in each and ev'ry way,  
We glorify and praise the Lord.  
Praise the Lord.

Each and ev'ry day we come to praise the Lord,  
Each and ev'ry day we come to praise the Lord.  
Each and ev'ry day we come to praise the Lord.  
Sing Hallelujah! We praise the Lord.  
Praise the Lord.

Each and ev'ry day we praise the Lord.

## **We Respond to God**

### Our Tithes and Offerings

#### Offertory Hymn

*TUNE: VU # 540*

**Grant us God, the grace of giving,  
with a spirit large and free;  
that ourselves and all our living,  
we may offer faithfully.**

#### Prayer of Dedication (all)

**Gracious, ever-living God, as we present our gifts, by envelope, through PAR\*, and in other ways, fill us with the passion of Jesus to care for the whole world, leaving no one poor or hungry or lonely. May we and all people, and Creation itself, dwell with you in peace. Amen.**

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

✠ Hymn: Creator God You Gave Us Life MV 27

- 1 **Creator God you gave us life,  
your image formed within our souls,  
yet through the mist of time and space,  
we search for that which makes us whole.  
*Refrain: Through hands that paint majestic skies,  
and voices chanting melody,  
with words that reach beyond the page,  
we comprehend your mystery.***
2. **In ev'-ry flow'r and ev'-ry tree,  
we see you great diversity,  
yet greater still we see you love,  
expressed in our humanity. *-refrain-***
3. **When with our hearts, our hands our minds,  
we share our gifts with all the world,  
our spirits soar beyond the veil,  
to touch the very face of God. *-refrain-***

#### ✠ 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: March on “All Creatures of Our God and King” (*Lasst Uns Erfreuen*)  
(*Geistliche Kirchengesänge, arr. by Nixon*)

\*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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