

Sunday March 10, 2019

11:00am

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church

and to our services today - we are happy that you have come!



Sunday Morning Nursery

Toys and other nursery items are available during the service

Sunday School children start with their parents and leave partway through the Annex or combined services for Sunday School

Washrooms are located off the atrium

Pew Cushions are available to the left of the front platform in the sanctuary

Two accessible entrances to St Paul's. One is on Main Street via the atrium, with the elevator located just inside the entrance. Best parking to use for this entrance is the town lot west of the church, with two handicapped parking spots. The second accessible entrance is via the ramp off our parking lot, with two handicapped parking spots in the parking lot.

Participating this morning

Worship Leadership: Reverend Dr. Dale Skinner

Music Director: Don Cassano **Piano:** Dawn Brodie

Greeting: Peter Anderson, Karen Tyrer & Caroline Brodie

Offering: Karen Tyrer, Wendy Hodgkins, Peter Anderson & Wayne Heath

Scripture Reader: Wayne Heath **Sound Team:** Brent Tyrer

Count Team: Diane Dickie, Brent & Karen Tyrer

Fellowship Time: Cassie Smith, Jean Morby & Alice Fetter

Bakers Dozen: Betty Ann Wolder & Wendy Hodgkins

**Large print bulletins available -
please ask one of our ushers**

* Please stand if able
Congregational responses in **bold**

A warm welcome is extended to all this morning. Your presence both enriches us and this time of worship together. In the midst of the busy-ness of life, we have been gifted with this time and place to reconnect with God and with one another. We seek to discern a life beyond life and behold the larger reality Jesus revealed in his own life, death and resurrection. Our aim is spiritual growth, a deeper faith and a loving community.

We Gather As God's People

Prelude

***VU 108** Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights

Welcome

The Life and Work of Our Community

***VU 402** We Are One

Call To Worship *(based on Mark 1:9-15, Luke 4:1-13)*

After he was baptized by John,
Jesus went by himself to the wilderness
where he was tempted.

**Forty days in the desert, Jesus was tempted
to become relevant, spectacular, and powerful.**

Today, we begin to journey with Jesus through the season of Lent,
which brings us to face some of our own weaknesses and temptations.

**Let us worship God and walk the journey together,
seeking the Spirit as our guide and companion along the way.**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

We light this candle mindful that Christ is among us.
Jesus is the Light of the World,
bringing a light that shines in us and for us,

illuminating the way of abundant Life.

Gathering Prayer and Lenten Prayer of Confession and Renewal

O God, as your people we gather in this place.
We come alone, but gather as brothers and sisters.
We come from our separate lives and are gathered by your grace.
Each of us comes as ones who have received
and acknowledge the need for this grace in our lives.

**O Creator who makes all things new, new stars,
new dust, new life;
take my heart, every hardened edge and measured beat,
and create something new in me.
I need your newness, God,
the rough parts of me made smooth;
the stagnant, stirred; the stuck, freed; the unkind, forgiven.
And then, by the power of your Spirit,
I need to be turned toward Love again. Amen.**

Assurance of Grace

God's mercies are fresh every morning.
In Christ God offers forgiving grace
and welcome into a community of trust, abundance, and hope.
Let us give thanks for the mercy of God,
and pass the peace of Christ in community among us.

*Exchange of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you ...
And also with you.

We Listen For God's Word

Choir Anthem

Scripture Reading

Luke 4:1-13

Wayne Heath

Word For Today

The Way of Justice: The Source

We Respond In Faith

Invitation to the Offering

We of St. Paul's are committed to the work of the Church. Weekly offerings, pre-authorized remittance (PAR), sharing of our time and talents and reaching out to friend and stranger are but some of the ways that we give. "God loves it when the giver delights in the giving." 2 Corinthians 9:7

Presentation Of Our Offerings

*Offertory Response

VU 218 verse 1

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
we lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We Celebrate At The Table of Christ

Welcome to the Table

One: Here we participate in the sacred story and celebrate the feast of the resurrection. In Christ, God desires all find a welcome here. Yet, we are reminded that as we gather to share this meal we also prepare ourselves for the giving. With humble hearts, let us turn again to the forgiveness that comes from God.

Litany Of Discernment

One: Loving and caring God, here we are at your table. May our hearts and minds be open to you. Look not upon our brokenness but upon our faith. Remove the barriers we erect against your love and ignite our lives with a holy passion.

All: Make us hungry for justice with mercy and for peace with compassion.

One: When life's abrasive pressures numb us, and we find it hard to care for anything or anyone -even ourselves...

All: Tell us again about lengthening days, a warm gentle breeze, a cradle, a cross, and a God who loves and seeks after us.

One: When we are consumed by our own needs, when we forsake our neighbours in need...

All: Lure us on to be faithful. If one suffers, we all suffer; if one flourishes, we all rejoice.

One: O God, bring new life where we are worn and tired; new love, where we have grown cynical; a renewed purpose when we are indifferent; forgiveness, where we have wounded.

All: God of hope, when we are prisoners of our selves. May we be reminded of the passion of Jesus Christ who lived to serve you for the good of all -the one who was celebrated; rejected; crucified and risen; the one who has promised to come again in glory.

Choir Sings VU 951 Holy, Holy, Holy (x2)

Thanksgiving

One: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might,

All: heaven and earth are full of your glory; Hosanna in the highest.

One: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God;

All: Hosanna in the highest.

Leader continues to pray...

Lord's Prayer *(all)*

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 for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread/Lifting of the Cup

One: The body of Christ broken for you.

All: Amen.

One: The blood of Christ, his life poured out for you.

All: Thanks be to God.

Distribution of the Elements

Communion will be served by the method of intinction. After the choir is served, beginning with the back rows, you are invited to come forward and take a piece of bread. You may then either dip the bread in the cup, or take one of the small cups from the tray. There is also a gluten free option. Please come forward down the middle aisles and return to your seat along the side aisles. If you are unable to come forward, please let the usher know and the servers will come to you.

Statement of Faith "A New Creed"

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.

We Go In God's Name

***VU 678** For The Healing Of The Nations

***Words of Sending Forth**

**May the faith within us get out, onto our lips,
into our feet and hands, and through our hearts.
May what we sing and pray here in this place,
get past our reticence and into our actions this week.
Help us tell our stories that reveal the presence
of the Living God in our lives.
May a passion for the Gospel burn within our hearts.
Let us not be silent in the face of deception or injustice,
for Christ calls us to "love one another" that we might en
joy everlasting life in the Spirit that is our strength.**

***Words of Blessing**

***Choral Response**

Today is the First Sunday of Lent.

The Lenten season is a part of the historical and liturgical Christian calendar. Although its format has varied throughout the centuries and throughout different cultures, the basic concept remains the same: to open our hearts to God's refining grace through prayer, confession, fasting, and almsgiving as we anticipate Holy Week. Lent traditionally lasts forty days, modeled after Christ's forty day fast in the desert, and ends on Good Friday. In the Western Church, Lent officially begins with a reminder of our mortality on Ash Wednesday (this year landing on March 6).

Like Advent, there are some of the key elements and symbols associated with the season of Lent. Many of these practices can be celebrated both individually and as a community:

Purple: The official color for Lent is purple. Purple can symbolize pain, suffering, and therefore mourning and penitence.

Confession: Lent calls for self-reflection and examination areas of lives that lead to our separation from God. It is a time to receive forgiveness and be open to the grace we need to change.

Fasting and Prayer: Fasting is a way of denying excesses in order we might be more attuned to the way of Jesus. To "give something up" makes space for something else. Hopefully a deeper relationship with God. Fasting should not be done to the detriment of one's physical or emotional state.

Giving alms: Lent can be a season to "take something up." Pick a particular charity, cause or ministry and devote some time and talent to its work. It is a reminder of how we all rely on the sacrifices of others to live.

Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper, so that when Good Friday and eventually Easter comes, it is not just another day off from work or school, but an opportunity to receive the overflowing of graces God has to offer.