

Sunday March 1, 2020

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.

We invite you to pick up informational brochures in the atrium. Please introduce yourself to one of the hosts; we would be most happy to help you. **Visitors and guests are encouraged to sign the Guest Book located in the atrium.** We hope you will come to fellowship time following our services for conversation and refreshments!

Participating this morning

Worship Leadership: Rev. Dale Skinner

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

Greeting: Joanne Dundass, Wally Whitnell & Marlene Grimwood

Offering: Joanne Dundass, Wally Whitnell, Marlene Grimwood & Wendy Hodgkins

Sound Team: Sandra Shore **Scripture Reader:** H el ene Ellison

Count Team: Jennifer Viveiros, Glen & Sandra Shore

Fellowship Time: Mary McDuffe, Mary Ellen Lee, Yodit Yisak

Bakers Dozen: Marilyn Elsley & Sue Paul

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

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.

The land upon which we live and work is a gift from the Creator. We acknowledge the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the lands of the "Dish With One Spoon" wampum agreement.

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

We Gather As God's People

Prelude

***VU 402** "We Are One"

Welcome

The Life and Work of Our Community

Young people (ages K-8) are now welcome to exit the Sanctuary to attend church school on the lower level.

Call To Worship

As darkness gives way to light
and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,

We come today to be reminded of Christ's love for us.

Like the green shoots of renewed life,
stirring beneath the soil,

We discern an awakening of God's word in our lives.

In this time of reflection and repentance,
Lent becomes a part of our journey.

We welcome God's Spirit as a source of strength.

As we gather, as we pray,
as we share the cup and break the bread

**We affirm our identity, we hope in the future,
as a people of God.**

Gathering Prayer

We Go In God's Name

Lighting of the Christ Candle – First Sunday of Lent

There are many temptations we face in our lives together.
We face the temptation of putting our wants above another's needs.
We face the temptation of ignoring problems such as hunger, poverty,
war, and disease, with the false hope that they will go away without our intervention.
We face the temptations of wealth and consumerism.
We face many temptations to stray from the path of our faith.

**We light this candle as a symbol our faith in Jesus Christ, a light to our path,
illuminating the way of Life.**

We Listen For God's Word

Scripture Reading Matthew 4:1-11

Hélène Ellison

Word For Today "Strength Under Pressure"

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

Choir Anthem Come to the Banquet

by Joseph Martin

*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 *see green insert*

*VU 258 "O World Of God"

*Words of Sending Forth

— *written by St. Benedict (489-543)*

Almighty God, give us wisdom to perceive you,
intellect to understand you, diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you and life to proclaim you,
through the power of the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ.

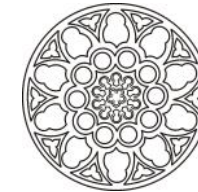
*Words of Blessing

*Choral Response

*Exchange of the Peace

*Before we depart, we are invited to exchange "the Peace of Christ"
with the ones around us.*

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



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 February 26).