

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

St. Paul's Pastoral Charge

April 20, 2025

Easter Sunday

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mary Anne Silverthorn

WELCOME

INTROIT: The Choir

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

One: Today we light the Christ Candle with a new spirit in our heart and we join with the angels in heaven singing...

All: He is Lord, He is Lord He has risen from the dead; and He is Lord.

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY

We begin our worship by acknowledging that we are meeting on Aboriginal lands that have been inhabited by Indigenous peoples from the beginning. As settlers, we're grateful for the opportunity to meet here and we thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Christ has risen.

All: Christ has risen indeed.

One: God is alive . . .

All: new birth is given.

One: Hope is alive . . .

All: a new age is dawning.

One: Joy is alive . . .

All: redemption is here.

One: Love is alive . . .

All: death cannot harm us.

One: We are alive . . .

All: new life is within us.

One: The church is alive . . .

All: God's Spirit is within us. Let us celebrate the God of resurrection!

OPENING HYMN VU # 155 "Jesus Christ is Risen today"

1. Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
Our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
Who did once upon the cross hallelujah!
Suffer to redeem our loss. hallelujah!

2. Hymns of praise then let us sing hallelujah!
Unto Christ our heavenly King, hallelujah!

Who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!
Sinners to redeem and save. hallelujah!

3. But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!
Our salvation have procured; hallelujah!
Now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!
Where the angels ever sing. hallelujah!

4. Sing we to our God above hallelujah!
Praise eternal as his love; hallelujah!
Praise our God ye heavenly host, hallelujah!
Praise the Son, and Holy Ghost. hallelujah!

PRAYER OF APPROACH (in unison)

Creative God, you who breathe life into dust and bring new life out of death: we are gathered as your Easter people, raised up with Christ in resurrection hope. We come with hurts and confusion, with despair, with the smell of death still clinging to us. Yet you, Lord, invite us to step out into new life in the way of Jesus. We thank you for this great gift; may our whole lives express our gratitude. We pray in the name of our risen Saviour. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsive)

One: Christ, you shed light into our darkened world.

All: Yet we choose to walk in shadows of indifference and fear.

One: From the cool, refreshing waters of a deep well, you offer us a drink of life-giving water.

All: Yet we choose to drink from wells of bitterness and anger.

One: As life emerges from fertile soil, you invite us to newness and growth.

All: Yet we choose the parched soil of hatred, materialism, and greed.

One: With songs of celebration, you invite us to join the dance of God's tomorrow.

All: Yet we choose to sit, ignoring the music. Forgive us Lord and lead us in the dance of your tomorrow.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The stone is rolled away—we are released! The tomb is empty—we can be free!

All: Christ is risen—our lives can be full! Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN'S FOCUS:

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Children's Hymn: MV # 48 "I Can Feel You Near Me God" (vs. 1 & refrain)

1. I can feel you near me God, I can feel you near
Yes, I know you're with me God, I feel you here
I can feel you near me God, I can feel you near
Yes, I know you're with me God, Heaven is here.

Refrain x 2: And I'll jump for joy I'm singing Alleluia
Jump for joy for you I will jump for joy
I'm singing Alleluia Jump for joy for you.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURES: Gospel: John 20:1-18 pg. 114

Reader: We are reminded of the Promise of God.

All: We receive God's Word's with Joy.

MESSAGE: "What a Difference A Day Makes"

SELECTION: Aliyah Helsdon & Karen Hodges

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERTORY PRAYER (Unison)

O God, this is the offering of our time, talent, and treasure. May these gifts be used with wisdom, and with justice in the church, and throughout the world. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith The New Creed (in unison)

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.

COMMUNION HYMN: VU # 467 "One Bread One Body"

Refrain: One bread, one body one Lord of all.
One cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth.
We are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew. Servant or free
Woman or man, no more. **(Refrain)**

Many the gifts. Many the works
One in the Lord of all. **(Refrain)**

Grain for the fields. Scattered and grown
Gathered to one, for all. **(Refrain)**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

On the day of his resurrection, Jesus appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus, but they did not recognize him. Later, while he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. May Christ's presence be made known to us in the breaking of bread.

CALL TO GIVE THANKS

One: What does God require of us?

All: To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

One: Then let us remember God's ways and seek to walk them together.

THANKSGIVING

One: Source and Sustainer of life, we gather at this table to offer thanks, and to taste afresh the wonder of a holy love. In companionship with all creatures, we are one in gratitude for the gift and mystery of life, and one in longing for a world reborn.

All: Creator and Friend, we praise you for your presence ever drawing us towards healing and wholeness. In our joy, you are the overflowing cup; in our need, you are the bread by which we journey on. With all who abide in your presence and care, we lift our voices to say: Holy, holy, holy God, Power of life and love! Heaven and earth are full of your glory! Hosanna through the ages! Blest is the One who comes to bring your justice to earth!

REMEMBERING JESUS AT TABLE

One: Let us remember together that vision of God's reign shown to us in Jesus at table:

All: he shared food with followers and friends,

One: with saints and sinners,

All: with crowds of thousands on the hillside,

One: and a few friends in an upper room.

All: On the night before he died, he had supper with his companions,

One: He took a loaf of bread, and after giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

All: "Take, eat. Do this in remembrance of me."

One: Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he passed it among them, saying"

All: "Drink this. Do this in remembrance of me."

One: Through this loaf and cup, Jesus lives within us.

All: In word and deed, Jesus lives among us.

PRAYER OF SELF-GIVING

Remembering your boundless love for us in Jesus Christ, we offer you our praise, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

One: This we remember; this we believe:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION

One: Holy God, we pray for your Spirit.

All: Make us, while many, one, make us, though broken, whole. Make us, despite death, alive.

One: And so, we pray:

All: Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

REMEMBERING THE COMMUNITY

One: Remember your church, O God, redeemed by Christ, and strengthened by the Holy Spirit. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, preserve its peace, empower its witness. Remember all who share in the ministry of your church. Remember all your people and those who seek your truth. Remember all who have died in Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone. Bring them into the place of eternal joy and peace, with all the saints. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son, Jesus the Christ.

CONCLUDING PRAISE

All: Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three. Praise now! Praise tomorrow! Praise forever!

One: And so, this is our prayer. So be it! Amen!

All: Amen!

BREAKING THE BREAD AND FILLING THE CUP

Bread for the journey. The wine of arrival.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

For the bread we have eaten, for the wine we have tasted, for the life we have received, we thank you God. Grant that what we have done and been given here, may so put its mark on us that it may remain always in our hearts. Grant that we may grow in Christian love and understanding, and that ours may be lives of faithful action, in Christ’s name. Amen.

Written by Sue Peverley

IN JESUS’ NAME WE GO TO SERVE

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

One: The God of Easter send us forth to live the power of resurrection, that we and all creation might be one with the living Christ; to whom with you and the Spirit, one holy God,

All: We go in peace to honour and praise our God, now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN/POSTLUDE: My Redeemer Lives – Easter Suite

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We welcome all who join us for in-person worship today and online.

Everyone is invited to join for fellowship and refreshments in the Friendship Room down the hall after today’s service. Members of the MFC are hosting today.

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In our thoughts and prayers this week are Vinton Brown, and Carol Crocker.

Our prayers and condolences are with Lynne Wolstenholme on the passing of her husband, Brian on Tuesday.

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Happy Birthday wishes to **Bill Collins** on April 20th and to **Mae Moffat** celebrating her 82nd birthday on April 22nd; and to **Reg Butcher** for April 25th we hope you all have a wonderful day!



On April 23rd **Dave & Jenny Ramer** are celebrating their "65th"
Wedding Anniversary, Congratulations!



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Easter blessings to all. May you enjoy special times with family and friends.

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SMILE for the PHOTO

A group photo will be taken on Easter Sunday after worship at the front of the sanctuary. If you wish to purchase a photo the cost will be \$5.00. Jeff Helsdon the photographer has indicated they will be available for pickup after coffee.

On Sunday as you arrive for worship, indicate to me Mary Anne you wish to purchase a photo, pay me \$5.00 and after church go for a coffee in the Friendship Room and return to the sanctuary to pick up your copy of the group photo before you leave.

Thank you and remember to smile!!! It will be EASTER morning and we have much to SMILE ABOUT and to CELEBRATE!!!

Mary Anne Silverthorn

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The **EASTER special offering envelopes** are to support Youth for Christ/Upper Deck and Tillsonburg Salvation Army.

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Come join us! The UCW Friendship Circle meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 23rd at 1 pm in the Friendship Room. The speaker will be Jeff Helsdon, editor of the Tillsonburg Post.



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AOTS FELLOWSHIP CLUB -SAVE THE DATE: April 25, 2025

We are inviting our Messy church families to join St. Paul's Sunday school and youth group for an after school (chill out) party from 4:30 until 6:00 P.M. at the UPPER DECK Youth Centre 19 Queen St. behind the mall. There will be a chance to play games, shoot some pool, play sticks or just kick back after a hard week of school or work! We will have snacks, pizza and refreshments. In order to have enough pizza etc. please RSVP to fcollis98@gmail.com or stpaulsaots21@gmail.com

****if you plan on attending all children must be accompanied by an adult**.**

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Celebrate 100



REMEMBER -- to contribute to the "Celebrate 100" a number relating to 100. All monies will stay at St. Paul's --- do you have an idea to celebrate 100? We may announce a contest soon.

Direct your questions to Mary Anne Silverthorn



Foodbank Drive – April

At this time, we are in **urgent need** of the following high-demand items:

To help meet current needs, we are focusing on two donation themes:

- ☐ **Warm & Cozy** – Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate are always appreciated,
- ☐ **Essentials** – Shampoo and toilet paper are small but vital items that make a big impact on daily life. Thank you to all who have donated.

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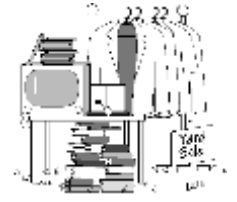
Saturday, May 31st is fast approaching for our annual Yard Sale – indoor this year from 8-1p.m. We are in need of:

Good used clothing, shoes, purses, Jewelry, children’s and adults books; puzzles, games and toys also glassware, housewares, bedding, linens china and small furniture items and tools

You can drop off items Monday, Wednesday and Fridays 8:30-12 noon. (place on trolley) by the Bidwell doors

For more info. contact: Brenda, Lesley or Karon

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SOMETHING NEW is COMING to St. Paul’s

A member of our church family had an idea and Council gave their approval. Several donors came forward and now we have a NEW project.

To celebrate--- the 100th anniversary of the UCC, our proud Canadian Heritage our 158th year for St. Paul’s UC

***** the memories of loves ones –

(Plaque and wording of citation to be determined later)

Council approved the purchase of a flag and flagpole to be erected near the Bidwell St. Entrance – exact site to be determined.

We have the cost covered: however if you would like to make a donation ---- write a cheque OR e-transfer monies marked payable to St. Paul’s UC and marked flagpole/flag. All donations will be added to your yearly giving’s and a receipt issued at the end of the year. Cost of the project – Approximately \$4500.00. Includes— professional installation etc.

Hoping to have this all completed prior to July 1—to celebrate Canada Day.

Stay tuned!!! This is exciting!!!

There will be a celebration at the time we “Raise the Flag” for the first time – mid June we hope –STAY TUNED

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"A special thank you to all of you who made butter tarts in memory of Doreen Smith and we were able to sell them all for a profit of \$260.00 to go to the general fund. And thank you also to the people who purchased them and made our event a success."



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Once again, the **UCW are taking orders for geraniums** at a cost of \$3.50 each. A variety of colours are available: red, white, pink and orange. To place your order please contact Wilma Jeffery at (510) 688-0065 or Rita Van Lamoen at (519) 842-9271. Pick-up will be in early May. **Last day to order May 5th.** A sign-up sheet is available outside the Friendship Room. Thank you for your support!



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Seated Massage Workshops



Learn how to do a relaxing seated massage by using some simple and easy to learn techniques focusing on neck, shoulders, back, hands and feet.

Turn your family and friends into putty in your hands. Wear comfortable, loose clothing and bring a pillow.

Dates: Tues. May 6 and Wed. May 7

Location: St. Paul's United Church - Friendship room

Cost: Attending one session \$20 each person

Attending both sessions \$30 each person

Bring a partner or we will find you a partner for you.

Sign-up sheets outside the Friendship room – this is a fundraiser for the church.

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Please join us for a new outreach social program to Celebrate 100 years of the United Church. **All ladies and gentlemen are welcome for CHAIR YOGA** every Thursday at 2:15 PM in the friendship room, starting on **May 15th**. This will be via "YOU TUBE". The first session will be about 25 minutes.

- Work at your own comfort level.
- Great way to keep fit and stay healthy.
- Enjoy some social time with friends.
- Come for the Yoga and stay for the tea.
- SIGN UP BY THE FRIENDSHIP ROOM.



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*The summer camping season is just around the corner and enrollment has already started. The AOTS Fellowship club, UCW Friendship club and CD/Worship committee have 3 spaces available. ** If you would like to **donate to the camp fund please make your donation out to St. Paul's United Church** and mark summer camp in the memo. **If you have kids aged 5-13 that would be interested in attending summer camp please contact Dave Collis at stpaulsaots84@gmail.com or Brenda Marshall at fnbmarshall@sympatico.ca*

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Just a gentle reminder:

Let's Celebrate our 100th Anniversary wearing a Name Tag. Contact Lisa at 519-409-1058 or add your name on the Name Tag sign-up sheet on the table near the Friendship Room.

<p>DID YOU KNOW?</p>	<p>... that you can serve in unusual areas like getting stuff ready for our Garage sale or decorating for special occasions like Easter, Thanksgiving or Christmas?</p>
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