

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

St. Paul's Pastoral Charge

February 5, 2023

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Laurie Drew

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG: VU #82 "A Light is Gleaming" (vs. 1 & refrain)

Refrain: A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night, living in the light.
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love
is burning bright, living in the light.

When light comes pouring into the darkest place,
it hurts our eyes to see the glow.
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears,
our memories and tears. **(Refrain)**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY

In Tillsonburg, as we gather on the traditional territory of indigenous peoples, dating back countless generations, we acknowledge the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee and Attawandaron peoples, showing respect for the long-standing relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers."

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Lord as we come to worship, stir up the wills of your people.

All: Move us into new ways of living.

One: Stir up the minds of your people, O God.

All: Move us into deeper ways of thinking.

One: Stir up the hearts of your people, O God.

All: Move us into fuller ways of loving.

One: Stir us thoroughly, O God.

All: Let us worship you afresh. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: VU # 87 "I am the Light of the World"

Refrain: I am the Light of the World
You people come and follow me.
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be.

1. When the song of the angels is stilled. When the star in the sky is gone.
When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home.
The work of Christmas is begun! **(Refrain)**
2. To find the lost and lonely one, to heal that broken soul with love,
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below the sky above! **(Refrain)**

3. To free the prisoner from all chains, to make the powerful care,
To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,
To see God's children everywhere. **(Refrain)**

**Refrain: I am the Light of the World
You people come and follow me.
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be.**

4. To bring hope to every task you do, to dance at a baby's new birth,
To make music in an old person's heart,
And sing to the colors of the earth! **(Refrain)**

PRAYER OF APPROACH (in unison)

We feel your welcome, gracious God, in this time of worship. You welcome young and the young at heart, all seeking peace, and all brimming over with energy. You welcome newcomers and long-time members; all seeking a familiar expression of praise and prayer, and all seeking a new celebration of faith. You welcome us all, welcoming God. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: God forgives and heals us.

All: Merciful God, we need your healing: give us true repentance. Some sins are plain to us; some escape us, some we cannot face.

Forgive us; set us free to hear your Word to us; set us free to serve you.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God the Creator brings us new life, forgives and redeems us. Let us take hold of this forgiveness, and live our lives in the spirit of Jesus.

All: Amen.

CHILDREN'S FOCUS:

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Children's Hymn: CCS # 112 "I'll Be a Sunbeam" (vs. 1, 2 & refrain)

1. Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, to shine for Him each day;
In every way try to please Him, at home, at school, at play.

**Refrain: A sunbeam, a sunbeam, Jesus wants me for a sunbeam;
A sunbeam, a sunbeam, I'll be a sunbeam for Him.**

2. Jesus wants me to be loving, and kind to all I see;
Showing how pleasant and happy His little one can be. **(Refrain)**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

**SCRIPTURES: Gospel: Matthew 5:14-20
Reader: God's Word is a lamp to our feet
All: and a light to our path.**

SERMON: “We are the Light” – Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer

HYMN OF REFLECTION: CCS # 234 “This Little Light of Mine”

This little light of mine I’m going to let it shine
This little light of mine I’m going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No! I’m going to let it shine
Hide it under a bushel? No! I’m going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

Don’t let Satan [blow] it out! I’m going to let it shine
Don’t let Satan [blow] it out! I’m going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

Let it shine till Jesus comes I’m going to let it shine
Let it shine till Jesus comes I’m going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

OFFERTORY HYMN: VU # 537 “Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands”

1. Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.
2. Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make:
be pleased to use it as your own we ask for Jesus' sake.

OFFERTORY PRAYER (in unison)

**God of all peoples and God of all places,
we present these offerings,
that they may be used to extend your liberating reign.
With them, we offer our varied ministries,
that each of us may be part of your answer
to the cries of the world. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: God, whose glory the heavens are telling,

**All: we praise you for light leaping across northern skies
and for the joys of blade upon ice, ski upon snow,
fire in the hearth, and friends for celebration.**

One: We praise you also for your continuing presence
in a world where wealth has so much say, and the wicked prosper,
and relationships go sour, and hearts and dreams are broken.

All: In laughter and tears alike we praise you.

One: We pray for the peace of the world, O God,
and for the peace that only you can give—

**All: not only the absence of conflict and battle,
but also the fullness of life that is prosperity for all,
goodwill among neighbours, and welcome for every outsider.**

One: Hear us now as we name the situations and nations for which we seek your Shalom: our own country, Canada . . . families buffeted by the storm of economic despair . . . war-torn countries . . . Those we name in our heart dealing with illness, our families, our friends, ourselves

All: We gather these and all our prayers, those spoken aloud and those too deep for words, in Jesus' name. Amen.

IN JESUS' NAME WE GO TO SERVE

CLOSING HYMN: VU # 646 "We Are Marching"

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching,
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching,
We are marching in the light of God.

We are living in the love of God, we are living in the love of God,
We are living in the love of God, we are living in the love of God
We are living, living, we are living, living,
We are living in the love of God,
We are living, living, we are living, living,
We are living in the love of God,

We are moving in the power of God, we are moving in the power of God,
We are moving in the power of God, we are moving in the power of God,
We are moving, moving, we are moving, moving,
We are moving in the power of God.
We are moving, moving, we are moving, moving,
We are moving in the power of God.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

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Please join us for a social time after the worship service for coffee, (regular and decaf) as well as tea, juice and cookies will be served.

Members of the Congregation are hosting this month.

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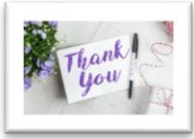
In our thoughts and prayers this week Marie Barker, Jayne Coyle, Bill Drew, Al Meyer and Val Simmons.

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Update on Kaytlyn McKibbon

Kaytlyn has had her surgery in Boston and it was successful!
We will hold her in our prayers for a safe journey home and for her recovery.





"I would like to express my deepest thank you for all the cards and Birthday wishes. They certainly brightened my day. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

With many thanks, Nancy Fitzpatrick"

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BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 9.45 a.m.
at the home of Ruth Francis 11 Peach St. 519 688-7724

All are welcome.



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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (AGM)

NEXT Sunday February 12, 2023 in the sanctuary following worship



The report booklet has been emailed to you February 2nd and picked up by the folks without email. It is very important for you to read it in advance because reports and info will not be read aloud at the meeting.

This meeting will be:

- to receive and approve all 2022 reports which includes the Financial Report for 2022
- to hear the presentation and approve the proposed budget for 2023
- to elect members of the Church Council and Committees for 2023
- to deal with any other routine business that is necessary at each and every AGM.

This is your opportunity to ask questions, seek clarification and give input.

Please plan to be present. If you have any items for clarification or questions prior to the meeting please contact me.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

**Mary Anne Silverthorn
Church Council Chair**

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PANCAKE SUPPER on SHROVE TUESDAY

in the Banquet Hall, February 21 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

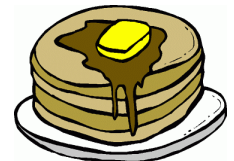
Adults: \$10.00 Children 10 & under \$5.00

Cash payable at the door

Bring your family, friends and neighbours

Proceeds for Church Ministry

Karon Harris 519-842-8596



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TILLSONBURG MINISTERIAL LENT SERVICES

'The Road to Emmaus'



Messy Church from 10 - Noon on March 4

"March of the Penguins"

With crafts, games, music and lunch to follow!

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Roy Leblanc, an award-winning Elvis impersonator, will perform at St. Paul's on **Saturday March 11, 2023 at 2 p.m.**

Tickets are \$25 and are available anytime from Dianne Parnell (519-871-3454).



For friends or family in hospital (here in Tillsonburg or elsewhere) please contact our Church Office (519-688-0011) with Hospital name and details to let our minister know so she can follow-up with a visit or a phone-call. Hospitals no longer provide daily lists of patients wanting visits and we would not want to miss you.

DID YOU KNOW	...that the Gifts for Vision catalogue is available online at giftswithvision.ca ?
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