

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

St. Paul's Pastoral Charge

March 10, 2024

Lent 4

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dave Morris

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN: MV # 8 "And On This Path"

1. And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide! Open wide! The gates are open wide!
2. So, enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide,
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide! Open wide! The gates are open wide!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY

One: We acknowledge that we here at St. Paul's United Tillsonburg, live, work, worship and play on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee and Attawandaron peoples.

All: As we gather, may we recognize God's call on our lives to constantly strive to be people of reconciliation.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God invites us to journey in the way of faithfulness,

All: to walk the Lenten road with Christ.

One: We journey with confidence, for Christ is with us.

All: Thanks be to God, for God's steadfast love.

OPENING HYMN: VU # 378 "Spirit Of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

1. Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move.
Stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,
And make me love you as I ought to love.
2. I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies
no sudden rending of evil clay.
no angel visitation, no opening skies,
but take the dimness of my soul away.
3. Have you not bid me love you, God and King?
All, all your own, soul, heart and strength and mind.
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling:
O let me seek you and O let me find!

4. Teach me to love you as your angels' love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The baptism of the heaven-descended dove,
My heart an altar, and your love the flame.

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

Most Holy God, we rejoice in our awareness of your presence. As you enter our lives, refresh and renew us; grant that we may live with love in the example of Jesus the Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit, through whom we pray. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

O God, we confess that we often come to you reluctantly, afraid of what we might have to give up or change when we enter your presence. In our reluctance, we often miss opportunities for your grace to touch us, and through us to touch others. Touch us that we might be healed; forgive us that we might be born again. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God's word says "I will forgive them and I will remember their sin no more."

All: This is the Good News! We are set free to begin life anew. Thanks be to God! Amen.

CHILDREN'S FOCUS:

PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHILDREN'S HYMN: "Read Your Bible Pray Every Day"

Read your Bible.

Pray every day (repeat 3 times).

Read your Bible. Pray every day.

And you'll grow, grow, grow (repeat 3 times).

Read your Bible. Pray every day. And you'll grow, grow, grow.

If you don't read your Bible.

And forget to pray (repeat 3 times).

If you don't read your Bible

You'll shrink, shrink, shrink (repeat 3 times).

If you don't read your Bible and forget to pray.

You'll shrink, shrink, shrink.

So, read your Bible.

Pray every day (repeat 3 times).

Read your Bible. Pray every day.

And you'll grow, grow, grow (repeat 3 times).

Read your Bible. Pray every day and you'll grow, grow, grow.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

One: God of call, God of transformation, God of the Lenten journey; help us to discern your still, small voice.

All: Open us to change and growth that we may walk with Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURES: Gospel: Luke 11:1-12 pg. 72
Reader: Living God, we thank you for your Word.
All: Amen.

HYMN: Sweet Hour of Prayer (vs. 1) (seated)

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

SERMON: "Reflections on Prayer" Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer

HYMN: Sweet Hour of Prayer (vs. 3) (seated)

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! thy wings shall my petition bear
to him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since he bids me seek his face, believe his word, and trust his grace,
I'll cast on him my every care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERTORY HYMN OFFERTORY HYMN: VU # 542 "We Give You but Your Own"

We give you but your own
Whate'er the gifts may be
All the we have is yours alone
We give it gratefully

OFFERTORY PRAYER (in unison)

God of Light, you gave us your only Son so that we may experience eternal life. We humbly give these offerings as a faithful response to this gift. Money seems so insignificant when compared to your gift of life. Yet, we place this money before you as a sacrificial gesture of our gratitude. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (led by Mary Hessler)

One: Thank you, God, for getting us through the night and blessing us with a new day. Help us to use our day to be there for others.

All: Thank you for giving us family. Please protect them from injuries as they go through their day at work, school or play, and keep them from harm.

One: We ask for your just punishment and rehabilitation for bullies or predators that seek to harm others.

All: We are grateful for our family's good health, and ask that you always let us be there for them when they need us.

One: Lord, we ask your blessing on our leaders..... the people we look up to for guidance at Church, school, work, and political decision makers.

All: Please bless Karlene with good health. Let her know that her Church family supports her at work and rest. Help her to shepherd us through Your word and guide us to become better Christians.

Be with our Town Council, Provincial and Federal leaders. Guide them to make wise choices for us.

One: Father, please protect all world leaders. Guide them to make decisions that lead to peace..... not war.

All: Help them to make wise choices to care for this wonderful planet that you have entrusted to us. Give them the ability to collect information and give us advice on how we can fight diseases that affect the entire world population.

One: Be with the victims of earthquakes and other disasters.

All: Give them hope dear God, that when tomorrow comes, it will be a better day.

One: Lord, we place before you the most vulnerable in our society. Help them to know that they are loved and valued by many.

All: Give us opportunities to reach out with a meal, warm clothing, or shelter. While some of us can't give financially, remind us we can always give a smile, a greeting, or a few friendly words to let them know they are not alone or forgotten.

One: We place before you people who suffer with mental illness, depression or loneliness.

All: We remember especially those grieving the loss of a loved one, or a pet. Please Lord, direct them towards the help they need we pray.

One: Be with people that are incarcerated or are habitual drug users.

All: Give them the opportunities to reach out for help; to turn their life around and become useful citizens of society.

One: Please make it more difficult for drug dealers and gun dealers, so we can keep our streets safer.

All: Protect the homeless and help them find a safe place. We remember especially those living in squalid conditions in camps some for generations. Please send help for them.

One: We ask your protection and guidance for all doctors, surgeons, nurses and all other medical related staff.

All: Please give them the skill and ability to take care of all our medical needs in a timely manner. Give them the determination to continue with their life saving skills, especially when they feel burned out. Let them see the light at the end of the tunnel. We thank you for blessing us with people who are willing to go above and beyond for us, when we need them.

One: Lord today I place before You those who we know are in need of your care. We quietly name them in our hearts (Silent prayer)

All: Give them the strength they need as they go through, we pray.

One: Lord, we thank you for health and the ability to still feel even if it is the aches and pains and everyday challenges.

All: Many have gone home to be with you, and no longer feel the pain. We thank you for the privilege to have known them.

**All: Continue to use us as your vessels in our spaces this we pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.**



The flowers are given by Ken and Dianne in celebration of Ken's 82nd Birthday and will be delivered to shut-in folks.

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Next Sunday, March 17 is Noisy Coin Collection – the children will be collecting your loose change during worship.

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The UCW are selling geraniums again this year. They will be \$3.50 each. The colours available will be red, white, pink, and coral. Delivery date is May 11. If you wish to order geraniums please call either Rita Van Lamoen (519-842-9271) or Wilma Jeffery (519-688-0065). Thank you for your support.



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The **Lenten Special Offering**

will be divided equally between the Tillsonburg **Helping Hand Food bank** and the **United Church World Development Fund** unless otherwise directed.



The **Easter Special Offering** will be divided equally between **United Church Healing Fund** and **Tillsonburg Salvation Army** unless otherwise directed.

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TILLSONBURG MINISTERIAL LENT SERVICES

Wednesdays 12-12:30 p.m.

Join us for this year's Lenten services based on the theme "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." In this six-week series, speakers from our Tillsonburg churches will be sharing at their "sister" churches on the power and significance of surveying the cross of Jesus Christ. Join us for a half hour service with great worship and an inspiring message that will help to prepare our hearts for Easter. Please make plans to join us and invite your friends!



Mar. 13 Tillsonburg Alliance Church

Mar. 20 St. Paul's United Church

Speakers: Dave Shields and Nate Arena.

St. Paul's offices will be closed at 11:45 a.m. each Wednesday for the staff to attend the Lenten services.

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Helping Hand Foodbank needs for March

Garbage bags – black and white ones (not for clients)

Instant jars of coffee

Cookies

Tuna & canned meats

Granola bars

Small jars of whitener

Mayonnaise

Canned tomatoes

Instant oatmeal

Pancake mix & syrup

snacks for kids lunches



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"Please think of St. Paul's when 'cleaning out' your home; we could probably use it for our yard sale scheduled for Saturday June 8th from 9-1. We will be sorting the goods in the choir room. We take anything and everything in 'good condition'.

The UCW will once again have a 'bake table'. We will have BBQ'd hot dogs etc. etc. also.

Items can be dropped off from 10:30 A.M. until noon on Wednesdays and Fridays. The items can be left at the Bidwell entrance inside the doors not blocking the entrance please. They can be put on the trolley and we will get them downstairs for sorting.

Now we just need a 'good weather' day on June 8th!

Thank you in advance for your co-operation." Lesley, Brenda and Karon



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Don't forget to set your clocks ONE HOUR AHEAD Saturday at midnight.

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 our UCW and AOTS groups touch the lives of many people in our community and even beyond? Get involved and it could surprise you how much you will learn, have fun and impact others.
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LicenSing #2401; CCLI: #239572