

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

St. Paul's Pastoral Charge

September 7, 2025

PRELUDE: Shelley Vermeersch

WELCOME

**GATHERING SELECTION: "How Great Thou Art" – Soloist Brian Belleth
accompanied by Jeff Teed**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: We have come together to worship and pray.

All: As we light the Christ Candle, we feel God's presence in a personal way.

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY

One: This land where we meet today has hosted many aboriginal groups as they camped and travelled through this area for generations beyond our knowing.

All: We acknowledge that our history together has come at a great cost to the aboriginal community and we commit ourselves to be partners in healing and reconciliation.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We have come filled with praises for our God, who has created and still is creating.

All: Even before we speak, God knows us completely.

One: Even in our moments of confusion and doubt, we are humbled by a Holy Being who sustains us.

All: Who can count the thoughts of God? They are more than all the sands of the desert.

One: Moment by moment we are shaped by the potter, clay shaped into vessels of divine will.

All: We have come filled with praises for our God, who has created and still is creating.

OPENING HYMN: VU # 339 "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

1. When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall, this rings my curfew calls
May Jesus Christ be praised!
2. To God, the Word on high, the hosts of angels cry,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let mortal too upraise their voices in hymns of praise
May Jesus Christ be praised!

3. Let all of humankind in this their concord find
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound
May Jesus Christ be praised!
4. Be this, while life is mine my canticle divine
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let earth, and sea, and sky from depth to height reply,
May Jesus Christ be praised!

PRAYER OF ADORATION, CONFESSION & THANKSGIVING

One: You alone are our help and security, you alone are our strength, and you alone are our rest and comfort. You make the seasons to change, the sun to shine and the rain to fall. We turn you the source of our life. We worship you as the creating Father, the loving Son, and the guiding Holy Spirit. Hear us now as we confess to you our sins:

All: **We confess we have tried to live apart from you, we have ignored our own needs and the needs of others, we have harbored anger in ways that have caused pain and disruption, and we have said things that were not true and that were unkind. In your mercy, create in us clean hearts and restore us to right relationships with you and one another. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God is kind and gracious, generous and forgiving; and makes all things new. Know that you are forgiven. Forgive one another and live in peace.

All: **We hear and receive God's forgiveness. Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN'S FOCUS

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer of Dedication as Our Children Return to School

One: Today we remember the children and youth of this congregation and those involved in their education. The call to be involved in their education is a high calling. Those who teach our children help shape the future. We give thanks to a gracious God for the teachers and all others who work in our schools.

All: **We celebrate your calling and pledge to support you and others in our communities who are involved in the education of children and youth.**

One: Education involves a partnership between school, home and community. The support of parents and guardians is essential to a child's success. This morning, we recognize the support given to students in homes. We hold in prayer all those in this congregation who have children and youth in school and pray that all homes will be a place where learning is valued and encouragement offered.

All: We pledge our support to parents and guardians. We pray that our ministries will encourage and strengthen those in our church families who provide care for children.

One: Children; your church family believes that each of you is a gift from God, filled with potential and possibility. We pray that as you learn and grow you will develop caring hearts and minds that think clearly. We believe in you and care about your education.

All: As your faith community, we pledge to be with you on your educational journey. We affirm that each of you is a precious gift from God. We will do all that we are able to ensure that your schools are positive places filled with hope and the resources necessary for learning.

One: Gracious God, we lift up to you all those involved in education in this community and in all the communities in our nation and the world. Guide us, great God that we will know the best way to show our interest and support for our students, teachers, and all those involved in education.

All: We pray for wisdom and strength to make a positive difference in the lives of those in school. We pray for courage to explore new ways of supporting the people and institutions that teach our children and youth. We pray in the name of the great teacher, Jesus. Amen.

CHILDREN'S HYMN: The Hymnary #596 "Father, Lead Me Day by Day"
(vs. 1-2)

Father, lead me day by day, ever in thine own sweet way;
Teach me to be pure and true, show me what I ought to do.

When in danger make me brave, make me know that thou canst save,
Keep me safe by thy dear side, let me in thy love abide.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

One: O God, your Word is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path.

All: Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love. Amen.

SCRIPTURES: Wisdom: Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 Brian Clark pg. 616 O.T.

Reader: This is God's Word.

All: Thanks be to the Lord.

MESSAGE: "Our Beginning, Our End &..." - Marianne Ferris

SELECTION: "Praise Medley" - Soloist Brian Belleth accompanied by Jeff Teed

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Brian Clark

OFFERTORY PRAYER (in unison)

God of light and beauty, every gift is from you. Even our ability to give is a blessing of your love. We offer you what we have and what we are. Use our gifts to give birth to a world of righteousness where none are in need and where all draw close to your grace. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: As we offer our prayers for the world and for ourselves, we will share in times of silence, allowing us to reflect on the needs of others and on our own experiences. As we reflect, may God speak into this silence and help us to understand the world and our lives in new ways.

All: We remember creation, breathed into life by God's Holy Spirit: places of beauty and brilliance, places of extravagant diversity. We pray, creating God, for places damaged and degraded, for people scraping a living from land made fruitless by human greed.

One: We remember humanity, breathed into life by God's Holy Spirit: people of beauty and brilliance, people of gifts and grace,

All: Gracious God help us to be welcoming, helpful and more aware of those things that make for the well-being of others and ourselves.

One: We pray, Lord, that you grant peace and comfort to those who grieve
Remind them that their beloved has risen into the eternal bliss of life everlasting with You.

All: Gracious God of Goodness transform our faith into action by causing us to be present when it's most needed. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER – Soloist Brian Belleth accompanied by Jeff Teed

IN JESUS' NAME WE GO TO SERVE

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

GRACE

CLOSING SELECTION: "My Way" - Soloist Brian Belleth accompanied by Jeff Teed

To all

Welcome to worship on Sunday followed by lunch. As you enter the church you will be given a name tag that has a number on it. The number is the number of your table when you move to the banquet hall. Everyone is pre-assigned to a table. A few have a place card to accommodate special needs. Immediately following the last musical selection by Brian Belleth we will proceed downstairs. We will be joined by about 20 people who are some special friends and family. Find your table, claim a spot at the table and proceed to the food table. Enjoy the food and the conversation. As you are eating a guest book will be circulating for you to sign --- just to get this event entered into my life history.

There will be food for seconds as you wish plus a dessert. Have fun as you eat, chat and visit with others you may know who are present.

Thank you sincerely for sharing in my special day. Mary Anne

Thank you to Marianne Ferris our worship leader today.

Welcome back to Shelley.

Rev. Karlene is on vacation September 4 until 24th.

Worship Leaders: September 14 Fran Bell, September 21 & 28 Karen Hodges

For emergency pastoral care September 4-30th

Please contact the office at 519-688-001

Our Reader today is Brian Clark

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We have a few Birthday celebrations today, September 7th – Dorothy Dahm is turning “83”, Kathryn Holbrook “88” and Mary Anne Silverthorn “80”.

Best wishes to Natalie Stoffa-Ferris celebrating her birthday on September 9th and Cory Ling on September 11th

Congratulations to ALL!

On September 9 Bill and Shirley Welsh are celebrating their 53rd Wedding Anniversary, Cheers to both of you!

Jeff and Karen Helsdon celebrate their 24th Wedding Anniversary on September 8th. Congratulations.

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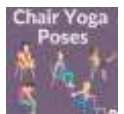
One arrangement of flowers today is placed by Florence Mannell and her family in memory of Russell and his parents Harold and Violet.

One arrangement of flowers today is placed in memory of Ron Morgan and is given by Amy, James, Lesley and Jeff.

All flowers will be delivered to people who need some “sun-shine” brought to them.

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All ladies and gentlemen are welcome for CHAIR YOGA Every Thursday at 2:00 PM in the friendship room.



COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Community Kitchen is in search of people willing to volunteer to deliver meals to some of our senior community members. This would be one Saturday morning every 5 weeks over our winter session (which runs from October to the end of

April.) We are also looking for occasional drivers in case someone is sick or away on vacation.

If you would be willing to help out or would like more information you can contact Keith or Julie at 519-403-4192 or kjavery1@gmail.com

For friends or family in hospital (here in Tillsonburg or elsewhere) please contact our Church Office (519-688-0011) with member 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 anyone.



AOTS Fellowship club presents
“Back to the 50's concert and OKTOBERFEST Dinner”
October 18/25. Doors open @ 2:00 p.m. concert starts @ 2:30 p.m.
Join us after the concert for
Authentic German food and Non Alcoholic beer.
Advanced only tickets are on sale now at \$50.00 for
the concert and Dinner or see sign-up sheets.
For Tickets or more info call Dianne Parnell or e-mail
[Dave Collis @ stpaulsaots84@gmail.com](mailto:DaveCollis@stpaulsaots84@gmail.com)



CELEBRATE 100

REMINDER – to contribute to the “Celebrate 100” with an amount relating to “100”

All monies will stay at St. Paul's.



DID YOU
KNOW?

We are looking for volunteers to help run the projector, the sound system and the Live Streaming Program for our Sunday services?

Please contact the church office if you would like further information or approach one of our current volunteers on Sunday if you have any questions.



A beautiful blue queen size
Dresden plate quilt made by
the
late Doreen Smith.

It is being offered by Silent
Auction to raise funds in
support of the group's
outreach programs

The bidding will open on
September 14th and close on
November 29th

Bidding will begin at \$100
The quilt can be viewed at the
church

**For more info, please
contact Shirley Welsh at
519-842-2320 or Mary
Johnson at
mcitburg68@gmail.com**