

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**  
**St. Paul's Pastoral Charge**  
**March 12, 2017 - 10:30 a.m. – Lent 2**

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH:

WELCOME:

INTROIT: “As the Deer Pants for the Water” VU pg. 766 (vs. 1)

1. As the deer pants for the water,  
so my soul longs after you;  
you alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship you.  
    You alone are my strength, my shield  
    to you alone may my spirit yield;  
    you alone are my heart's desire,  
    and I long to worship you.

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

**GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER**

CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsively, on projection)

ONE: Friends in Christ,

Lent is a time to prepare and to renew our life.  
We mark this holy season

**ALL: by acknowledging our need for repentance,  
and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed  
in the gospel.**

ONE: We are invited, in the name of Christ,  
to observe a holy Lent

**ALL: by self-examination and penitence,  
by prayer and fasting, by works of love,  
and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.**

OPENING HYMN: “I Danced in the Morning” VU 352 (5 vs.)

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
and I came from heaven and I danced on the earth;  
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

**Refrain:** Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,

and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

2. I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,  
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;  
they came with me and the dance went on. R

**Refrain:** Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,  
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

3. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;  
the holy people said it was a shame;  
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,  
and left me there on a cross to die. R

**Refrain:** Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,  
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

4. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;  
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;  
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,  
but I am the dance and I still go on. R

**Refrain:** Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,  
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

5. They cut me down and I leap up high;  
I am the life that will never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he. R

**Refrain:** Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,  
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

**SHADOW OF LIGHTS:** (on projection) Reader: Shirley Godfree

ONE: Jesus Predicts His Death

Matthew 20: 17-18

“While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and said to them on the way, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death.

*Second candle is extinguished*

(Responsively)

ONE: We are on our way to Jerusalem to celebrate the mystery of Easter.

We remember that Jesus took the road to Jerusalem.

It was a difficult road, for the way of the cross is not easy.

**ALL: Life is sometimes hard and we become tired and hurt.**

ONE: We are safe because God walks beside us and holds our hand.

**ALL: Sometimes we have to pass through places of danger.**

**We don't know the best way to go. We are afraid.**

ONE: We are safe because God walks ahead of us and guides our way.

**ALL: We know God is with us, but we are sometimes afraid and quick to lose courage.**

ONE: God gives us people to help us on the way.

Sunday School teachers, ministers, Bible study leaders have helped us on our way. Parents, grandparents, church leaders, and Christian friends are examples of how to live as Christ's disciples.

**ALL: People are watching how we live.**

**People are listening to what we say.**

**Let our lives bring glory to God.**

ONE: PRAYER

Loving God, watch over us and guide us through each day.

Help us to follow the ways of Jesus by showing compassion and love to all your people, so we may bring honour and glory to your name. Amen.

HYMN: "O Jesus, I Have Promised" VU 120 (vs. 1)

1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:  
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

HYMN: "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love" VU 593 (vs. 1 & 2)

**Refrain:** Jesu,\* Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbours we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends,  
silently washes their feet,  
master who acts as a slave to them. R

**Refrain:** Jesu,\* Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbours we have from you.

2. Neighbours are rich and poor,  
varied in colour and race,  
neighbours are near and far away. R

**Refrain:** Jesu,\* Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbours we have from you.

TIME WITH CHILDREN:

THE LORD'S PRAYER: VU 921

HYMN: "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love" VU 593 (vs. 3 & 4)

3. These are the ones we should serve,  
these are the ones we should love,  
all are neighbours to us and you. R

**Refrain:** Jesu,\* Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbours we have from you.

4. Kneel at the feet of our friends,  
silently washing their feet,  
this is the way we should live with you. R

**Refrain:** Jesu,\* Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbours we have from you.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: – Seek the Lord While He May Be Found by John Purifoy

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 extend grace to others.

Help us respond to your healing touch  
that we might be born anew. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

### **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 12:1-4a pg. 10

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 121 pg. VU 844

**Refrain: Our help is in the name of our God who made heaven and earth.**

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where will I look for help?

**My help comes from God,  
who has made heaven and earth.**

God will not let your foot stumble;  
the One who protects Israel will not slumber.

**The One who protects you  
will neither slumber nor sleep. R**

**Refrain: Our help is in the name of our God who made heaven and earth.**

It is God who protects you,  
your defence at your right hand.

**The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

God will protect you from all evil,  
God will protect your life.

**God will protect your going and coming,  
now and forever. R**

**Refrain: Our help is in the name of our God who made heaven and earth.**

GOSPEL READING: John 3:1-17 pg. 93

MESSAGE: LEAVING FAMILIAR PLACES

HYMN: "I Have Called You by Your Name" MV 161 (4 vs.)

Verse 1

I have called you by your name, you are mine;  
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.  
I will not abandon you;  
all my promises are true.  
You are gifted, called, and chosen;  
you are mine.

Verse 2

I will help you learn my name as you go;  
read it written in my people, help them grow.  
Pour the water in my name,  
speak the word your soul can claim,  
offer Jesus' body, given long ago.

Verse 3

I know you will need my touch as you go;  
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.  
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,  
hold the hem of Jesus' robe,  
then let it go.

Verse 4

I have given you a name, it is mine;  
I have given you my spirit as a sign.  
With my wonder in your soul,  
make my wounded children whole;  
go and tell my precious people,  
they are mine.

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERING

DEDICATION OF OFFERING "Creator God You Gave Us Life" MV 27 (vs. 3)

When with our hearts, our hands our minds,  
we share our gifts with all the world,  
our spirits soar beyond the veil,  
to touch the very face of God.

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (in unison)

O God, you command us to serve your people in need,  
to feed the poor and bring justice to the oppressed.  
It is a privilege to serve and share your work. Bless these offerings  
which we bring as a sign that we walk with you in faith. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

### IN JESUS' NAME WE GO TO SERVE

CLOSING HYMN: "I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry" VU 644 (7 vs.)

1. I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.
2. I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;  
in a blaze of light you wandered off  
to find where demons dwell.
3. When you heard the wonder of the word,  
I was there to cheer you on;  
you were raised to praise the living Lord,  
to whom you now belong.
4. If you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk till rising sun.
5. In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young.

I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I've begun.

6. When the evening gently closes in  
and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been  
with just one more surprise.

7. I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,

**BENEDICTION:**

**PARTING HYMN:** "God Says" MV 172 vs. 1

God says, "Be still so you may hear the words I whisper in your ear.  
If you will listen, you will know I'm with you always where you go."

**POSTLUDE**

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We welcome all who join us in worship. If you are here for the first time today, we invite you to introduce yourself to our minister Rev. Pat Cook or to a member of the congregation. Please be sure to join us following the service for fellowship and refreshments. Members of the AOTS are hosting this morning.

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**Greeter: Bob Jenney**

**Reader: Mary Johnson**

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**In our thoughts and prayers this week**

**Emily Faw, Phyllis Stafford, Megan Golden and Ralph Cressy.**

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**The flowers this morning are in loving memory of Brian Knott.**

**They are given by his parents Bill and Bonnie Knott and Becci, Chad, Kati and families.**



Date	What	When	Where
<b><u>Meetings</u></b>			
Mon. Mar. 13	<b>AOTS Exe. Mtg. *</b>	1:00 p.m.	MR
Sat. Mar. 18	<b>Community Kitchen</b>	11:30 a.m.	MPR
Sat. Mar. 18	<b>Card Party</b>	7:00 p.m.	BH



Tues. Mar. 21	<b>Worship Mtg.</b>	10:00 a.m.	MR
Tues. Mar. 21	<b>Council Meeting</b>	7:00 p.m.	MR
	<b>AOTS Breakfast</b>	No Meeting in March	
Thurs. Mar.23	<b>Choir/Cantata Practice</b>	6:45/7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
	<b>Group Events</b>		
Mar.13/15	Yoga	Mon. & Wed. 7 p.m.	BH
Mar.13/16	Exercise	Mon/Thur.10am/2pm	BH
Mar.14/17	Tai Chi	Tues. & Fri. 9:00 a.m.	BH

Mark Your Calendars:                      Palm Sunday April 9  
     Seder Supper April 13  
     Good Friday Service April 14  
     Easter Sunday April 16  
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Please submit your articles for the upcoming Easter Newsletter to the office  
 by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you.  
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UCW Chicken and Beef Pies will be available for pickup March 16<sup>th</sup> between  
 9-12 p.m. Please bring a container to hold them as they will not be frozen.  
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**Bible Study is on Friday, March 17 at 9:45 am**

11 Peach St. Ruth Francis 519 688-7724.

All are welcome.



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**St. Paul's Card Party is on Saturday, March 18 at**

7:00 p.m. in the Banquet Hall. Cost \$10.00 per person (refreshments included).

Please contact Jed Drew to pre-register at (519-842-8486) or [jed.drew@gmail.com](mailto:jed.drew@gmail.com)

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To delight your SWEET CRAVINGS, the ladies are once again making their  
 delicious hand decorated cream filled chocolate Easter eggs. To order these  
 scrumptious treats please call Mary at 519-409-0716 or fill in the sign-up sheet  
 in the rotunda. To avoid disappointment, please order early as the sign-up sheet will be  
 out for a limited time only. The cost is only \$4.00 each. Orders will be ready for pickup  
 on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from noon till 2 p.m. downstairs. Thank you for supporting this Unit  
 6 project.

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Please keep those pop bottles coming -2L with cap for the March 31 PA day.



**The practice for the Children's Choir will be Sunday after church and every Sunday after church.** We hope your child will be excited to join this group. For more information, you can talk to Karen Hodges or Rick Aubrey. Thank you.

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We are again seeking sponsors for the **Hooked on Music** concerts. Members of the Congregation, who wish to sponsor this event, can do so by cheque to St. Paul's through the Church Office. Private sponsors last year were very much appreciated and were recognized in the program for the concerts.



Mark your calendars for the **2017 Hooked On Music** series at St. Paul's United Church. Performances are Sunday afternoons' beginning at 2:30p.m. and 3:00p.m. for the **Woodstock Choralaires**.

First up on **April 23<sup>rd</sup>** is the instrumental quartet **Blazing Fiddles** followed by the a cappella male quartet **Cadence Unplugged** on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Juno award winner classical guitarist and vocalist **Robert Michaels** entertains on September 24<sup>th</sup> and the season wraps up with the locally acclaimed **Woodstock Choralaires** on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Series tickets for this stellar line-up are just \$80 with tickets for individual concerts at \$25. Contact the church office at 519-688-0011, Dianne Parnell at 519-688-3280 or check out the church website for more information.

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The **Lenten Special Offering** will be divided equally among the Tillsonburg Helping Hand Food bank and the United Church World Development Fund.



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**March 26 is Food Bank collection**

Need for this month is: pasta, canned vegetables & fruits, granola bars, pudding cups and cereal.

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Please do not leave valuables in your coat pockets or any expensive coats in the coat racks, please utilize the two cloak room areas immediately off of the sanctuary.

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**Coming up Welcome Back/ Thank You Brunch—**

**Sunday March 26 from 11:30 -12:30(ish).**

This will be a very special brunch to say thank you to the family of St. Paul’s including our staff, our contractors, our neighbouring churches of St. John’s and Avondale and several other supportive friends. This special event will be a catered brunch with Beres’ Catering preparing, cooking and serving the food. Just arrive and enjoy!!!! All are welcome!!!!

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Please bring in any unused yarn for UCW Projects. There is a designated box outside the Friendship Room.

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**Community Lenten Services**



From March 1<sup>st</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup>, the Tillsonburg & Area Ministerial is again holding services on the Wednesdays of Lent. Our time together begins at noon with a ½-hr service followed by soup & sandwiches (free-will offering). All from the community are invited to attend.

- Mar. 15 – North Broadway Baptist Church
- Mar. 22 – First Baptist Church
- Mar. 29 - St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church
- Apr. 5 - St. Paul’s United Church

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**Maundy Thursday April 13**

To help us remember and experience the night of Jesus’ Last Supper with his disciples, sharing the Passover meal, you are invited to come to dinner on Thurs. April 13 in the Multi Purpose Room. (Hors d’oeuvres 5 – 5:30 PM). More details to follow next week.

The Upper Room Booklets are not here for March/April, I have re-ordered again.

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The Lenten Kindness Calendar is a great way to journey through Lent with an attitude of gratitude! To view or download calendar go to <http://www.stewardshiptoolkit.ca>

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The Upper Room daily devotional is available free online at:

<http://devotional.upperroom.org/>



## **First-time Worshippers, Members and Friends!**

We celebrate your presence and welcome you in friendship and in love. Thank you for sharing in our worship today. After the service, and before you leave this building, turn worship into ministry by greeting someone you don't know.

- Church Office: 88 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg N4G 3V2  
Telephone: 519-688-0011  
Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday to Friday  
Church email: [stpaulsunited@execulink.com](mailto:stpaulsunited@execulink.com)  
Church website: [www.stpaulsunitedchurch.info](http://www.stpaulsunitedchurch.info)  
Minister: Rev. Pat Cook (Appointed until June 30, 2017)  
Email: [patriciastpauls@execulink.com](mailto:patriciastpauls@execulink.com)  
Voluntary Associate Minister: Rev. Maurice Francis  
Staff:  
Helen Loehndorf, Administrative Assistant  
Floyd Marshall, & Ron Stafford, Custodians  
Shelley Vermeersch, Organist  
Karen Hodges, Sunday School Coordinator  
[stpsundayschoolkaren@gmail.com](mailto:stpsundayschoolkaren@gmail.com)  
Elected Leaders: Mary Anne Silverthorn, Council Chairperson  
Laurie Drew/Doreen Smith, Treasurer/Asst. Treasurer  
Brenda Marshall, Christian Development Committee

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