



SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2022
ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

Minister: The Reverend Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Guest Preacher: Shaun McIntosh
Music Director: Victoria Warwick
Reader: Marlis Dupuis
Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Bruce Wilcox

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO THE GATHERED:

HYMN: "May the God of Hope go with us" VU #424 sung by Bells Corners United Church musicians.

1. May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Refrain: Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

2. May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed.

Refrain:

OPENING PRAYER:

Loving Creator, as we gather in worship today, we pray for You to help us to find a flicker of hope, a spark of faith, and the light of love in a sometimes dark world. Let us awake each day with gratitude for this precious life that You have gifted. Let our love of You, dear God, and our love of Your blessed creation find expression in all that we do. Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

One: As we light this Christ candle may it remind us that Christ is in us and in our world.

SUNG RESPONSE: "God of the Bible" verse 2, MV #28

God in our struggles, God in our hunger, suffering with us, taking our part, still you empower us, mothering Spirit, feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.



SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

read Marlis Dupuis

ANTHEM: "Beloved, Let Us Love One Another" sung by St Paul's & Friends virtual choir.

SERMON: Our Guest Preacher today is Shaun McIntosh. Shaun is a member of our congregation and is currently studying at Emmanuel Theological College while discerning whether to become a minister.

REMINDER OF OUR OFFERING

HYMN: "Love Divine" VU #333 sung by Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art,
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

2. Come, almighty to deliver; let us all thy grace receive,
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

3. Finish then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be,
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER: read by Marlis Dupuis,
written by Karen Ptolemy-Stam

Holy One, we come to you today knowing that there are times in our lives when our faith, our hope, and yes, even our love is dim and we are overwhelmed with some of the issues of the life. This day, we ask that you strengthen our inner resources. Remind us that our faith is the cornerstone of our values and our relationship with you and with others. Help us to nurture it and to let its flame continue to grow in lives so we may be the light of Christ to others.

Sometimes, especially in this pandemic, it has been hard to hold on to hope. Yet hope is your gift and reminder that this too will pass. We hope for new beginnings and transformation not only in our own lives but also in our community and in our world. Let the ray of hope shine in the darkness for all, no matter what they are experiencing.

Sometimes things happen. Words are spoken, trust is broken, there is a sense of betrayal and relationships struggle. It is not always easy to love. In fact, it is really hard sometimes. Help us to learn to love even the unlovable. Though at times it feels like our love is frayed, there is still a bond that connects us and holds us together. May we work to strengthen it.

May we also know that sometimes to love means to step back and wait for healing and new beginnings.

We lift up to you our personal prayers, the issues that are heavy on our own hearts. (pause)

We lift up to you prayers for our world and for all who suffer and struggle. (pause)

We thank you for our faith and those who walk in faith with us. We thank you for the hope that sustains us.

We thank you for your love, the love we receive and the love we share with others and our world.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen (Followed by the Lord's Prayer)

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

Our service is at an end. May we go forth into the coming week with the words of the apostle Paul in our hearts - that faith, hope, and love abide; and the greatest of these is love. Amen. Go in Love.

SUNG BLESSING: "Go in Love" sung by Sheila Payne.

Go in love; have no fear.
God will guide you, God is always near.
Go in love; take God's hand.
God will hear you. God will understand.
May God's light forever shine upon you;
may God's peace be always in your heart.
Go in love; face each day.
God will lead you. God will show the way.
Go in love and live in faith. Amen.

