

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
Midland, ON
Sunday, October 15, 2023
FOODGRAINS SUNDAY



Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Music Director: Victoria Warwick
Readers: Julia, Shaw, Paul van der Wel
Singers: St Paul's Choir, Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek on video provided by Food Grains
Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Catherine Ladouceur Bruce Wilcox

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS /CALL TO THE GATHERED

QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE – Terry MacPherson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

OPENING HYMN: VU# 520 "We Plough the Fields"

1. We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand.
He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

Refrain:

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all His love.

2. He only is the maker of all things near and far;
He paints the wayside flower, He lights the evening star;
the winds and waves obey Him, by Him the birds are fed;
Much more to us, His children, He gives our daily bread.

Refrain:

3. We thank thee, then, O Father, for all things bright and good:
the seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food;
No gifts have we to offer for all thy love imparts,
but that which thou desirest, our humble, thankful hearts!

Refrain:

OPENING PRAYER: read by Paul van der Wel

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE: As we light this Christ candle, may it remind us that Christ is in us and in our world.

SUNG RESPONSE: "Bathe Me in Your Light" v. 1, MV 82

Bathe me in your light, O God of all, Creator:
let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.
Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding,
showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.

THEME CONVERSATION



SCRIPTURE READINGS: Isaiah 55:1-2; Psalm 33:5; Matthew 25:34-36 read by Paul Van der Wel

ANTHEM: "Song of Joyful Thanks"

SERMON:

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND OUR FOODGRAINS LAUNCH: Sharon Penrose
The Official Board approved up to \$2,500 with trust funds to match your donations dollar for dollar. As well the Canadian Government matches our donation four to one. Please give and help feed the world. Please make your payment out to St. Paul's United Church. We will be accepting donations for this campaign up to Nov.16, 2023.

OFFERTORY MUSIC: "Room at the Table" a Canadian Foodgrains Bank Production
(Please remain seated for this video)

OUR OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH AN OFFERTORY

SUNG RESPONSE: MV# 150 (v 3) "Loving God"

Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer. Reaching out, joining hands as we share, we seek your guidance through friendship and care. Loving God, be our prayer.

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT: (response "God help us work for the common good of all".
Read by Julianna Shaw

For a renewed commitment to service for and with others, we pray....
God, help us work for the common good of all.

For the grace to continue to work for and with the hungry and to learn from those who are hungry, poor and in need, we pray....
God, help us work for the common good of all.

For an end to the war and violence in all the troubled parts of our world and for a genuine respect for human rights, we pray....
God, help us work for the common good of all.

For those in the poorest regions of our world, for people who are landless, and those who do not have enough to eat or adequate shelter to live in, we pray....
God, help us work for the common good of all.

For all those who face prejudice, inequality and gender disparities, and for us to see and face discrimination in all the many forms it may take, we pray
God, help us work for the common good of all.

For all those who are living examples of how you value all of creation, May we see that we are equal partners in the stewardship of your Creation, we pray
God, help us work for the common good of all.

For a spirit of openness to the needs and concerns of all, we pray...
God, transform our hearts, help us work for the common good of all, the love and grace of all people. In Jesus' Name, Amen. — *Adapted from the Center of Concern website. And <https://godspacelight.com/2019/03/07/a-franciscan-prayer-for-international-womens-day-2>*

CLOSING HYMN: MV# 209 "Go Make a Difference"

Refrain:

Go make a difference, we can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.
Go make a difference, we can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.

1. We are the salt of the earth, called to let the people see the love of God for you and me.
We are the light of the world, not to be hidden but be seen.
Go make a difference in the world.

Refrain:

2. We are the hands of Christ reaching out to those in need, the face of God for all to see.
We are the spirit of hope; we are the voice of peace.
Go make a difference in the world.

Refrain:

3. So let your love shine on, let it shine for all to see.
Go make a difference in the world.
And the spirit of Christ will be with us as we go.
Go make a difference in the world.

Refrain:



COMMISSIONING & BLESSING:

May we always be hungry for justice;
May we overcome systems that bring about vulnerability to hunger;
May we always be thirsty for peace; near and far;
May we overcome insecurity, suffering and displacement!
May we always yearn to care urgently for each other and Your Creation.
May we learn to better share each other's burdens.

May our prayers lead us to wisdom in action and transformation!

- adapted from World Council of Churches, Prayers to overcome hunger

SUNG BLESSING: VU#429 "May the Blessing of God be Upon You"

May the blessing of God be upon you. May God's love light all your way.

May the grace of Christ enfold you and peace around you stay.

May the Spirit of God dwell within you. May you live in joy each day.

POSTLUDE (Pictures used with copyright permission from the Canadian Food Grains Bank)

