

World Communion Sunday



**Sunday October 5, 2025
10am**

Season of Creation

**World Communion
Sunday**

Detail of Lord's Supper by
Jesus Mafa of Cameroon



**October 5th, 2025
St. Paul's United Church
308 King St,
Midland ON, L4R 3M6
705-526-6077**

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**Worship Leader: Rev. Kirsty Hunter
Music Director: Victoria Warwick**

**Tech Team:
Glenn Erwin,
Gabriela and Rick Dell,
Bruce Wilcox,
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Fran Hill**

Gathering & Preparation

Prelude

Welcome

Check In: What is your favourite country visited, or culture experienced?

Gathering Song: Gather In

Gather in
create community
where we unite with our diversity.
Gather in
we will live out the call
for acceptance and justice as we welcome all.

Acknowledgement of the Land and Commitment to Reconciliation

Ahniin, We acknowledge that the land on which St. Paul's United Church is located is the traditional land of the Wendat and Anishinaabe First Nations.

Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous People from across Turtle Island, including Metis and our neighbours on Christian Island, Beausoleil First Nation. We are grateful to have the opportunity to worship and work on this land. We are all Treaty people.

This week we reflect on 10 years since the Truth and Reconciliation Report, with its 94 Calls to Action, was released. This report was written as a response to the hundreds of brave people who stepped forward to share their experiences in Residential Schools. Though few of the Calls to Action have been accomplished, there has been a change. Jennifer Wood says, "I think Canada is looking through a new lens. I think they appreciate Indigenous people far more than ever because of the likes of different ministers that are getting into power, ministerial positions. That schools are participating at a larger scale. That non-Native people are coming forward and walking side by side with us and supporting us." We experienced this here at St. Paul's with approximately 40 people coming out to hear the powerful story of healing shared by Curtis Copegog.

We commit ourselves to walking in a new way together: a path of healing and hope. Chi-Meegwetch

Call to Worship

In places like Gaza and the Ukraine,
where lives are lost and voices are not heard,
**we call to mind that faith which is passed on to us,
that justice which speaks out for all people.**

In refugee camps and communities walled in by poverty,
where fears destroy families and scatter neighbours,
**we call to mind that hope which is passed on to us,
that peace and reconciliation will rebuild communities.**

In neighbourhoods built by the ocean, in the woods, on prairies in deserts,
on permafrost, where people we do not know gather,
**we call to mind that love is a gift from God
to every person in the world, that we are meant to be one.**

Filled with God's love,
Let us worship Creator today
in beloved community
Where all of us belong.

Opening Prayer

Reader: Sharon Penrose

Lighting of Christ Candle

- **Prayer:**

As we light this Christ Candle, may it remind us that Christ is in us and in our world.

- **Sung Response: May I Share**

May I share God's peace with you?
That His love may see us through
all the joys and trials of a life in his care.
May I share what I know to be true?
May I share God's peace with you?

Peace of Christ

Listening

Theme Conversation:

Book - In God's Hands Authors: Lawrence Kushner & Gary Schmidt
Illustrator: Matthew J. Beck

Song of Praise: MV#154 Deep in Our Hearts

The Story: Exodus 16:1-18 **Reader: Don Penrose**

Sermon: Pointillism

Song for Reflection: VU#460 All Who Hunger

Life and Work of the Church (Announcements)

Offering of Thanksgiving

Offertory Music: Choir

Offertory Response: VU#538 For the Gift of Creation

Celebrations and Concerns

Communion

Call to Reconciliation

Faith, hope, love have all been passed on to us, not so we can hoard these gifts for ourselves, but so we might share them with others. Let us lift our prayers to the One who is always ready to place forgiveness in our hearts, as we tell how we have not done this in our lives.

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

We think if we turn off the media, we will not need to listen to the voices of our neighbours, God of all the world. Some of us are blessed with family and friends, and so do not know the lonely. Some of us feel at ease in a world which is troubled, and so do not notice the bitter tears of others. We have many blind spots, and selective hearing. We have trouble understanding those who are broken by the anger and brutality of the world.

Yet, you know, God of the sufferers. You hear the cries of those living in oppression, and call us to listen. Your tears mingle with those whose children lie mangled or dead in war zones, and would have us be peacemakers. Your faithfulness is great, when ours seems so futile, yet you would have us serve the world alongside your Child, Jesus, even as he served us with his life and gifts. Amen.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Call this to mind: God is ever faithful; hope is the gift passed on to us, love is the gift we can share with others; God's mercies never come to an end.

Great is God's faithfulness to all people, in all places. Thanks be to God, who has given us the promise of life in Christ Jesus our Lord! Amen.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May God be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the One who cradles our hearts in loving hands.

People of God, let us give thanks to the God who sets a Table for us.

We praise the Lord our God who welcomes us with open arms.

How lonely was chaos, Gardener of the Universe,
until you spoke a Word, and your Spirit created:

leaves that burnish gold and red in autumn,
snow that drifts lazily in winter skies,

frozen brooks that burst in spring,
ponds splashing with children in summer.
You planted the seeds of joy in our ancestors
hoping they would pass them onto us,
but they walked onto lonely streets
and drank the bitter tears death offered.

**Though the prophets came
to remind us of your great faithfulness,
we continued to feast on the
wormwood and gall offered by the world.**

But you would not forget us,
and so sent Jesus to bring us home to you.

Therefore we join our voices,
as we sing of your mercies
made fresh in every moment

Sung: (tune: Bunessan 5.5.5.4D VU409)

***God of Creation, Lord of all beauty,
All creatures join in singing your love;
Holy Compassion, Joy of our mornings,
Fill us with grace which comes from above.***

You alone are holy, heart Speaker,
and we are blessed through Jesus, life's Promise.
When we would wander the lonely streets of the world,
he would take us by the hand, to lead us into your joy.

**When others would pass on bitterness and hate to us,
he fills us with the gifts of hope and love.**

Splashing in misery's puddles,
he washed our feet and dried them with his love,
leading us into the kingdom.

**Daughters of despair, sons of sadness,
orphans of woe -**

**he gathers us all up in his arms of mercy
wiping out death,
and sits us down at the family Table.**

As we remember his grace and love,
as we dare not forget his sacrifice for us,
we sing of that mystery we call faith:

Sung: ***Christ of the outcast, Comfort of mourners,
Neighbour to strangers, Love without end;
Bearer of burdens, Grace ever with us,
Blessing our children, Brother and Friend.***

Holy Spirit,
as we offer the gifts
of the bread and the cup
for your blessing,
so we present ourselves:
 our accomplishments, our failings,
 our hopes, our realities.
Make us weak,
 so we might rely
 on your strength.

**As we have heard the Word,
 may we listen
 to the cries of the poor.**

**As we are family
with those sitting beside us today,
 may we love our sisters and brothers
 in every corner of creation.**

As you hold out
the bread and the cup to us,
 may we reach out to enemies
 to clasp hands as friends.

God in Community, Holy in One,
all honor and glory are yours,
as we sing our praises through all eternity:

Sung: ***Spirit of kindness, Breath of forgiveness,
Faithful Companion, just as Christ said;
God's little children gathered together,
Drink of salvation, feast on your Bread.***

The Gifts of God for the People of God

Sending

God would send you forth into the loneliness of the world.
**we would call this to mind,
as we go to embrace all the rejected and forgotten.**

Jesus would send you forth into the bitterness around us,
we would call this to mind,
as we seek to have all voices heard, all grief comforted.
The Spirit would send you forth into the brokenness of others,
we would call this to mind,
as we carry peace and love to neighbours and strangers.

Song for the Journey: VU#468 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Extinguishing of the Candles

Blessing

Closing: Spirit God Be Our Breath v4

Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.

Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.

Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new dawn...

Spirit God, be our song.

Postlude

Beyond Sunday: World Communion Sunday

My Beloved Friends,

I have observed that sometimes I don't see a thing, even if it is right in front of me, unless someone calls my attention to it. I can't tell you the truly embarrassing number of times I have asked for help to find something in the grocery store, only to be shown it literally where I was just looking.

It is in this spirit that I truly am grateful for World Communion Sunday. This is a chance to have the obvious pointed out to me. That we are part of a whole world of people that gather each Sunday in worship. Like New Year's Eve, as the world spins on its axis, on this day there is a continuous celebration of God's presence, especially present in Communion. We take time to note it. We take time to appreciate it. We are shown in vivid relief that we are all one, and yet all unique. And what a wonderful blessing that is.

See you at the table!

Rev Kirsty

Thank you, Jesus, for the opportunity to remember you
in the ordinary things of our lives.

When we eat our daily bread, rice, tortilla, or potato,
we remember how you shared what you had with your friends,
breaking yourself open.

When we drink from the fruits of our harvest,
we are reminded of how you continually bless us
with your teachings;

our chipped and well-used cups overflow.

Thank you, Jesus. Amen.