

This week we welcome:
Rev Hewitt Holmes

10am Sunday August 3

Sunday, August 3, 2025 – 10:00 am



St. Paul's United Church
308 King St, Midland ON, L4R 3M6
705-526-6077
email stpaulsunity@rogers.com

Minister: Rev. Kirsty Hunter (On Holiday)

Worship Leader: Hewitt T. Holmes, (The Rev., Ph.D. Student, Durham University/Vancouver School of Theology)

Music Director: Victoria Warwick

Guest Musician: Louise Leck

Tech Team:

Glenn Erwin, Gabriela and Rick Dell, Bruce Wilcox,
Marina Commisso, Fran Hill

Gathering and Preparation

Prelude

Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land Reader: Murray Lockhart

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.

As we gather, we give thanks for the life and witness of First Nations people. We give thanks for the land, the creatures, and the plants who share this place with all of us.

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

Call to Worship

Look, beloved, the days are surely coming,

When promises long planted break open like Georgian Bay dawn!

God's covenant winds sweep across the waters, renewing the earth and every heart.

We gather, branches grafted into hope, to sing of justice and mercy.

Come, let us worship the One who writes love upon our lives.

Alleluia! We lift our praise and pledge our lives to God's new-making grace.

Opening Prayer Reader: Mary Jane Deacon

Holy Potter of promise,

You shape shorelines and souls alike, carving covenant lines deeper than the bay's blue.

Breathe upon us now; quicken our imaginations, steady our fears, and tune our hearts to the cadence of Christ.

May every word, hymn, and silent sigh rise like incense, testifying that your steadfast love endures,

yesterday in Jeremiah's lament, today in Midland's streets, and tomorrow in the uncharted waters of grace.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lighting of Christ Candle

- Prayer: As we light this Christ Candle,
may it be a reminder, that Christ is us and in our world.
- **Sung Response: MV# 62 There is Room for All**
There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing
There is room for all sheltered in God's love
And I rejoice and sing, "my refuge and my rock, in whom I trust
There is room for all, there is room for all.

Peace of Christ

Song of Praise: VU 264 – "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Listening

The Story: Jeremiah 33:14–18 and 31:31–34

Reader: Murray Lockhart

Reflection Chorus: MV# 172 v2 God Says

God says, "Look up and see the prize I've placed here right before your eyes. Find beauty in the things of earth, a cause for wonder and rebirth."

Sermon: "Heart-Written Hope on Georgian Bay"

Responding**Life and Work of the Church****Offering of Thanksgiving**

Offertory Music: Selection by Louise Leck

Offertory Response: VU# 537 Your Work O God Needs Many Hands

Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People Reader: Murray Lockhart

God of the covenant,

People: Write your love upon our hearts.

Faithful God, you call your Church to be a living covenant, a people of mercy and justice in every generation. We give thanks for your Spirit stirring within congregations across Midland, Penetanguishene, and the wider United Church of Canada, especially as we celebrate 100 years of worship and witness in and beyond Canada. Renew our witness as a people of hope, especially where congregations feel weary, discouraged, or unsure. Strengthen ministers, leaders, musicians, and all who serve, especially those discerning your call in times of change. May we live the gospel not only in word, but in grace-filled action.

God of the covenant,

Write your love upon our hearts.

God of shoreline and city street, we lift up the needs of our local neighbours. We give thanks for summer's splendour along the Wye Marsh, the laughter of children in Little Lake Park, and the daily faithfulness of farmers, health workers, and teachers. Yet we name the wounds we see: housing insecurity, overdose deaths, isolated seniors, and those still recovering from the trauma of violence. We pray especially for the work of the Guesthouse Shelter, Wendat Services, and Georgian Bay Native Women's Association. May your justice flow like water in every corner of our community.

God of the covenant,

Write your love upon our hearts.

God of every province and nation, we pray for Ontario, its leaders, teachers, care workers, and all seeking to govern with wisdom and compassion. In a season of wildfire haze and agricultural strain, guide our response to the cries of creation. In the face of polarized debates and public fatigue, renew civic courage. Bless Indigenous communities demanding truth and treaty justice. May the Church's voice echo your righteousness, not in noise, but in integrity, humility, and faithful action.

God of the covenant,

Write your love upon our hearts.

Covenant-Keeping God, we pray for the healing of the nations. For Gaza and Israel, Iran, Sudan, Ukraine, and all places where war destroys the future of children, come, Prince of Peace. For those displaced by climate crisis, by poverty or persecution, make room at the table of the world. We pray for global peacemakers, for leaders with vision, and for churches across the globe embodying the mission of your kin-dom. Teach us to see every stranger as sibling, every refugee and street people, as Christ among us.

God of the covenant,

Write your love upon our hearts.

Amen.

Going Forth

Song for the Journey: VU 703 – "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

Blessing

Closing: MV 145 – "Draw the Circle Wide" chorus

Draw the circle wide.

Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song, no stands alone, standing side by side,

Draw the circle wide.

Postlude