

Blessing of the Backpacks



September 7th, 2025
St. Paul's United Church
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Worship Leader: Rev. Kirsty Hunter
Music Director: Victoria Warwick

Tech Team:
Glenn Erwin,
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Gathering and Preparation

Prelude

Welcome

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

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 hold up story tellers. In particular, First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people who are working in media. This week, broadcaster APTN is celebrating 25 years of telling Indigenous stories from an Indigenous perspective.

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

Call to Worship

We gather in the presence of God:

**who knows us when we wake up and when we go to sleep,
and in all the moments in between.**

We gather in the house of God:

**who has created a family for us here, as well as in the Caribbean,
in Africa, in Asia, and in Canada.**

We gather to be the people of God:

who appeals to us to follow in love, in faith, in service.

So, let us worship here together in beloved community

Where all of us belong.

Opening Prayer Reader: Herb & Heather van del Dool

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:** 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

Song of Praise: VU#713 I See a New Heaven

Listening

Theme Conversation: Blessing of the Backpacks

The Story: Revelation 21:1-6; 22:1-5

Reader: Herb & Heather van del Dool

Sermon: A New Creation

Song of Reflection: Choir

Life and Work of the Church

Offering of Thanksgiving

The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn. Ralph Waldo Emerson

Offertory Music: Selection by Victoria Warwick

Offertory Response: VU#538 For the Gift of Creation

Celebrations and Concerns

Affirmation of Faith: VU918 A New Creed

Communion

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Potter of life be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the One who reshapes them into grace.

People of God, give thanks to the Lord our God.

We praise the One who has shaped us for love and service.

With joy we praise you, Creating God.

You stooped down and took the clay lying on earth's floor, shaping us in your image.

But we wondered what it would be like to follow our own paths and detached ourselves from your side.

We counted the cost of being your children, and found it to be too much for us.

We pondered your words and found them useless for our lives.

**But you did not take your hands from us, but continue to recreate us,
to reshape us, to redeem us.**

Giver of breath, shaper of words, all the living find voice to praise you,
as we celebrate with the people of every time and place, singing to your glory:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God who shapes us with hands of grace and hope.

Your wonder works of creation praise your name.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes, appealing to us on the basis of love.

Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, Redeeming God, and blessed is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Traveling with us, he points out the paths we are to walk.

When he could command us to do whatever he wants,
he appeals to us to follow his example.

**Whatever wrong we have done, whatever good we have failed to do,
Christ charges them to his account, that we might be counted
as your beloved children.**

So, as we come to the Table of grace and hope, we remember that mystery we call faith:

Christ died, having counted the cost.

**Christ was raised, the foundation of resurrection being set in place.
Christ will come, refreshing our hearts for all eternity.**

Spirit of the Living God, renew us with this bread and this cup
which have been set aside for sacred us, even as you refresh our hearts.
Fill us with all the goodness of the kingdom, that we may do good for Christ
as we serve others:
in the ways in which we treat our families;
in our willingness to draw the outcast to our side;
in our efforts to be your healing hands to the sick and grieving.

**Then, here at the Table and beyond;
here in this moment, and through eternity:
remind us that we are always with you,**
God of all places and times, Christ of those who suffer,
Spirit of justice and hope: God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

The Gifts of God for the People of God

Sending

It is God who has formed us as a community of faith.

Now, we will go to find and serve our sisters and brothers.

It is Jesus who has knit us together as partners in grace.

Now, we will go to bear the burdens of those around us.

It is the Spirit who gives us the words we need.

Now, we will go to speak for justice and hope for all.

Going Forth

Song for the Journey: MV4 All Who Are Thirsty

Extinguishing of the Candles

Blessing

Closing: Spirit God Be Our Breath vs. 4

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