

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Check In: Who/What do you rely on when things are hard?

Acknowledgement of the Land

Call to Worship

We are here, those who seek to trust in God.

We are here, seeking ways to live out our faith.

We arrive, delighting in all the wonders God provides for us.

**We arrive in thanksgiving,
opening ourselves to God's heart.**

We rest, waiting patiently for God to speak.

**We will be still,
listening for God's words of hope, of peace.**

So, let us worship in this place that God is creating,
where all are embraced.

Together we become beloved community.

Song of Praise: MV#1 Let Us Build a House

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness

and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *R*

5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter. *R*

Opening Prayer Reader: Judy McConnell

Lighting of Christ Candle

- **Prayer:** As we light this Christ Candle,
may it remind us that Christ is us and in our world.
- **Sung Response**
Open our hearts, open our minds.
Open our lives to you O Loving God, Open our hearts.

Peace of Christ

Theme Conversation: An Offering

Children's Song: MV221 I Am Walking a Path of Peace

The Story: Luke 7:18-35 Reader: Colin Whiteside

Song for Reflection: VU# 508 "Just As I Am"

Sermon: Let Us Weep Together

Offering of Thanksgiving

"If we cite the Bible, and yet fail to live according to its codes,
the Bible becomes just another book. But when we live it, it
becomes powerful. If you believe it, the words of scripture say
that we become living epistles in whose life others read the
presence of God." — Michael Eric Dyson,
Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America

Special Music (Anthem): Ever Faithful, Ever Sure

Offertory Response When Hands Reach Out

When hands reach out and fingers trace
The beauty of a loved one's face,
We thank you, God, that love relies
On gifts of grace not seen with eyes.
Your Spirit gives us differing ways
To serve you well and offer praise.
When all are joined as one, we'll be
Your able, strong community.

Prayers of the People Reader: Judy McConnell

Song for the Journey: VU# 679 "Let There Be Light"

Extinguishing of the Candles

Blessing

Closing: Go In Love

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

Postlude

February 23, 2025
St. Paul's United Church
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Tears and Forgiveness
7th Sunday after Epiphany

Minister: Rev. Kirsty Hunter
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Music Director:
Victoria Warwick

Tech Team:
Glenn Erwin,
Gabriela and Rick Dell,
Bruce Wilcox,
Marina Comisso