

Surviving and Thriving - Keeping Sacred Space -



January 18th, 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,
Fran Hill,
Marina Comisso

Gathering and Preparation

Prelude

Processional: Oh Let Us Breathe

Welcome

Check In: Tell a fun snow story.

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 gently in our thoughts the community of Sapotaweyak Cree Nation. 14 students were involved in a school bus accident that resulted in several serious injuries. For students in isolated and northern communities, many of them First Nations, getting to school can involve difficult journeys on lonely roads, ferries, or even staying in host communities far from family and friends. Her mother, Lana, says: "With Isabella's story opening up so many different eyes and so many different positive stories coming from this, it really, really makes me happy to see what's happening for my children and the future generations seeing such a positive change".

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

Call to Worship

The morning stars profess God's glory:

the wind through trees sings a refrain of grace.

The sun warms us with God's hope,

the night sky whispers peace to our sleepy souls:

creation's voice echoes continually in our hearts, reminding us of God's steadfast love.

And so, filled with God's love,

let us worship Creator today in beloved community

Where all of us belong.

Opening Prayer

Reader: Don Penrose

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: I am Sending You Light**

Peace of Christ

Stories for All Ages: Welcome Child of God

Song of Praise: VU#374 Come and Find the Quiet Centre

Listening

Scripture: **John 2:13-25 nrsv** **Reader:** Sharon Penrose

Sermon: Sacred Space

Song for Reflection: VU#670 Precious Lord

Life and Work of the Church (Announcements)

Offering of Thanksgiving

Offertory Music: Beneath the Shadow (Choir)

Offertory Response: MV#191 What Can I Do

Celebrations and Concerns

Blessing: **When the World Is Ending**

Lord's Prayer Paraphrase

**O Divine Parent, Giver of Life,
whose presence is holiness, may our hearts be in you.
Transform the world according to your delight,
that all earth may become a holy place. Give us each moment that
moment's breath. Give us your gift of forgiveness,
that receiving it deeply we may give it freely. Transform our desires,
and free us from evil powers;
for all creation, and all power, and all beauty are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

Going Forth

Song for the Journey: MV#209 Go Make a Diff'ence

Extinguishing of the Candles

Blessing

Closing: Amen

Postlude