

Guest Preacher

Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam!



May 3rd, 2026

St. Paul's United Church

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Music Director: Victoria Warwick

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Glenn Erwin,

Gabriela and Rick Dell, Bruce Wilcox,

Marina Commisso, Alexis Danford, Fran Hill

*** Please take your bulletin home for Recycling ***

Preparation

Prelude

Processional

Sing Praise and Bless the Lord

**Sing praise and bless the Lord,
sing praise and bless the Lord! Peoples! Nations! Alleluia**

Welcome / Life and Work of the Church (Announcements)

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 recognize the complexity of Indigenous identity. Many people in Canada identify as Afro-Indigenous. Often they are descendants of people who escaped slavery and were welcomed into, and protected by, Indigenous communities.

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

Call to Worship

When we seek justice for the other,
when we love kindness more than ever,
we live as God asks us to live.

When we walk humbly through life,
when we offer mercy to those who hurt us,
we are the blessing God hopes we will be.

And so, filled with God's love,
let us worship Creator today in beloved community
Where all of us belong.

Opening Prayer

Reader: Colin & Sharon Whiteside

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

**Here in this place, the light of God,
my soul finds repose:
Holy space, the heartbeat of God,
My soul finds a home**

Stories for All Ages:

Song of Praise

MV#79 "Spirit, Open My Heart"

Listening

Scripture Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 **Reader: Colin & Sharon Whiteside**

Sermon:

Sung Pastoral Prayer: "Plowshare Prayer" composed by Spencer LaJoye,
sung by Trinity Lutheran Church, Stillwater, MN

Dear blessed creator, dear mother, dear savior
Dear father, dear brother, dear holy other
Dear sibling, dear baby, dear patiently waiting
Dear sad & confused, dear stuck & abused
Dear end of your rope, dear worn out & broke
Dear go it alone, dear running from home
Dear righteously angry, forsaken by family
Dear jaded & quiet, dear tough & defiant
I pray that I'm heard
And I pray that this works
I pray if a prayer has been used as a sword
Against you & your heart
Against you & your word
I pray that this prayer is a plowshare of sorts
That it might break you open
It might help you grow
I pray that your body gets all that it needs
And if you don't want healing
I just pray for peace
I pray that your burden gets lighter each day

I pray the mean voice in your head goes away

I pray that you honor the grief as it comes
I pray you can feel all the life in your lungs
I pray that if you go all day being brave
That you can go home, go to bed
Feeling safe
I pray you're forgiven. I pray you forgive
I pray you set boundaries & openly live
I pray that you feel you are worth never leaving
I pray that you know I will always believe you
I pray that you're heard
And I pray that this works
Amen on behalf of the last & the least
On behalf of the anxious, depressed & unseen
Amen for the workers, the hungry, the houseless
Amen for the lonely & recently spouseless
Amen for the queers & their closeted peers
Amen for the bullied who hold in their tears
Amen for the mothers of little Black sons
Amen for the kids who grow up scared of guns
Amen for the addicts, ashamed & hungover
Amen for the calloused, the wisened, the sober
Amen for ones who want life to be over
Amen for the leaders who lose their composure
And amen for the parents who just lost their baby
Amen for chronically ill & disabled
Amen for the children down at the border
Amen for the victims of our law & order
I pray that you're heard
And I pray that this works
I pray if a prayer has been used as a sword
Against you & your heart
Against you & your word
I pray that this prayer is a plowshare of sorts

Offering of Thanksgiving

Offertory Anthem

The Well of Salvation

Offertory Response

VU#541 Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures high and low.
Give thanks to God in love made known,
Creator, Word, and Spirit One.**

Communion Hymn

VU#471 Eat this Bread and Never Hunger

Communion

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God of all our days be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, open your hearts.

We offer them to the God who transforms us.

Join in singing praises to our God.

With joy and wonder, we lift our voices.

Our experience throughout the ages has been one of ups and downs, destruction and rebuilding, fear and courage, despair and hope.

Amid this the Spirit of God is present, as we live our lives with all of its complexities and joy.

Prophets old and new remind us that God is with us; we are not alone. They have called us to seek justice and to care for the earth and for each other.

You sent Jesus to us,
the source of our life and hopes.

With those who wonder what to offer,
with all who seek to worship you,
we sing songs of praise to you:

Sung Sanctus Benedictus

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might;

heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes in your name.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!

Holiness is your nature,
and Jesus Christ is your gift of redemption.
Choosing to become one of us,
his wisdom filled every word, every action.

**Jesus took on new life among us,
so we might realize we could build
our lives in your neighbourhood.**

**Weakened by dying on the cross,
he went into the grave,
your resurrecting love strengthening him**

to defeat the way of harm and death.

As we seek to comprehend his life,
as we are transformed by his grace,
we speak of that mystery we call faith:

**Christ died, joining in our pain on the cross;
Christ was raised, filled with your hope;
Christ will come, transforming us and your kingdom.**

Sung Memorial Acclamation

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. (2x)

Here around the Table,
with our sisters and brothers beside us,
your Spirit comes, changing
simple, everyday elements into sacred gifts.

We eat the Bread which is broken,
so we can serve your children,
refusing to harm neighbour or stranger,
seeking to treat others fairly.

We drink from the Cup which is blessed,
so we may be perceptive enough
to comfort all who mourn,
so we may be creative enough
to believe that peace can be a reality.

**And when all human understanding
is supplanted by the knowledge
of eternal life with you in your kingdom,
we will join with those of every time and place
in singing your glorious praise,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Gifts of God for the People of God

Prayer of Sending

We have been nourished by God's grace and hope,
**and so we will go to those who hunger for justice,
as well as to those who thirst for reconciliation.**

We are called to follow the One who is weak and powerless,
**and so we will bring healing to the broken among us,
as well as comfort to those who grieve in every moment.**

We learn what is right and good from the Holy Spirit,

**and so we will go as fools to be blessings to the wise,
as well as to do not what is easy, but what is difficult.**

Song for the Journey

VU# 699 Live into Hope

Extinguishing of the Candles

Blessing

Sung Benediction

VU#958 Halle Halle Halle

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (2x)

Postlude

In faith and hope, Rev. Kirsty (Rev. Karen, Guest Preacher)

— Blessings Everyone —

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