

A Note: Preparing for Black History Month

February is Black History Month. It is an opportunity to reflect on our past and dream of shaping a future where all are welcome in Beloved Community.

As followers of Jesus, we remember the calling of the disciples and the way they were asked to simply set aside their lives and take up a whole new way of being. We recall that Jesus reached out beyond cultural barriers and physical boundaries. We hear the prophetic voices crying out for all.

It can be hard to do this. We must be ready to face the reality of violence, pain, and injustice. We must be honest about what has and has not changed. We must be brave to dream of a new way of being. And we must be strong to commit ourselves to changing the world.

It is also easy to do. Because a world where everyone is beloved and embraced in a warm welcome is a joy to consider. Our children and grandchildren living in a time where all gifts are supported and celebrated is a hope worth working towards. The Apostle Paul wrote, "now I see through a glass darkly, then face to face." (1 Cor 13:12) We do not know what will happen. We know that if we trust in God, it will be good. Rev Kirsty

Light of the World – A Prayer

We turn to embrace the rising Sun.

The fire that burns brilliantly in the morning sky.

Its glow gleams in the growing earth and glistens in sea and sky.[turn east with hands outstretched for silent reflection]

We turn to embrace the dazzling Son.

May his fire burn in our hearts.

May his glow gleam through our actions and glisten in our love for others.

[turn west with hands outstretched for silent reflection]

Amen. —a prayer for Transfiguration Sunday by Alydia Smith

February 2, 2025

St. Paul's United Church

308 King St, Midland ON, L4R 3M6

705-526-6077

email stpaulsunited@rogers.com



Finding Our Way

Minister: Rev. Kirsty Hunter

revkirsty@gmail.com 705-717-1918

Music Director:

Victoria Warwick

Tech Team:

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Check In: What is the best part of sharing a meal together?

Acknowledgement of the Land: Video

Call to Worship

God is our refuge and home. God is our strength and center.

God is a very present help. God has always been, and always will be, our very present help.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth has changed; though the world has changed; though our lives have been shaped by history out of our control and by present realities that threaten us.

There is a river whose streams make glad, the diaspora of God. God is in her midst.

They shall not be moved. God will be present to help wherever morning dawns.

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

Together we become beloved community.

Song of Praise VU#506 Take My Life

- 1 Take my life, and let it be
 consecrated, all for thee;
 take my moments and my days;
 let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands, and let them move
 at the impulse of thy love;
 take my feet, and let them be
 swift and purposeful for thee.

- 2 Christ is able to make us one,
 at the table he sets the tone,
 teaching people to live to bless,
 love in word and in deed express. R

- 3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out,
 bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
 gives us love to tell, bread to share:
 God (Immanuel) everywhere! R

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

**Blessed is the One who came to free all humanity.
Hosanna in the highest!**

With thanksgiving and faith, we remember the Lord Jesus, ...
Together we proclaim this mystery:

**Christ died, broken for all.
Christ was raised, healing for all time.
Christ will come, inviting us into the new creation.**

Holy Spirit, draw us into communion ...
The gifts of God for the People of God,
Thanks be to God.

The Feast

Prayer After Communion

**Christ,
You have gathered us at your table,
to bear witness to our unity in you.
Fed and nourished, may we leave from here
ready to be peace-keepers, God-bearers and kin-dom
builders.
Amen.**

Song for the Journey:

VU#468 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

- 1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
- R Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

- 3 Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.
- 4 Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.
- 5 Take my love: and I will pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Opening Prayer

Lighting of Christ Candle

As we light this Christ Candle,
may it remind us that Christ is in the world and in us.

Sung Response

**Open our hearts, open our minds.
Open our lives to you O Loving God, Open our hearts.**

Peace of Christ

Theme Conversation: Noticing God

The Story

Luke 6:1-16

Song for Reflection: MV#154 Deep in Our Hearts

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
Deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
Deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
Deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
Deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Sermon: As For Me...

Offering of Thanksgiving

Special Music (Anthem): "Bread of Heaven"

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.

Communion Hymn – VU#457 As We Gather

1 As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;

teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's victory known.

2 Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.

3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.

Invitation and Lord's Prayer

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you praise God, ...
we lift our praises to you now and forever:

Holy, holy, holy are you, liberating God.
All creation sings glad praises to you.
Hosanna in the highest!