

September 7th, 2025 – 10:30 am
5th Sunday after Pentecost
Welcome Back & Holy Communion



(Unknown)

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

"Creation sings, may we learn her song of wonder and care."

Prelude: *Siciliano* by J. S. Bach, trans. by Wilhelm Kempff

Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory

Del Doucette

As we assemble in this holy place, we recognize that for thousands of years this territory has been a sacred gathering place for many peoples of Turtle Island. We respectfully acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of several Indigenous Nations and wish to pay special recognition to the Mississaugas of the Credit. The original nations continue to cry out for justice.

As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn and work to right the wrongs of the past and present.

Lighting of the Christ & Community Candles

From the first spark of creation to the covenant of today,
We light this flame to remember:

Christ is our light, always.

Community is our fire of belonging.

Words of Welcome

Del Doucette

Welcome back to worship after the summer! We are especially delighted to welcome The Rev. Hewitt T. Holmes as our new minister at Trinity-St. Paul's. With hearts full of hope, we look forward to getting to know one another and walking together in faith, within and beyond our vibrant centre for justice, the arts, and spirit-filled community. Let the journey begin!

Life and Work of the Congregation

Gathering Words:

Come, people of God, for the Spirit has called us to life.

We come, formed in wonder, known before we were born.

Come, stand in awe before the One who weaves breath into dust.

We come, choosing to covenant for life, love, and liberation.

Come, let us worship the God of Creation and Covenant.

With joy, with gratitude, with hope, we come!

Opening Hymn: MV 30, *It's a Song of Praise to the Maker*

Centering Prayer

Creator of life and Giver of breath,
You called the cosmos into being with a word,
and in every leaf, river, and living thing,
we glimpse your artistry and grace.

**As we enter this Season of Creation,
awaken us to the wonder that surrounds us,
and rekindle in us the sacred call
to cherish, protect, and renew the Earth.**

Silence

Today, Creating One,

**we also celebrate a new beginning:
a covenant between minister and people,
a shared path of worship, witness, and welcome.
Root us in your love and justice,
anchor us in your faithfulness,
and send us forth in the boldness of hope.**

As we worship today,
May our hearts be open,
our spirits attuned,
and our hands ready
to live your love in this place,
together, as one body.

**In the name of God's love,
Christ liberation and
The Spirit's renewal,
Amen.**

Silent Reflection

Passing of the Peace

You are known,
you are cherished,
you are never alone.

The peace of the One who formed us in love be with you.

And also with you, woven in wonder, and held in grace.

(You are invited to share the peace with your neighbour)

Anthem: "Bogoroditse Devo" (Rejoice, Virgin Mother of God) from "All-Night Vigil", Op. 37, Sergei Rachmaninoff (Section Leads)

WE GROW IN FAITH

"Creation is the canvas; covenant is the call, together they paint a life of faithful stewardship."

Introduction to the Scripture:

Our readings today call us into the heart of Creation and Covenant. Psalm 139 proclaims that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, created in love, known in the deepest places. Deuteronomy 30 invites us to choose life, to enter into a covenant with God and one another.

On this first Sunday of shared ministry, these texts remind us: we are created for relationship, and called to walk together in faith, justice, and hope.

Scripture: Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18 (*Inclusive Bible*)
Response VU#958, *Halle, Halle, Halle*

John Olthuis

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Herein is wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection: *“Creation and Covenant”*

Silent Reflection

Invitation to Offering and Thanksgiving

We give not to earn grace, but to express gratitude.

For we are formed in love and called to life.

Let us offer our gifts, that God’s justice and joy may flourish.

In giving, we reflect the generous heart of God.

Offertory Hymn: VU 293 *We Praise You, Creator*

Prayer of Dedication:

**Gracious God, receive these gifts,
signs of our choosing life with You.**

Bless them to nourish creation and community.

In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

Service of Holy Communion

Introduction to the Table

Beloved of God, this table is a place of covenant and communion,
Where earth and heaven, past and future, meet in bread and cup.
All are welcome to this table!

Thanksgiving

Holy Creator, from the dust You formed us,
From chaos You brought forth beauty.

In every age, You called a people,
to walk with You in covenant and courage.
When we strayed, Your love remained steadfast.
When we wandered, Your mercy drew near.
With prophets and poets, sages and saints,
we join the chorus of creation to praise You:

**Holy, holy, holy God,
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of Love and
Justice.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Institution & Re-Enactment

Communion Hymn: MV 199 *When at This Table*

Communion Instructions

You are invited to come forward to one of the Communion stations in the sanctuary to receive the elements. Please take and consume them as you are served. If you are unable to come forward, simply remain seated and a server will bring the elements to you.

For those joining us online, we invite you to partake in the bread and cup at home during this time. Though we are physically apart, we are united in the Spirit and the mystery of this holy meal.

Communion Refrain: MV 193 *God, Bless to Us Our Bread*

Prayer after Communion:

**Life-giving God,
We thank You for this holy mystery,
In which You have given Yourself to us.
Now send us out renewed and reshaped
To be a covenant people of hope, healing, and justice in the
world.
In the name of Christ, Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Alexandra Horsky

Loving God, hear our prayer.

And in your love, answer.

Sung Response: MV 97 *Listen, God Is Calling*

Encircling Prayers... *We hold in our prayers:*

Trinity-St. Paul's United Church

Ray Whitehead

Bradley Clements and Emma Kelly

Robert Monteith

Dave Carruthers

Betty Butterworth and loved ones

Greg Callaghan

Shining Waters Regional Council

Bolton United Church

Dentonia Park United Church, Toronto

Sharon-Hope United Church

The United Church of Canada

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath - Moderator

The Rev. Michael Blair - General Secretary

Ecumenical Prayer

The churches in Benin, Ivory Coast, and Togo

The pastors and congregations of Christ Disciples Church, India

WE GO TO GOD'S WORLD

"To honour creation is to live our covenant, to walk humbly, love deeply, and care boldly."

Closing Hymn: VU 633 *Bless Now, O God, the Journey*

Benediction

You are known.

You are beloved.

You are called.

We go to walk in the way of life.

We go to live into our covenant.

May the God who created us,

the Christ who renews us,
and the Spirit who dwells within us,
Bless and keep us now and always.

We go in peace, to love and serve.

Amen.

Postlude: *All Creatures of Our God and King* arr. by Don Hustad

TRINITY ST. PAUL'S

UNITED CHURCH

FAITH JUSTICE ARTS

427 Bloor Street W, Toronto · (416) 922-8435 · www.trinitystpauls.ca

Trinity-St. Paul's United Church is an inclusive and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Canada, celebrating God's presence, seeking justice and peace, strengthening faith, and nourishing the creative spirit. Our work is centered around faith, justice, and the arts, providing a community hub in downtown Toronto for over 135 years.

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