

**September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 10:30 am**  
*6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*



(Unknown)

## **WE GATHER TO WORSHIP**

*"We gather not because we are worthy, but because God is merciful."*

**Prelude:** *Arioso* from Cantata BWV 156 by J. S. Bach (Flute solo: Don Willms)

### **Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory**

Lois Kunkel

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

We light this Christ candle,  
a sign of God's eternal light shining through creation,  
revealing mercy, calling us to compassion. *[candle is lit]*

We light this community candle,  
honouring the Spirit within each one kindling justice, welcoming all,  
and reminding us we belong to one another. *[candle is lit]*

**Come, Holy Flame,  
burn in us with courage and care,  
that we may be light for the world.**

## Words of Welcome

*Welcome to worship at Trinity-St. Paul's United Church, where faith meets flesh, and heaven bends low to kiss the earth. Whether you've come with joy or sorrow, questions or convictions, know this: there is room for you here. We gather amid concrete towers, diverse peoples, and rustling leaves, to seek the face of a God who creates, restores, and renews.*

## Life and Work of the Congregation

### Gathering Words:

The God who formed us from the dust calls us to renewal.

**Create in us a clean heart, O God.**

Jesus Christ, who redeems us by compassion, is slow to anger and abounding in love, meets and invites us still.

**Put a new and right spirit within us.**

The Spirit bids us to worship the God of creation and compassion!

**Make us worship in spirit and Truth!**

## Opening Hymn: VU 260, *God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness*

- 1     God who gives to life its goodness,  
         God creator of all joy,  
     God who gives to us our freedom,  
         God who blesses tool and toy:  
     teach us now to laugh and praise you,  
         deep within your praises sing,  
     till the whole creation dances  
         for the goodness of its King.
- 2     God who fills the earth with beauty,  
         God who binds each friend to friend,  
     God who names us co-creators

God who wills that chaos end:  
grant us now creative spirits,  
minds responsive to your mind,  
hearts and wills your rule extending  
all our acts by Love refined.

## **Centering Prayer**

## **Quiet Confession**

### **The Prayer of Jesus** (VU 959, sung to the Caribbean Tune with Inclusive language)

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowéd be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, hallowéd be Thy name,  
Hallowéd be Thy name.

On earth as it is in heaven, hallowéd be Thy name.  
Give us this day our daily bread, hallowéd be Thy name,  
Hallowéd be Thy name.

Forgive us our tresspasses, hallowéd be Thy name,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us,  
Hallowéd be Thy name, Hallowéd be Thy name.

Lead us not into temptation, hallowéd be Thy name,  
But deliver us from all that is evil, hallowéd be Thy name,  
Hallowéd be Thy name.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, hallowéd be Thy name.  
For ever and for ever and ever, hallowéd be Thy name,  
Hallowéd be Thy name.

Amen, amen, it shall be so, hallowéd be Thy name.  
Amen, amen, it shall be so, hallowéd be Thy name,  
Hallowéd be Thy name.

## **Words of Life & Passing of the Peace:**

Beloved, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, and set free.  
Let us share Christ's peace with one another,  
Not as the world gives, but as grace freely offered.  
The peace of Christ be with you.

**The peace of Christ also be with you.**

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

**Anthem:** *The Lone, Wild Bird* by Marty Haugen

## **WE GROW IN FAITH**

*“When we hear the cries of the world, the covenant whispers back: you are not alone.”*

### **Introduction to the Scripture:**

Our readings today are tender yet powerful texts. Psalm 51 is the raw cry of a heart aching for cleansing, a confession that longs for renewal and mercy. Exodus 32 drops us into a moment of divine tension, when the people’s rebellion threatens to undo everything, and yet God, moved by compassion, chooses mercy over wrath. Together, these readings invite us to wrestle with what it means to be both broken and beloved, to see how divine compassion responds to human failing and to ask what kind of hearts we must cultivate in a world that is hurting.

**Scripture:** Psalm 51:1-10 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Lois Kunkel

Response VU#958, *Halle, Halle, Halle*

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Exodus 32:7-14 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Herein is wisdom.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Reflection:** *“Creation and Compassion”*

### **Silent Reflection**

**Hymn:** VU602, *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* (verses 1 and 3)

- 1     Blest be the tie that binds  
      our hearts in Christian love;  
      the unity of heart and mind  
      is like to that above.
- 3     We share each other's woes,  
      each other's burdens bear;  
      and often for each other flows  
      the sympathizing tear.

## Invitation to Offering and Thanksgiving

As people shaped by divine mercy, we are called to live generously not because God needs our gifts, but because the world does.

**Let our offering be an act of co-creation, a sign of your compassion, and a seed planted in the soil of grace.**

## Offertory Hymn: MV 138, *My Love Colours Outside the Lines*

1 My love colours outside the lines,  
exploring paths that few could ever find;  
and takes me into places  
where I've never been before,  
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

2 My Lord colours outside the lines,  
turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;  
and takes me into places  
where I've never been before  
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

*Refrain:* We'll never walk on water  
if we're not prepared to drown,  
body and soul need a soaking  
from time to time.

And we'll never move the grave-stones  
if we're not prepared to die,  
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.

3 My soul longs to colour outside the lines,  
tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;  
I want to walk beyond the boundaries  
where I've never been before,  
throw open doors to to worlds outside the lines.

*Refrain*

## Doxology: 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.

## Prayers of the People

Loving God, hear our prayer.

**And in your love, answer.**

Kore Signet

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

Listen, God is calling,  
through the Word inviting,  
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

## **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**

Gifford United Church  
Harmony United Church, Kearney  
Metropolitan United Church, Toronto

### **The United Church of Canada**

Church in Mission: Rev. Dr. Japhet Ndhlovu  
Finance: Harry Li

### **Ecumenical Prayer**

The churches in Ghana and Nigeria  
The pastors and congregations of Christ Disciples Church, India

## **WE GO TO GOD'S WORLD**

*"We go to let our lives be the gospel, where covenant meets compassion on the streets of this world."*

## **Closing Hymn: VU 240, *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven***

- 1 Praise, my soul, the God of heaven,  
glad of heart your carols raise,  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who, like me, should sing God's praise.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise the Maker all your days!
- 2 Praise God for the grace and favour  
shown our forebears in distress;  
God is still the same forever,

slow to chide and swift to bless.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Sing out Maker's faithfulness!

- 3 Like a loving parent caring,  
God knows well our feeble frame;  
gladly all our burdens bearing,  
still to countless years the same.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! All within me, praise God's name!

- 4 Frail as summer's flower we flourish;  
blows the wind and it is gone;  
but, while mortals rise and perish,  
God endures unchanging on.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise the high eternal one.

- 5 Angels, teach us adoration,  
you behold God face to face;  
sun and moon and all creation,  
dwellers in all time and space.

O praise God! O praise God!

Praise with us the God of grace!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise with us the God of grace!

## **Benediction**

### **Closing Sung:** VU 884 *You Shall Go Out With Joy*

You shall go out with joy  
and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills  
will break forth before you;  
there'll be shouts of joy,  
and all the trees of the field  
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
(clap, clap)  
the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
(clap, clap)  
the trees of the field will clap their hands  
(clap, clap)  
while you go out with joy.

**Postlude:** My Heavenly Father Loves Me by Clara. W. McMaster, arr. By Sally DeFord  
(Piano duet: Deborah Park & Jill McKechnie)

# TRINITY ST. PAUL'S

## UNITED CHURCH

FAITH JUSTICE ARTS

### Announcements

#### Upcoming Dates:

**September 28:** Orange Shirt Sunday

**October 4:** Celebration of Life for Carolyn Lemon

**October 5:** Hewitt's Covenanting Service (2pm)

**October 19:** Budget Info Session & Season of Commitment Lunch (after service)

**October 26:** TSP West Wing Development Info Session (after service)

**November 9:** Congregational Vote re. West Wing Development (after service)

#### Connecting with our new Minister, Hewitt

Hewitt, as he prefers to be called, our new minister, will be in the building at Trinity-St. Paul's for **three Sundays each month** to lead worship and share in the life of our congregation. During those weeks, he will also be in the church office Monday through Wednesday. On Thursdays, Hewitt will be working from home and is available for online meetings or conversations. Fridays are his Sabbath day off. The fourth or fifth week of each month will be Hewitt's reading and research week and will be available for pastoral emergencies only.

If you would like to connect with Hewitt for pastoral care, conversation, or to discuss church life, you are welcome to reach out during his office hours, schedule an online meeting, or meet with him following Sunday worship. His email is [hholmes@trinitystpauls.ca](mailto:hholmes@trinitystpauls.ca) and 416 9228435 ext. 24

#### Orange Shirt Sunday

On September 28, 2025 we will observe Orange Shirt Day in a joint service with Bathurst Street United Church in the Gym at 10:30am. You are invited to wear orange shirts in remembrance of all who died and survived Canada's residential schooling system.

#### Children's Church is Back!

Our Children's Church program is back up and running again. It is open to school-aged children (4 years and up) and happens every week during the church service in the Memorial Room. Our Children's Church uses the United Church of Canada's 'The GO Project' curriculum. Run by our amazing Children's Church teacher, Jeorgina, Children's Church is a creative space for children to explore their faith through songs, games, stories, discussions, crafts, prayer, and participation in services such as in the annual Christmas

Pageant and Pay the Rent service. It can be attended every week (which we love!) or on a drop-in basis (if needed!).

## **Fall 2025 TSP Times: “Draw the Circle Wide”**

The Communications Committee is inviting contributions to the Fall 2025 edition of the TSP Times! The gathering theme is “Draw the Circle Wide”. This is especially so as we gather in community and grow with our new Minister: *“Let this be our song, no one stands alone. Draw the circle wide”*. **EVERYONE** is invited to submit a picture and 2-3 sentences that describe what you did this summer! Please send your reflections, pictures, articles, and reviews to Sarah no later than Friday, October 3rd, 2025. Please limit your submissions to 500 words (as best you can).

## **Save the Date for Hewitt’s Covenanting Ceremony!**

We are delighted to share that Hewitt’s covenanting with the Trinity-St. Paul’s community will take place on Sunday October 5th at 2pm at Trinity-St. Paul’s United Church. Please save this date - more details to follow.

## **Tending our Communion Table**

We’re seeking a team of 3 volunteers to help decorate our communion table before Sunday services on a rotating basis from now through January, and 3 volunteers from February to June. (No experience necessary and keeping it simple is our aim.) If you’d like to learn more or sign up, please contact alexandra.horsky@yahoo.com or call Alex at 416-516-8840.

## **Reading Scripture & Offering Prayers**

Are you interested in reading scripture or offering the Prayers of the People at one of our Sunday services? We are in need of volunteers to fill this lay ministry role! If you would like to sign up or learn more, please get in touch with the Church Office at [church-admin@trinitystpauls.ca](mailto:church-admin@trinitystpauls.ca)

## **Draw the Line**

You are invited to join a contingent of TSP folks for the “Draw the Line” march and rally and carry our climate justice banner on September 20th. Please contact Ann Russell (russell.ann73@gmail.com) for more information and to RSVP. Find out more at <https://drawtheline.world/canada> or see the posters on the Church Bulletin Board.

# TRINITY ST. PAUL'S

## UNITED CHURCH

FAITH JUSTICE ARTS

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*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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