

September 21st, 2025 – 10:30 am
7th Sunday after Pentecost



(Online – Lake Simcoe)

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

"We have come to the water's edge, where God calls us beloved."

Prelude: *My Heavenly Father Loves Me* by Clara W McMaster

Piano Duet: Deborah Park & Jill McKechnie

Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory

Dan Main

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 the Christ candle,
a sign of God's light shining over the waters,
bringing healing where creation is wounded
and hope where the world feels dry. (*Light the Christ candle.*)

**We light the community candle,
a symbol of our shared calling
to be streams of justice and rivers of compassion,
flowing together to renew the earth. (*Light the community candle.*)**

Words of Welcome

Welcome to Trinity-St. Paul's United Church, an inclusive and vibrant community of faith, justice, and the arts, where all are embraced and every voice belongs. Here, we gather as beloved children of God to celebrate diversity, seek justice, and join in God's renewing work for all creation.

Life and Work of the Congregation

Gathering Words:

Come, all who thirst for justice,
for the rivers of creation cry out.

We come, to listen to the groaning of the waters.

Come, all who long for healing,
for God's Spirit stirs the deep.

We come, to be renewed by the waters of life.

Come, all who seek belonging,
for God gathers us like streams into one river.

We come, beloved and diverse, to worship the Creator.

Opening Hymn: VU 226 *For the Beauty of the Earth* (Alternative tune: Dix)

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,

**R God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

- 2 For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light, **R**
- 3 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild, **R**
- 4 For each perfect gift sublime
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven, **R**

Opening Prayer

Creator of rivers and rain, of lakes and living streams,
we praise you for the beauty that still sings in the world.

**We praise you, O God,
for the waters that cradle life.**

You shape the clouds, stir the tides,
and water the earth with grace.

You quench our thirst and awaken our souls.

Yet we come weary from a parched and wounded world,
where creation groans and waters cry out for healing.

Wash us in your mercy; renew us in your love.

Silence our restless hearts, O Spirit,
and open us to your quiet presence.

Flow through us with compassion and courage.

Silence

Let your justice roll down like mighty waters,
and your peace ripple through all creation.

**Heal our hearts and heal the waters of the world.
Amen.**

Words of Grace & Passing of the Peace:

Hear the good news:

God's mercy flows like a river,
washing away fear, shame, and despair.

Christ speaks peace to the storm,
and the Spirit renews the face of the earth.

**In Christ, we are forgiven,
made whole, and set free
to join the healing of the world.**

Thanks be to God!

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

Anthem: *Give Me Justice* by James MacMillan

WE GROW IN FAITH

"We are here to let the Word take root in us, like willows planted by the river."

Introduction to the Scripture:

Today, we hear the cry of the prophet Jeremiah, who laments a wounded land and a grieving God. We join our voices with Psalm 79, a communal cry from people whose sacred city lies in ruins, pleading for restoration. These ancient laments echo creation's cry today, the cry of the waters around us. May the Spirit open our hearts to God's Word.

Scripture: Psalm 79:1-9 (*Inclusive Bible*)
Response VU#958, *Halle, Halle, Halle*

Carol Allain

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

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Herein is wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection: *"Creation and Justice: Healing the Waters"*

Conclusion of Reflection, we sing:

For the waters of the deep,
for the lakes so wide and clear,
for the life within their keep,
calling us to hold them dear,
God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

Silent Reflection

Affirmation (The New Creed, VU 918)

Invitation to Offering and Thanksgiving

Friends, every gift we bring is a ripple in God's river of justice.
As we offer our gifts,
we join God's work of healing creation,
renewing the waters, restoring the earth, and rekindling hope.

We will give as those who love this world deeply.

Offertory Hymn: MV 135 *Called by Earth and Sky*

R Called by earth and sky,
 promise of hope held high.
 This is our sacred living trust,
 treasure of life sanctified,
 called by earth and sky.
 After last verse, repeat twice more;
 called by earth and sky.

1 Precious these waters, endless seas,
 deep ocean's dream,
 waters of healing, rivers of rain,
 the wash of love again. **R**

2 Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
 wind born and free.
 Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,
 our gathering and our grace. **R**

- 3 Precious these mountains, ancient sands;
 vast fragile land.
 Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,
 Creation's faithful song. **R**
- 4 Precious the fire that lights our way,
 bright dawning day.
 Fire of passion, sorrows undone,
 our faith and justice one. **R**

Offering Prayer:

River of Life,
receive these gifts and make them seeds of renewal.
Let them flow into acts of justice,
mercy for the earth,
and love for our neighbours and strangers.
In Christ's name. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Loving God, hear our prayer.
And in your love, answer.

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

The Fallis Family, on the passing on Peter Magett, Mary Lou's husband
Ray Whitehead
Linda Dawn Pettigrew
Bradley Clements and Emma Kelly
Dave Carruthers
Betty Butterworth and loved ones
Greg Callaghan

Shining Waters Regional Council

Victoria Square United Church, Markham

Kimbourne Park United Church, Toronto

Willowdale Emmanuel United Church, Toronto

The United Church of Canada

Shared Services: Rev. Alan Hall

Philanthropy: Sarah Charters

Ecumenical Prayer

The churches in Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay

The pastors and congregations of Christ Disciples Church, India

Expression of Thanks to Rev. Dr. Nan Hudson

Lynne Brennan & Ministry & Personnel

WE GO TO GOD'S WORLD

"Now we go as streams of justice, carrying life wherever you flow."

Closing Hymn: VU 678, *For the Healing of the Nations*

- 1 For the healing of the nations,
 God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
 of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
 help us rise and pledge our word.
- 2 Lead us forward into freedom,
 from despair your world release;
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
 all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
 fear will die and hope increase.
- 3 All that kills abundant living,
 let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
 dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice

may we hallow life's brief span.

- 4 You, Creator-God, have written
 your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
 bring the life of Christ to mind;
that, by our response and service,
 earth its destiny may find.

Benediction:

Go forth, beloved of God,
with the weeping God who grieves,
with the steadfast Christ who redeems,
and with the wild Spirit who renews creation.

**We go as rivers of justice,
as lakes of peace,
as rain that refreshes the weary earth.**

And may the blessing of God,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit,
flow through us and make all things new.

Amen.

Postlude: *Hornpipe* from Water Music by George Frideric Handel



September - November:

September 28: Orange Shirt Sunday

October 4: Celebration of Life for Carolyn Lemon

October 5: Hewitt's Covenanting Service (**Time Change: 10:30 am**) & World Communion Sunday

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)

An Announcement about... Announcements

This is a periodic reminder that Announcements made during worship on Sunday morning should not exceed one minute in length. Thank you for keeping your announcements brief during our time of shared worship.

Connecting with our new Minister, Hewitt

Hewitt 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. **This month, Hewitt will take his reading & research week from September 26th -October 3rd.**

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 holmes@trinitystpauls.ca and 416 9228435 ext. 24



Notice re. Montessori (Major Street) Parking



Effective immediately, parking is no longer allowed next to any childcare centre, playground, etc. where children are at school. As we have the Montessori school and playground on the west side of the building, this means **parking is no longer allowed on Major Street beside the playground, or in the parking pad on the west side of the building, between the hours of 8am - 6pm Monday to Friday.**

Season of Commitment Community Gatherings

On Sunday Sept 21 and 28 we are inviting those who would like to host a gathering to leave their details on sign up sheets in the narthex after church. This could be hosting a brunch, lunch or dinner, or a get-together of any kind (bowling, pub night?) for a small or larger group. We are suggesting that the events take place between October 20 and November 16. Please provide your name, the date and time you'd like to have the event, what you are planning, how many people you can accommodate, and the address. If you won't be at church on Sep 20 or 27, you can email tsplindapadfield@gmail.com with the same information. We'll be ready to sign up guests who would like to attend these events on Sunday, October 4.

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 10:30 am. You are invited to wear orange shirts in remembrance of all who died and survived Canada's residential schooling system.

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"*. All are 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).

Tending our Communion Table

Thank you to all who have volunteered to set up our Communion Table on Sunday mornings! We are still looking for volunteers to commit to set-up and take-down on the 4th and 5th Sundays of each month. If you are interested in learning more or contributing to worship in this way, please contact Alex Horsky at alexandra.horsky@yahoo.com

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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