





TRINITY ST. PAUL'S

UNITED CHURCH
FAITH JUSTICE ARTS

COYENANTING SERVICE

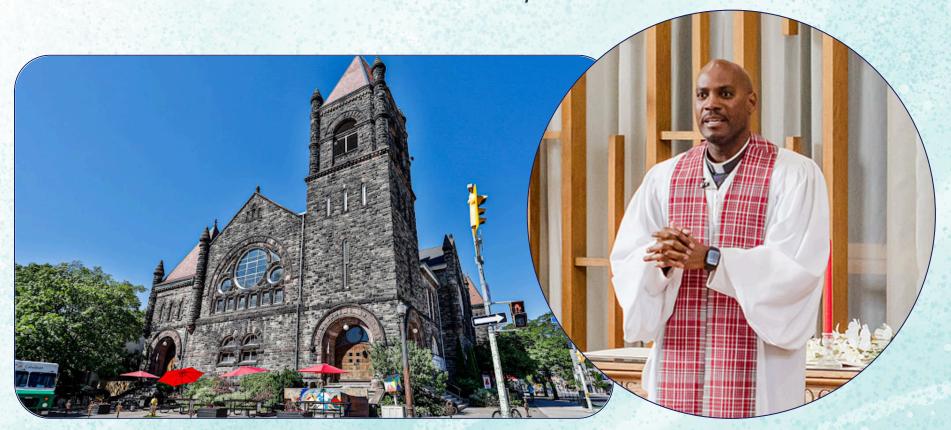
for
The Rev. Hewitt T. Holmes,
Trinity-St. Paul's
&

Shining Waters Regional Council of the United Church of Canada



Sunday October 5, 2025 10:30AM

Trinity-St. Paul's United Church 427 Bloor Street West, Toronto



Order of Worship

GATHERING

"At the crossroads we pause, for every journey begins in God's light."

Prelude: Sheep May Safely Graze, BWV 208, No. 9. by Johann Sebastian Bach (cellist: Andrew Ascenzo)

Acknowledgement of Territory:

Sarah Williams

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 Worship and Community Candles:

We light this candle of worship, the Christ candle. It shines at every crossroads, reminding us that Jesus is the light for our path, the companion who walks with us on the road. (The Christ candle is lit) We also light this community candle. Its flame is a sign of the Spirit's presence among us, gathering us as one people, guiding us in covenant, and sending us out to walk in the good way together. (The Community Candle is lit)

Words of Welcome: Lois Kunkel, Board Chair

We joyfully gather to mark a new ministry relationship in Shining Waters regional council between Hewitt Holmes and Trinity-St. Paul's. Today, we stand at a crossroads, a moment of new beginning, a call to walk together in faith, hope, and love. We welcome everyone who is part of our wider community and give thanks that, together, we are the church, companions on the road Christ sets before us.

Call to Worship:

Siblings and companions on the way, we gather at the crossroads of God's grace, as we come seeking the good way that leads to life, as we prepare to walk in covenant with one another, let us listen for the voice of the Holy One.

> We come that God will make known the ways of love and justice. We come that Christ will lead us into the paths of truth and hope. We come to know that the Spirit journeys with us and others, this day and always!

Hymn: Voices United 232, *Joyful*, *Joyful*, *We Adore You*

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore you, God of glory, life and love; hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away; giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays, stars and angels sing around you, centre of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, sound their praise eternally.
- You are giving and forgiving, 3 ever blessing, ever blest, wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest! Source of grace and fount of blessing, let your light upon us shine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.
- Mortals join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began; God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife; joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

Prayer of Approach (Unison):

Loving God,

you meet us at the crossroads of life, faith and ministry.

You call us to pause, to look, and to walk in the good way you set before us.

Teach us your paths; lead us in your truth.

Give us courage to walk with one another in hope,

strength to follow Christ's way of justice and peace,

and joy in the Spirit who guides our steps.

Bless Hewitt as minister and the community of faith, TSP,

that together we/they may find the path that offers renewal of our souls

and abundant life.

In the name of eternal love, we pray.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ:

Beloved community, we walk together in Christ! The peace of Christ, who gathers us as companions on the way,

be with you all.

And the peace of Christ also be with you.

(Let us greet each other with signs of this peace).

GROWING

"We grow as companions on the way, listening for truth, learning God's wisdom."

Anthem 1: "All Good Gifts" from *Godspell*. Words and Music by Stephen Schwartz, arr. By John Leavitt (Piano: Jill McKechnie, Flute: Paula Nieuwstraten, Don Willms, Cello: Andrew Ascenzo)

Introduction to Scriptures:

Today, we listen to scripture at the crossroads of faith and life. The psalmist prays for guidance on the good way, Jeremiah calls God's people to pause and walk in ancient paths of justice, and Luke tells of disciples who meet the risen Christ as an unexpected companion on the road. Together, these readings remind us that covenant is a journey of listening, learning, and walking side by side with God and one another.

Scriptures: HyeLim Yoon

Psalm 25:4-5 (Inclusive Bible)

Response VU#958, Halle, Halle, Halle

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

Jeremiah 6:16 and Luke 24:13-35 (Inclusive Bible)

Herein is wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection: Walking in Covenant as Companionship!

COVENANTING

"At the heart of our walk is covenant: promises made, love shared, and paths joined."

Affirmation of Faith - A New Creed (*Voices United* p.918)

We are not alone

we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating who has come in Jesus the word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hop.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Statement of Living Faith Story

Members of the Search Committee

Re-articulate the living faith story of the TSP, community of faith and why the called minister is a good fit. Share what gifts and skills the called minister brings to the new pastoral relationship.

Statement of This New Ministry

The new minister comes forward at the invitation of the Regional Council Liaison, Douglas duCharme, The Rev.

Regional Council Liaison:

We are here to join into a covenantal relationship with God and between *Hewitt T. Holmes, Trinity-St. Paul's* community of faith, and the wider United Church as represented by *Shining Waters* regional council. Although God's covenant with us never changes, our covenants with one another evolve as we seek ways to faithfully deepen our commitment to Jesus and live into our call to embody God's love in the world.

Member of Search Team: Hendrika Haasen

After prayerful discernment, and the approval of *the Trinity-St. Paul's* community of faith, we present *Hewitt T. Holmes*, who has been called to a ministry of word, sacrament, and pastoral care in *the Trinity-St. Paul's* community of faith. We believe that his skills and talents complement our faithful witness, ministry needs, and community context.

Regional Council Liaison:

Hewitt T. Holmes, you are here in response to the call of *Trinity-St. Paul's* community of faith and Shining Waters regional council. We come together to mark this new relationship within our regional council for the sake of our shared ministry.

Trinity-St. Paul's, you are about to undertake the ministry of word, sacrament, and pastoral care in this place. You, the members of this community of faith, are called to join *Hewitt T. Holmes* in worship, study, prayer, and action. We, Shining Waters Regional Council, will be responsible for supporting this ministry.

Let us pray for God's grace as we covenant together:

Prayer of Faith:

As we covenant together, we ask that God's love may be made visible in us.

as Christ prayed that we may all be one, in John 17:21,

we pray that Christ will draw us into the way of life and love.

Spirit bind us together in covenant,

so that the world may see and believe

through the witness of our companionship. Amen.

Sung Response: More Voices 115, Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New

Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,)

I make all things new,

beginning with you and starting from today.

Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,)

I make all things new,

my promise is true,

for I am Christ the way.

Promises of the New Minister

Regional Council Liaison:

Hewitt T. Holmes, do you, in the presence of this community of faith, take on the new trust and responsibility of ministering with *Trinity-St. Paul's*?

New Minister: I do. Regional Council Liaison:

Will you accept the guidance of *Shining Waters* regional council and, together with its other members, be responsible for the health of *Trinity-St. Paul's* community of faith?

New Minister: I will. Regional Council Liaison:

Will you share in the ministry goals and faith story of this community of faith?

New minister: I will. Regional Council Liaison:

Will you accept the support and encouragement of this community of faith and this regional council?

New Minister: I will. Regional Council Liaison:

Will you work cooperatively with the wider church and wider community to embody God's love in the world?

New Minister: I will.

Promises of the Community of Faith

Regional Council Liaison:

Will you join with *Hewitt T. Holmes* in a ministry of worship, study, prayer, and action within *Trinity-St. Paul's* Community of Faith, Shining Waters regional Council and within the wider church?

Members of the Community of Faith: **We will.**

Regional Council Liaison:

Will you support him as he serves among and with you in this ministry?

Members of the community of faith: **We will.**

Regional Council Liaison:

Hewitt T. Holmes (Congregational Minister), Sarah Redikopp (Communications & Administration Co-ordinator), Deborah Park (Director of Music), and wider TSP congregation and centre, you have been called by God to work together in this community of faith.

Will you promise in faith and obedience to Christ to share this ministry, supporting one another in love and, through your unity of spirit, inspiring all God's people here in their common ministry of justice, faith and the arts?

Team Ministers: We will.

Promises of the Regional Council, Wider Church and Community

Members of the wider church and community come forward [this could include community partners, members of other faith traditions, United Church of Canada members, affiliated partners, as well as members of any other United Church body]. Regional Council Liaison:

Will you, as members of Shining Waters regional council and members of the wider community, join with *Hewitt T. Holmes* and this community of faith in the ministry that is both theirs and ours?

Wider Community Members: We will.

Regional Council Liaison:

Will you support and encourage them in this ministry?

Wider Community Members: We will.

Sung Response More Voices 115 Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New

Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,)

I make all things new,

beginning with you and starting from today.

Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,)

I make all things new,

my promise is true,

for I am Christ the way.

Presentation of Symbols

BIBLE, OLIVE OIL & PUBLIC WITNESS SYMBOLS

Lynne Brennan & Martin Pinckney Barbara Lloyd, Ann Russell, & Janet Haddock

Members of the Worship and Faith Formation Committee and Public Witness Groups carry the Bible and the Oil to the new minister.

Presenter:

Take this Bible. Be with us as one who teaches and proclaims the Word.

Take this oil and these symbols of public witness. Be with us as one who practices justice in the Spirit's name, bringing healing to the broken, blessing to the weary, and courage for the journey of faith.

People: Amen.

The new minister places the Bible on the pulpit and the oil on the Communion Table.

HYMNAL & KEY

Deborah Park

Sarah Redikopp

Members of the congregational staff carry the Hymnal and Key to the new minister.

Presenter:

Take this hymnal. Be with us as one who collaborates in the leadership of our songs of faith, lifting our voices in praise, lament, and hope.

Take this key. Be with us as one who guides this community with care, wisdom, and love.

People: Amen.

The new minister places the hymnal and key on the Communion Table.

WATER & BASIN

Tamam McCallum
Chiyeko Fukushima

Members of the congregation carry these symbols to the new minister.

Presenter:

Take this water and basin. Be with us as one who baptizes in the name of the Trinity: Creator, Christ and Spirit.

People: Amen.

The new minister pours the water into the basin/baptismal font. Basin and pitcher are set in a visible place before the congregation.

BREAD AND WINE

Delmar Doucette

Bob Savaria

Members of the Stewardship Committee carry a loaf of bread and a cup of wine to the new minister.

Presenter:

Take this bread and wine. Be with us as one who cares for those who hunger and thirst.

People: Amen.

The new minister places the bread and wine upon the table.

PRIDE FLAG AND HEART GARDEN MEDICINES

Ulric Narinesingh Marjie Calla

Members of the congregation carry the flag and heart garden medicines to the new minister.

Presenter:

Take this pride flag and these heart garden medicines of the four directions. Be with us as one who celebrates the sacred diversity of God's people, honouring the 2SLGBTQIA+ community with joy, and cherishing these medicines as signs of healing, renewal, and our commitment to right relationship with the First Peoples of this land.

People: Amen.

The new minister places the heart garden medicines on the Communion Table and the flag beside the Communion Table.

CONGREGATION & CENTRE GIFTS

Thomas McKechnie Aaron Dawson

A member of the congregation and the staff for the Centre for Faith, Justice and Arts carry the gifts to the new minister. *Presenter:*

Receive these gifts as signs of our shared journey. Be with us as one who walks with us in compassion, courage, and joy.

People: Amen.

The new minister places the gifts on the Communion Table.

Regional Council Liaison:

Hewitt T. Holmes and *Trinity-St. Paul's* community of faith, let all these be signs of the ministry that is and that will be in this community.

People: Amen.

New Minister's Prayer

The new minister prays in thanksgiving and supplication for all who have entered this covenant for the ministry of the community of faith.

Response to Covenant

Regional Council Liaison:

Let us rejoice in the covenant we have made.

The people may express their joy with applause and/or the pealing of bells.

GIVING

"We give from grateful hearts, sharing in God's abundance for the life of the world."

Scan the QR Code to donate online:



Offertory Hymn: Then Let Us Sing 23, For Everyone Born

- For everyone born, a place at the table,
 For everyone born, clean water and bread,
 A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
 For everyone born, a star overhead, and
 R
 God will delight when we are creato
 - God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,
 Compassion and peace:
 yes, God will delight
 when we are creators of justice,
 justice and joy!
- For all who share life, a place at the table,
 Revising the roles, deciding the share,
 With wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
 For all who share life, a system that's fair, and -R
- For those we neglect, a place at the table,
 A voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 The hands of a child in hands that are
 wrinkled,
 For those we neglect, the right to belong, and
- 4 For all who have breath, a place at the table, A covenant shared, a welcoming space, A rainbow of race and gen-der and colour, For all who have breath, the chalice of grace, and R

- 5 For you and for me, a place at the table, though wounded and sore, with need to forgive, in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for you and for me, a new way to live, R
- For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be, to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free, R

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Generous God, you provide the good way and every blessing along the path. Receive these gifts, signs of our gratitude, that your church may walk boldly in justice, share freely in love, and live faithfully in your covenant. Amen.

COMMUNION

6

"We are fed at God's table, nourished in love to walk the good way together."

Invitation to the Table

Beloved companions on the way, on this World Communion Sunday, we gather at the crossroads of God's grace, where many paths meet, where all peoples are welcomed, where Christ walks with us still.

Here at this table the hungry are fed, the weary find rest, and the joyful are made one in praise.

This is the table of Jesus, where love is the host and all creation has a seat. Come, for all is ready.

We come, seeking the good way. We come, that Christ may make us one.

Narrative of The Institution

On the night before Jesus gave himself in love, Jesus gathered with friends at a table like this. He washed their feet, speaking of companion love, and he spoke of a new covenant for a new creation.

As artists, seekers, and companions have gathered in this place for over 135 years, so we gather now, to remember and to be renewed.

Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God,

broke it, and gave it to his friends saying:

"Take, eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me." (BREAKING OF THE BREAD)

Then he took the cup, and after giving thanks, he said:

"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sin and renewal of the world.

Whenever you drink it, remember me." (POURING & LIFTING OF WINE)

We remember, O Christ, your life, your death, your rising, and your promise to be with us in every place, on every road, until all creation is made new.

Sharing & Eating of the Elements

Anthem 2: You Raise Me Up, Words by Brendan Graham, Music by Rolf Lovland (Section Leads)

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.

Prayers of the People

Pamela McCarroll, Acting Principal of Emmanuel College (Representing the Community)

Let us pray in many languages, voices, and hearts trusting that God hears us all, and gathers us as companions on the way.

We pray for the ministries of Hewitt and Trinity-St. Paul's,

Shining Waters Regional Council, The United Church of Canada,

and local and global partners, that they stand at the crossroads and decide to walk together toward God's vision of a united and uniting church and world ...Uniting God, receive our prayers:

And in your love, make us companions who transform the world.

For disciples in this city who embody extravagant welcome, who proclaim good news on crowded streets and quiet corners,

who mend God's world through food banks, shelters, advocacy, and care ... Companioning God, receive our prayers:

And in your love, make us companions who transform the world.

For refugees and newcomers making a home among us,

for those who arrive seeking safety, opportunity, and belonging,

and for the church's call to walk with them in hospitality and justice ... Journeying God, receive our prayers:

And in your love, make us companions who transform the world.

For our ecumenical and interfaith partners,

and for Toronto downtown congregations who share in ministry at the heart of this city that together we may walk in love's good way,

building bridges of hope, solidarity, and peace ... Uniting God, receive our prayers:

And in your love, make us companions who transform the world.

Silence

For those who use and share this TSP building, community groups, artists, seekers, those who gather for learning, healing, arts, and friendship that all who enter may find welcome and light, and that we may recognize Christ's hope in each encounter ...Companioning God, receive our prayers:

And in your love, make us companions who transform the world.

For the dreamers, teachers, and prophets among us, who long for a Toronto where housing is secure, where communities are safe, where every child has an opportunity that is life-giving, and where creation is honoured and cared for ... Uniting God, receive our prayers:

And in your love, make us companions who transform the world.

For the prayers we carry in our own hearts our companions in joy, our neighbours in need, our loved ones here and afar ... [moment of silence] Sustaining God, receive our prayers:

And in your love, make us companions who transform the world.

GOING

"We go forth in hope, walking the good way with courage and joy."

Hymn: Voices United 420, Go to the World

Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptising as the sign of our rebirth.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

2 Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the Word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Commissioning and Benediction

May the God who meets us at the crossroads,
Christ who walks with us on the road,
and the Spirit who guides our steps,
bless and keep us, now and always.
Amen.

Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray; the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant Church, you follow Christ's own way.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Go to the world! Go as the ones I send, for I am with you 'til the age shall end, when all the hosts of glory cry 'Amen!'

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Musical Postlude: Psalm 19 (The Heavens Declare) by Benedetto Marcello

All are invited to join the community for a reception in the Narthex after service.

With special thanks to
The Rev. Douglas DuCharme, Regional Council Liaison
Pamela McCarrol, Acting Principal, Emmanuel College
Musicians and Vocalists: Jill McKechnie, Paula Nieuwstraten, Don Willms, Andrew Ascenzo, Thea Nappert, May Sadan,
Charlie Sadler, Cameron Mazzei
The TSP Family





Announcements

See this weeks' e-newsletter for the full announcements. You can sign up for this online at https://www.trinitystpauls.ca/contact-us/#mailing-list, by scanning the QR code below or by emailing Sarah.



October - November Dates:

- October 19: Budget Info Session & Season of Commitment Lunch (after service)
- October 21: Deep Listening Session 1
- October 26: TSP West Wing Development Info Session (after service)
- November 4: West Wing Zoom Session (7pm)
- November 9: Congregational Vote re. West Wing Development Proposal & Budget Approval (after service)

Connecting with Hewitt in October

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. One week of each month will be Hewitt's reading and research week and he will be available for pastoral emergencies only. *In October, the reading and research week will be October 13-19.*

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 and 416 922-8435 ext. 24

Come, Share, and Be Heard - Deep Listening Sessions at TSP

As Trinity-St. Paul's begins a new chapter of ministry, you are warmly invited to join in a series of Deep Listening Sessions. These gatherings provide an opportunity to pause, share, and hear one another's stories as we reflect together on *life*, *community*, *and the church*. Through prayer, attentive listening, and storytelling, we will explore questions such as:

- Where do you experience life and hope in your journey?
- How have you experienced belonging and community at TSP?
- What are your dreams and hopes for the future self, church, community, and world?

Each voice matters. Each story reveals how God is moving among us. We are here to listen to how God is shaping your life and our community as companions.

Dates/Times: October 21 - 4-6 pm (In person) and November TBD

Location: Trinity-St. Paul's United Church

All are welcome, members, adherents, newcomers, and friends of TSP.

Season of Commitment Community Gatherings

After the service you will be able to sign up for the offered community meals and gatherings. The narthex will be crowded as we celebrate covenanting with Hewitt. Please look for Linda Padfield on the landing of the stairs with the sign-up sheets.

West Wing Development Group

We want your opinions and advice on the potential redevelopment of our west wing, a move that would create a new building with rental housing and new community space for the TSP Centre.

Information sessions are planned for October 26 (after worship) and November 4 (on zoom at 7 pm). On November 9 (after worship) Trinity-St. Paul's will hold a congregational meeting to seek your support for entering into a feasibility study on the project with our partner, Kindred Works, which has been tasked by the United Church to look at alternative uses of surplus church property.

More information about the proposed development will be provided in advance of these meetings. If you have any immediate questions, please contact the chairs of the West Wing Working Group, Jim Lewis or David Craig, at comments@trinitystpauls.ca



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Trinity-St. Paul's is an inclusive community of faith of the United Church of Canada, called to be a place of faith, where the Gospel is lived and shared; a place of justice, where voices are raised for peace and equity; a place of the arts, where beauty, imagination, and creativity reveal God's presence.

Minister: Hewitt T. Holmes (The Rev., Ph.D. Candidate)

Music Director: Deborah Park

Communications and Administration Coordinator (Church Office):

Sarah Redikopp

General Manager: Aaron Dawson

Chair of the Board: Lois Kunkel Secretary of the Board: Dan Main Church Treasurer: Bob Savaria Board of Trustees, Chair: David Craig

Building Management Board, Chair: Lorna Niebergall

Finance Committee, Co-Chairs:

Del Doucette

Deepak Ramachandran

Ministry and Personnel, Co-Chairs:

David Fallis Jeanne Moffat

Pastoral Care, Co-Chairs:

Lois Kunkel

Paula Nieuwstraten

Public Witness, Chair: Janet Haddock

Stewardship, Co-Chairs:

Del Doucette

Alexandra Horsky

Technical Support: James Mackey

Worship and Faith Formation, Co-Chairs:

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