

**October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 10:30 am**

*Thanksgiving Sunday*  
*18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*



(Image via Unsplash)

### **WE GATHER TO WORSHIP**

*"We gather from many places and postures, from joy and from weariness,  
from thanksgiving tables and from empty ones, to become the people of God,  
drawn together by Spirit, by scripture, and by grace."*

**Prelude:** *Thanks Be to Thee* by George Frideric Handel

**Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory**

Willy Malate

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,  
remembering the One who healed the sick,  
crossed borders, and received the gratitude of a stranger.

**Christ is our light,  
burning through division,  
inviting us to live with gratitude. (Candle is lit)**

We light the Community Candle for all who gather here,  
in person, online, familiar and new.

**May our lives reflect the light of grace,  
as we walk in faith, hope, and holy resistance. (Candle is lit)**

## Words of Welcome

*Welcome, friends, those long rooted in this community, those who return after time away, and those who are joining us for the first time, in person or online. Whoever you are, however you arrive, you are welcome here! This is Trinity-St. Paul's, a community where faith, justice, and the arts meet in the heart of Toronto. Today, as we reflect on gratitude as faithful resistance, may we find in this time of worship not only peace, but also courage, joy, and belonging.*

## Life and Work of the Congregation

### Gathering Words:

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth!  
Sing the glory of God's name!  
**We come with songs of thanksgiving,  
hearts full of wonder and praise.**

God has kept us among the living,  
and brought us through heat and snow.

**Even in trial, we give thanks,  
for gratitude is our strength, our resistance, our way.**  
Come, let us worship with open hands and ready hearts.  
**For God is good,  
and God's love endures forever.**

**Hymn:** Voices United 523, *O God of All the Many Lands*

1 O God of all the many lands,  
we lift our hearts in prayer,  
for this our land of Canada,  
a country wide and fair;  
for mountain heights and northern lights,  
for prairie, lake and sea,  
for every blessing from your hand  
bestowed so lavishly.

2 We thank you for the sacrifice  
of venturers of old,  
who dared to cross uncharted seas,  
whose dreams made others bold;  
for valiant souls and pioneers,  
for all who served their age,  
and left for us who follow on  
a sacred heritage.

3 We thank you that from many lands  
with varied gifts they came,  
to pledge their love and loyalty  
where scarlet maples flame.  
May justice here belong to all,  
and may our nation play  
its rightful role in ushering in  
the peace for which we pray.

4 May we be worthy of our land  
and seek its highest good,  
shaping a noble destiny  
of truest nationhood.  
May this fair land, our Canada,  
your own dominion be;  
your people bless abundantly  
from seas to Arctic sea

## Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving

### *Silent Reflection*

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

The Good News is this:

Even when we forget to return in thanks,

Christ meets us with mercy.

**Even when the world tells us to be afraid,  
gratitude opens the way of courage and joy.**

So let us share the peace of Christ with one another,  
not as the world gives, but as Christ gives.

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

And also with you.

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

**Anthem:** *The Heavens Are Telling from The Creation* by Joseph Haydn

## WE GROW IN FAITH

*"We grow by listening, to ancient stories that still speak, to the cry of the Earth, to the challenge of justice, and to the call of Christ in our midst."*

### Introduction to the Scripture:

The readings for today take us on a journey from lament to praise, from healing to gratitude. In Psalm 66, we hear the voice of a people who have known hardship, "we went through fire and through water," yet who still sing thanks to the God who brought them through. And in Luke 17, we meet ten people healed of leprosy, yet only one returns to give thanks. A Samaritan. A stranger. A reminder that gratitude is not just politeness, but an act of faithful resistance, an act that names blessing, even in hard times, and turns back toward the source of life. Let us listen for what the Spirit is saying to the Church today.

**Scripture:** Psalm 66:1-12 (Responsive from Voices United pp.784-785, Refrain 2)

Willy Malate

**R:** *God of all, to you we raise this our song of joyful praise.*

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;  
**sing to the honour of God's name;  
make glorious the praise of God.**

How awesome are your deeds!  
So great is your strength, your foes wilt before you.  
**For all the world shall worship you,  
shall sing to you and praise your name. R**

O come and see what God has done,  
a work that is awesome to all earth's children.  
**God turned the sea into dry land;  
they crossed the river on foot.**  
There we rejoiced in God,  
who rules in power forever,  
**whose eyes keep watch on the nations.  
Let not the rebellious lift up their heads. R**

Bless our God, all peoples,  
and let the sound of praise be heard.  
**God has preserved us among the living,  
and kept our feet from stumbling.**  
For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us as silver is tried.  
**You led us into the desert,  
you laid a burden upon our back,**  
you let sickness furrow our brow,  
we passed through fire and water;  
**but you brought us out to a land of plenty. R**

Luke 17:11-19 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Herein is wisdom.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Reflection:** *"Gratitude as Faithful Resistance"*

### Silent Reflection

### Invitation to Offering and Thanksgiving

We give not because we have everything we want,  
but because God has given us everything we need,  
breath, belonging, beauty, and community.

Gratitude is an act of resistance  
against the scarcity and fear that shape our world.  
So we offer our gifts with joy and thanksgiving,  
that together, we may nourish what is just, life-giving, and sacred.

*(The offering is collected in the sanctuary. For those online, you are welcome to donate to the work of TSP with the QR code).*



**Offertory Hymn:** Voices United 520, *We Plough the Fields*

1 We plough the fields and scatter  
the good seed on the land,  
but it is fed and watered  
by your almighty hand;  
you send the snow in winter,  
the warmth to swell the grain,  
the breezes and the sunshine,  
and soft refreshing rain.  
R *All good gifts around us  
are sent from heaven above;  
we thank you, God, O holy God,  
for all your love.*

2 You only are the maker  
of all things near and far;  
you paint the wayside flower,

you light the evening star;  
the winds and waves obey you,  
by you the birds are fed;  
much more to us, your children,  
you give us daily bread. R

3 We thank you then, O Maker,  
for all things bright and good,  
the seed-time and the harvest,  
our life, our health, our food;  
accept the gifts we offer  
for all your love imparts,  
and, what from us you long for,  
our humble, thankful hearts. R

**Doxology:** MV182 *Grateful* (Refrain & Verse 2)

R Grateful for the life you give us,  
thankful for your Holy Son,  
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all,  
O God of Love.  
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,  
thankful for your Holy Word,  
joyful in your mercy flowing,  
we will praise you.

2 May our lives proclaim your justice,  
may our voices sing your praise.  
May our hands work in your service  
to the glory of your name.

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

**Sung Response:** More Voices 15, *Holy Sacred Spirit*

**Holy sacred Spirit, breathe your breath on us.**  
**Holy sacred Spirit, breathe your life in us.**

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

**Trinity-St. Paul's United Church**

All grieving Ray Whitehead, especially his daughters Cynthia, Beth, Sara, and their families  
The Fallis Family at the passing of Peter Madgett, Mary Lou's husband  
Bradley Clements and Emma Kelly  
Betty Butterworth and loved ones  
Greg Callaghan

**Shining Waters Regional Council**

Central United Church, Unionville  
Palgrave United Church  
Aurora United Church

**The United Church of Canada**

**Organizational Development and Strategy:** Jennifer Henry  
**Theology and Ministry Leadership:** Jennifer Janzen-Ball

**Ecumenical Prayer**

Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama

**The Prayer of Jesus**

*(Traditionally known as The Lord's Prayer, Voices United 959, sung to the Caribbean Tune with Inclusive language)*

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | Our Creator, which art in heaven,<br>Hallowed be Thy name.<br>Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,<br>Hallowed be Thy name.              | 4 | And lead us not to the devil to be tempted,<br>Hallowed be Thy name.<br>But deliver us from all that is evil,<br>Hallowed be Thy name.             |
| 2 | On the earth as it is in heaven,<br>Hallowed be Thy name.<br>And give us now our daily bread,<br>Hallowed be Thy name.                  | 5 | For Thine is the kingdom, the power,<br>and the glory,<br>Hallowed be Thy name.<br>Forever, and ever, and ever, and ever,<br>Hallowed be Thy name. |
| 3 | And forgive us all our trespasses,<br>Hallowed be Thy name.<br>As we forgive those who trespass<br>against us,<br>Hallowed be Thy name. | 6 | Amen, Amen, Amen,<br>Hallowed be Thy name.<br>Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.<br>Hallowed be Thy name.   |

**WE GO TO GOD'S WORLD**

*"And we go, not to escape the world, but to re-enter it with courage and compassion,  
carrying the seed of gratitude, and sowing it as an act of resistance and love."*

**Closing Hymn:** VU 218 *We Praise You, O God*

- 1      We praise you O God, our Redeemer, Creator  
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you: we kneel and adore you,

We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

2 We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,  
Through trial and tempest, companion and guide,  
When perils o’ertake us, you will not forsake us.  
But faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

3 With voices united our praises we offer  
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,  
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praised.

**Benediction:**

We have gathered in grace,  
**We have grown in gratitude,**  
We now go in peace,  
**to love boldly, give generously,**  
**and live with thanksgiving as your faithful resistance.**  
We go, with hearts wide open.  
**We go with thanksgiving and joy!**

**Closing Sung:** Voices United 431, *Asithi Amen*

Sing amen: Amen, we praise your name, O God.  
Sing amen: Amen, we praise your name, O God.  
Sing amen: Amen, amen, amen, amen,  
amen, we praise your name, O God.\*

**Postlude:** Trumpet Concerto in D Major by Johann Friedrich Fasch (Trumpet: Brian Roberts)







*See this weeks' e-newsletter for the full announcements. You can sign up to receive the announcements by scanning the QR code above, or by emailing Sarah.*

## October – November Dates:

- **October 19:** Taizé (Contemplative) Service | 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)
- **November 18:** Celebration of Life for Ray Whitehead (details to follow)
- **November 19:** *Art, Religion and Theology in Orvieto* Presentation - after service in the Memorial Room
- **December 21:** Carols by Candlelight (7pm)

## 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](mailto: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*. 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 11**

Location: Trinity-St. Paul's United Church

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

## Carols by Candlelight 2025

This year, Carols by Candlelight will take place on **Sunday, December 21st at 7 pm!** Mark your calendars for this very special service.

## Season of Commitment Lunch

Hello TSP friends! The Season for Commitment Lunch kick off is Sunday, the 19th! I am looking for 10 people to make a set main. Others will be invited to bring salads and desserts. If you would like to contribute to the mains, please let me know and we'll decide together what everyone is bringing. Thanks so much! [Holzbauerjames@hotmail.com](mailto:Holzbauerjames@hotmail.com) 4163713084 or 4374504161

## Community Gathering Signups

We had a good beginning to sign ups for gatherings at people's homes. If you would like to add your name to someone's event, you can email [tsplindapadfield@gmail.com](mailto:tsplindapadfield@gmail.com) OR see the available dates and sign up this Sunday (October 12.) In particular, if you would like to attend the first of the gatherings on James Holzbauer's and Willy Malate's boat for snacks and drinks on Saturday afternoon, October 18 from 2 till 5, please email Linda Padfield or James at [holzbauerjames@hotmail.com](mailto:holzbauerjames@hotmail.com)

## Art, Religion, and Theology in Orvieto

*Art, Religion and Theology in Orvieto* presentation Nov 16 after the service in the Memorial Room. Bring your coffee and join Barbara Lloyd in a presentation about the ART in Orvieto program she participated in this summer. This will include photos, storytelling, historical insights and art work.

## West Wing Development Consultations

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](mailto: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.*

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