

October 26th, 2025 – 10:30 am

Reformation Sunday
20th Sunday after Pentecost



STEWARDSHIP

SHARING THE GIFTS WE HAVE



(Unknown)

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

"We gather with gratitude, echoing the psalmist: Praise is due to you, O God. Today, we worship the One who hears, forgives, and renews."

Prelude: *This Is My God's World* arr. by Greg Howlett

Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory

Sophia Yang

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,
sign of God's enduring light,
shining through storms and reformations,
reminding us that all is gift.

Thanks be to God for grace that reforms and renews. *(Candle is lit)*

We light the community candle,
sign of our shared life in God,
as people of many cultures, paths, and prayers,
gathered in humility and hope.

May this flame kindle compassion, courage, and commitment. *(Candle is lit)*

Words of Welcome

Welcome, dear Trinity-St. Paul's (TSP) family: long-time members, recent members, newcomers, and those joining online. We are glad you have joined this inclusive, justice-seeking, and Spirit-filled community for worship and witness. Today we gather on Reformation Sunday, not only to remember history, but to recommit to God's ongoing work of renewal. In this season of stewardship and budgeting for 2026, may this be a time not only of financial discernment but of spiritual centring, remembering that all is gift, and we are stewards of grace. Whether you arrive full of faith or full of questions, you belong here. Welcome home.

Life and Work of the Congregation

Gathering Words:

Come, you who seek the face of God,
you who feel full and those who feel empty.

**We come, drawn by grace, humbled by love,
and ready to be renewed.**

The earth is filled with God's abundance,
streams overflow, fields rejoice, and justice springs up.

**We have come to worship the One who listens to our prayers
and lifts up the lowly.**

Reformed by the Word, reoriented by grace,
we gather to give thanks and offer ourselves anew.

**We come to worship the Giver of all gifts,
God of the harvest, God of the heart.**

Opening Hymn: VU 296 *This Is God's Wondrous World*

**1 This is God's wondrous world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.**

**2 This is God's wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.**

**This is God's wondrous world:
God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.**

**3 This is God's wondrous world:
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world:
why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!**

Prayers of Praise and Confession:

Creator of sun and soil, of rain and renewal,
we praise You for the harvest of the earth
and the harvest of the heart.

**You gift us with overflowing grace,
bread on the table, breath in our lungs,
love that surprises and sustains.**

**We praise You, O God, for all Your gifts.
All is grace. All is gift.**

You crown the year with Your bounty;
Your paths overflow with plenty.

You tend the furrows of our souls,
softening the hard places,
watering the seeds of faith.

We praise You, O God, for all Your gifts.
All is grace. All is gift.

**Yet in the abundance of Your mercy,
we confess that we have hoarded rather than shared,
judged rather than welcomed,
boasted rather than bowed.**

**Like the Pharisee in the temple,
we have trusted in our own righteousness
and looked down on others.**

God of mercy, forgive us.

Root out our pride. Re-form our hearts.

Remind us, O God,
that true giving begins with humility,
and that all we are and have is from You.

Teach us to pray like the tax collector:

"God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

And help us rise, justified not by status,
but by grace alone.

In silence, we confess our personal failings and longings before God... (Silent confessions)

In the Spirit of Reformation,
stir in us courage to change,
to return to the heart of faith, humility, justice, and grace.

**In this place of worship, gather our gratitude.
Let the Pharisee and the tax collector in us both
come before you, honest and open.**

Giving back our heart, knowing that all is a gift.

Words of Life & Passing of the Peace:

Hear this Good News:

In Christ, mercy flows like rain on parched land.

You are loved,
forgiven,
and set free to begin again.

May the peace of Christ reform and reframe our hearts.

May the peace of Christ reform and reframe your heart.

Let us share signs of Christ's peace,
in person and online, with a smile, a wave, or a word of grace.

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

Anthem: *Peace Like a River, Kum Ba Yah* by Jean Anne Shafferman

WE GROW IN FAITH

"We turn to Scripture, not with pride, but with humility, open to the Spirit's reforming work in us."

Introduction to the Scripture:

Today's readings remind us that God's generosity is not earned but received. Psalm 65 sings of creation's overflowing abundance. Luke 18 brings us two people praying: a proud Pharisee and a humble tax collector. Each story invites us to reflect on our posture toward God, and on the kind of giving that grows from grace, not performance. Let us listen with open hearts for what the Spirit is saying to the Church today.

Scripture: Psalm 65 (VU p.782 with refrain)

Sophia Yang

R: Praise is due to you, O God in Zion.

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be performed.

You give heed to prayer; to you all mortals shall come.

The burden of our sins is too great for us,
but you will purge them away. R

Blessed are the people you choose
and bring to dwell in your courts.

**We shall be filled with the blessings of your house,
your holy temple.**

With awesome deeds you answer our prayers for deliverance,
O God our saviour -

**you that are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the far-off seas.**

By your strength you make fast the mountains,
and gird yourself round with power.

You still the raging of the seas,
and the roaring of the waves, the tumult of the peoples.

Those who dwell at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your wonders;
**the gateways of both morning and evening
shout for joy. R**

You visit the earth and water it,
you make it very fruitful.
 The waters of heaven brim over their banks,
providing us with grain,
for so you have prepared the land,
 drenching its furrows, settling its ridges,
softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.
 You crown the year with goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.
 The pastures of the wilderness abound with grass,
and the hills are girded with joy.
 The fields are clothed with sheep;
the valleys are decked with wheat,
so that they shout and sing for joy. R

Luke 18:9-14 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Herein is wisdom.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *"All is Gift: Humility and the Heart of Giving"*

Silent Reflection

Invitation to Offering and Thanksgiving

At TSP, we believe that stewardship is not just about budgets, it's about belonging. We give because all is gift: our time, talents, and trust. As we look toward 2026 and reimagining our building and our mission, your gifts make possible the unfolding of justice, worship, community, and care. Let us give with humility and with joy.

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



Offertory Hymn: MV 143 *We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky*

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|--|--|
| <p>1 We cannot own the sunlit sky,
 the moon, the wildflow'rs growing,
 for we are part of all that is
 within life's river flowing.
 With open hands receive and share
 the gifts of God's creation,
 that all may have abundant life
 in ev'ry earthly nation.</p> | <p>2 When bodies shiver in the night
 and weary, wait for morning,
 when children have no bread but tears,
 and war-horns sound their warning,
 God calls humanity to wake,
 to join in common labour,
 that all may have abundant life
 in one-ness with their neighbour.</p> |
|--|--|

**3 God calls humanity to join
as partners in creating
a future free from want or fear,
life's goodness celebrating,
that new world beckons from afar,
invites our shared endeavour,
that all may have abundant life
and peace endure forever/**

Doxology: VU 542 *We Give You But Your Own*

**We give you but your own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone,
we give it gratefully.**

Prayers of the People

Kore Signet-Yang

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

Sung Response: MV 15 *Holy Sacred Spirit*

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
Bradley Clements and Emma Kelly
Betty Butterworth
Greg Callaghan

Shining Waters Regional Council

Alderwood United Church, Toronto
Asbury and West United Church, Toronto
Toronto Christian Resource Centre

The United Church of Canada

Executive Minister of the following Regional Councils:

- Canadian Shield, Shining Waters - Peter Hartmans
- Antler River Watershed, Western Ontario Waterways, Horseshoe Falls - Mark Laird

Ecumenical Prayer

The churches in the Caribbean
The pastors and congregations of Christ Disciples Church, India

WE GO TO GOD'S WORLD

"We go now, humbled by mercy and stirred to live generously, for all is gift, and grace leads us forward."

Closing Hymn: VU 262 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

**1 A mighty fortress is our God,
 a bulwark never failing;
our helper sure amid the flood
 of mortal ills prevailing;
for still our ancient foe
 doth seek to work us woe;
with power and malice great,
 and armed with cruel hate,
on earth he has no equal.**

**2 Did we in our own strength confide,
 our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
 the man of God's own choosing:
dost ask who that may be?
 Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
 from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.**

3 And though this world, with devils filled,
 should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed
 the truth to triumph through us:
the prince of darkness grim,
 we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
 for lo! his doom is sure,
one little word shall fell him.

4 That word above all earthly powers,
 no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
 through Christ, who with us sideth:
let goods and kindred go,
 this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
 God's truth abideth still,
God's kingdom is for ever.

Benediction:

Go now, beloved of God,
not with pride in your accomplishments,
but with humility in God's grace.

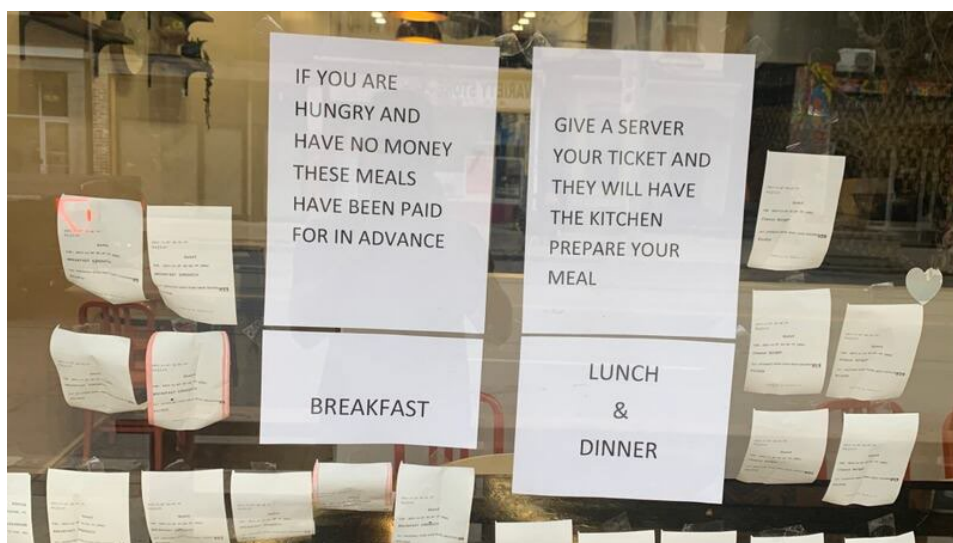
**We go, grateful for the gift of life,
ready to give and to receive with open hearts.**

May the Spirit of Reformation reform your fears into faith,
your striving into stillness, and your giving into joy.

All is gift.

We will live as grateful stewards of grace.

Postlude: *Nun danket alle Gott (Now thank we all our God)* by Sigfrid Karg-Elert



(Queen Street, Toronto, a small café hosts a “pay-it-forward board” - Sermon Introduction)

TRINITY ST. PAUL'S
UNITED CHURCH
FAITH JUSTICE ARTS



[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.](#)

Trinity-St. Paul's Season of Commitment

On October 19th, we began our annual Season of Commitment at Trinity-St. Paul's. As we enter into this Season, we invite you to consider how you might share your gifts in the year ahead — gifts of time, talents, or resources. At Trinity St. Paul's, our giving is an expression of

our shared call to faith, justice, and the arts. We share our gifts knowing that TSP values inclusion and community: We welcome people of every background, gender identity, and life story, and we celebrate the many ways each person contributes to our common life.

*Whether you participate in worship, choir, social justice initiatives, hospitality events, governance or give financially to sustain our ministry, your participation strengthens our presence and witness in the neighbourhood. Together we nurture a vibrant, compassionate community where faith, art, music, outreach, and spiritual growth all find a home. **Please take time to pray and reflect on how you feel called to participate this year** — every offering of love makes a difference.*

October – December Dates:

October 28: Deep Listening Session 2 (4-6pm)

October 29: Wednesday Evening Reflection Group (7pm)

November 2: All Souls' Sunday | Service of Holy Communion

November 4: West Wing Development Information Session (on Zoom - link to follow) (7pm)

November 6: Choral Development Program Begins (6-7pm Thursdays in November)

November 9: Remembrance Sunday | Congregational Meeting (after service)

November 11: Church Board Meeting | Deep Listening Session 3 (4-6pm)

November 16: Contemplative Worship | Art, Religion, and Theology in Orvieto Presentation (after service)

November 18: Ray Whitehead's Celebration of Life (details to follow)

November 23: Newcomers Welcome Event (after service in the Memorial Room)

December 2: Deep Listening Session 4 (4-6pm)

December 21: Carols by Candlelight (7pm)

Welcome Event for Newcomers to TSP!

If you're new to our community or simply looking to connect a little more deeply, join us for a casual after-church gathering in the Memorial Room on **Sunday November 23rd!** Help yourself to a coffee and treats from the narthex and join in for a relaxed chance to meet others — both fellow newcomers and longtime members. We'll spend about 30-40 minutes together in an informal setting to chat about church and our community. Whether you're simply curious, exploring faith, or ready to plug in more deeply—you're fully welcome to come just as you are. RSVP optional. Contact: Alex Horsky at alexandra.horsky@yahoo.com or text: 416-516-8840

Deep Listening Sessions

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?

Dates/Times/Location: In-person at Trinity-St. Paul's (Minister's Office)

- **Tuesday October 28 (4-6pm)**
- **Tuesday, November 11 (4-6pm)**
- **Tuesday, December 2 (4-6pm)**

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

Note re. Sunday 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 announcements brief.

Connecting with Hewitt in November

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 November, the reading and research week will be November 23-29.** 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 9228435 ext. 24

Board Meeting Agenda Items

The next meeting of the Church Board will be on Tuesday, November 11th at 6:30pm in the Studio. If you have items for the meeting's agenda, please advise Dan Main, tsdandmain@gmail.com by November 1, 2025.

Wednesday Evening Reflection Group

The next Wednesday Evening Reflection Group gathering is on Oct 29th from 7-8 pm on Zoom. See the e-announcements for more information.

Choral Development Program

Do you want to learn to sing with confidence? The Trinity-St. Paul's Choral Development Program begins on November 6th, and runs every Thursday at 6pm beginning on November 6th until November 27th. To learn more, visit <https://www.trinitystpauls.ca/fall-2025-choral-development-program/> or email Deborah at musicdirector@trinitystpauls.ca

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.



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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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