

November 23rd, 2025 – 10:30 am
Transgender Day of Remembrance
23rd Sunday after Pentecost



WE GATHER TO WORSHIP & REMEMBER

"We gather to remember and to make space for healing and truth."

Prelude: *Deux Duos pour Flûte et Clarinette Duetto*, Op. 46 by Kaspar Kummer (Flute: Paula Nieuwstraten, Clarinet: Dan Main)

Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory

Noah Antoniuk (*they/them*)

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 to remember that Christ's light is in us, to remember that it shines as we struggle and grieve, and to remember that it guides us as we make ourselves anew.

No darkness can overcome this light. (Candle is lit)

We light the Community Candle to remember that we do not grieve alone.
As one church we mourn those we've lost; as one church we remember their hopes.

As one people we carry this light in love, solidarity, and hope. *(Candles are lit)*

Words of Welcome

Kore Signet-Yang *(she/her)*

Welcome to Trinity-St Paul's, on this Trans Day of Remembrance Sunday. Welcome as we gather in lament, in courage, and in hope; as we dare to say that every trans life is holy; as we mourn every life taken by violence and hatred. Whether this is your first time joining us or not, wherever you join us from, know this: you are welcome here. If you come in sorrow, in mourning, in numbness and grief, know this: you are welcome here. If you come in anger, in fear, in resentment and distance, know this: you are welcome here. If you come in hope, in pride, in love and longing, know this: you are welcome here. You are welcome, and you are beloved, in all that you are, in all that you hold.

Hymn: MV 179 (Sisters Let Us Walk Together)

- 1 Sisters let us walk together,
 sharing sadness, loss and grief,
 we will move through pain to wholeness,
 brokenness transformed to peace.**
- 2 Brothers let us work together,
 seeking justice, healing shame,
 filled with hope, imbued with courage,
 ev'ry violence we will name.**
- 3 People let us love together,
 joining spirits, linking hands,
 we are God's unique creation,
 clothed with dignity we'll stand.**

Prayers of Praise and Lament

Silent Confession

Words of Life & Passing of the Peace:

Beloved of God, hear the truth that does not change: You are made in love, held in love, and called beloved.

Know that to change is the boundless possibility of the Spirit,
That to grieve is the compassion of Christ.

**God meets us in our tears and in our courage.
Christ stands with the harmed, the silenced, the erased, and the resilient.
The Spirit's love has no conditions, no borders, and no disclaimers.**

This is the good news:
You belong. You matter. You are loved. Always.

Thanks be to God. *(You are invited to share the peace with your neighbour)*

Anthem: *Urlicht* by Gustav Mahler, arr. by Dan Main (Soprano: May Sadan, Alto: Thea Nappert, Flute: Paula Nieuwstraten, Clarinet: Dan Main, Trombone: James Mackey)

WE GROW IN FAITH

"We listen for the voice of God who meets us in our tears and our courage."

Introduction to the Scripture

Today's reading is a reminder that we are called to compassion, even when it challenges us. Psalm 147 sings in praise that God rewards not strength, but mercy; in Matthew 25, Christ calls righteous those who feed the hungry and stand by the imprisoned. Finally, Matthew 26 makes clear that to stand together takes commitment to effort beyond words, as we hear Jesus pray in Gethsemane.

Scripture: Psalm 147:1-11 (VU 868-869, pt 1)

Noah Antoniuk (*they/them*)

R: Sing to God in great thanksgiving.

How good it is to sing praises to God,
how pleasant to laud the Most High.
You are building Jerusalem, O God,
and gathering the scattered exiles of Israel.

**You are healing the broken-hearted,
and binding up their wounds.**

You count the number of the stars,
and call them all by their names.

**Great are you, O God, and mighty your power;
yes, and your wisdom is infinite.**

You raise up the lowly,
and bring down the wicked to dust. R

Sing to God in thanksgiving;
make music on the harp to our God,
**who covers the sky with clouds, who prepares rain for the earth,
who makes the hills green with grass.**

You give the cattle their food,
and the young ravens when they cry.

**You set no store by the power of a horse,
nor by the strength of a warrior's thighs.**

But your delight is in those who revere you,
in those who rely on your mercy. R

Matthew 25:31-40, 26:36-43 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Herein is wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection: *"To be companions in our mourning"*

Kore Signet-Yang (*she/her*)

Silent Reflection

Offering and Thanksgiving

We now offer what we carry and what we can share.

This offering is not only financial; we give in our commitment, our solidarity, our presence, our voices.

**As we remember and mourn for the trans lives we've lost,
we commit to building your church anew, to follow your call to love even when it
challenges us.**

Your offering supports ministries of belonging, advocacy, accompaniment, and care.

Give as you are able, give as you are moved, give as an act of love.

(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 171 Christ Has No Body Now But Yours

- R** **Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.**
- 1** No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,
no hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,
no touch but yours to bind the broken hope
of the people of God. **(R)**
- 2** No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,
to find the lost, to gaze with compassion;
no eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy
of the city of God. **(R)**
- 3** No feet but yours to journey with the poor,
to walk this world with mercy and justice.
Yours are the steps to build a lasting peace
for the children of God. **(R)**
- 4** Through ev'ry gift, give back to those in need;
as Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,
with ev'ry gift a benediction, be
to the people of God. **(R)**

Affirmation: The New Creed, VU 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 hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
 God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People

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

Thomas McKechnie (*they/them*)

Sung Response: MV 67 Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison. **Kyrie Eleison.**
Christe Eleison. **Christe Eleison.**
Kyrie Eleison. **Kyrie Eleison.**

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

Trinity-St. Paul's United Church

Lois Kunkel and family, on the death of her mother, Elisabeth Kunkel
Bradley Clements and Emma Kelly
Betty Butterworth
Greg Callaghan

Shining Waters Regional Council

Mount Albert United Church
Heart Lake United Church, Brampton
Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, Toronto

The United Church of Canada

The Staff of the United Church Foundation, Church in Mission (CIM) & Finance Units of the GC

Ecumenical Community & Prayer

The pastors and congregations of Christ Disciples Church, India
East Timor (Timor Leste), Indonesia, Philippines

God, make us realize that our Christianity is like a rice field: when it is newly planted the paddies are prominent, but as the plants take root and grow taller, these divided paddies gradually vanish, and soon there appears only one vast continuous field. So give us roots that love, and help us grow in Christian fellowship and service, that your will be done in our lives, through our Saviour, your Son, Jesus Christ.

WE GO TO GOD'S WORLD

We go to live love out loud: protecting, affirming, and celebrating every life."

Closing Hymn: MV 145 Draw the Circle Wide

**R Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

1 God the still-point of the circle,
 'round whom all creation turns;
 nothing lost, but held forever,
 in God's gracious arms. **(R)**

2 Let our hearts touch far horizons,
 so encompass great and small;
 let our loving know no borders,
 faithful to God's call. **(R)**

3 Let the dreams we dream be larger,
 than we've ever dreamed before;
 let the dream of Christ be in us,
 open every door. **(R)**

Life and Works of the Community

Benediction

Postlude: *Little Sacred Moments* by Daniel Moore

Thanks to those involved in worship leadership today:

Kore Signet-Yang *(she/her)*

Thomas McKechnie *(they/them)*

Noah Antoniuk *(they/them)*

TRINITY ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

FAITH JUSTICE ARTS



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*Trinity–St. Paul's is an inclusive and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Canada. We seek to be a centre for faith, justice and the arts: **a centre for faith**, where the Gospel is lived and shared; **a centre for justice**, where voices are raised for peace and equity; **a centre for the arts**, where beauty, imagination, and creativity reveal God's presence.*

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