



**TRINITY ST. PAUL'S**   
**UNITED CHURCH**  
FAITH JUSTICE ARTS

**April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – 10:30 am**  
*Third Sunday of Easter*

*Reception of New Members/Consecration of Church Leaders*

## **WE GATHER TO WORSHIP**

*"God meets us on the road of life."*

**Prelude:** *Gavotte* by W. A. Mozart (Piano Duet: Deborah Park & Jill McKechnie)

### **Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory**

Paula Nieuwstraten

As we gather in this Easter season,  
we remember that we walk not only the Emmaus road of faith,  
but also the sacred ground of this land.  
This land has long been a place of life, relationship, and story,  
tended with care by Indigenous peoples,  
including the Mississaugas of the Credit.  
As the risen Christ walked alongside the disciples,  
often unrecognized yet fully present,  
so too we are invited to recognize the sacred presence  
woven into this land and its peoples.

**May we walk gently here,  
with humility, with gratitude, and with commitment,  
seeking justice, respect, and right relationship.**

### **Lighting of the Christ & Community Candles**

We light the Christ candle  
for the Risen One who walks with us on every road,  
in our questions, silence, conversations, and turning points.  
Though we may not always recognize Christ,  
whose presence is with us,  
opening the scriptures and setting our hearts ablaze. *(Candle is lit)*

We light the community candle  
for all who journey together in faith,  
for companions on the road,  
for new members among us,  
and for leaders called to serve.  
May our shared life reflect Christ's presence,  
so that in our welcome, justice, and love,  
others may come to recognize Christ among us. *(Candle is lit)*

### Words of Welcome

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Risen Christ.  
Welcome to this sacred gathering.  
You are invited to fully participate,  
whether you are here in the sanctuary, joining online, or visiting for the first time.  
Your presence is one of companionship.  
Today is a special day,  
as we welcome new members into this community  
and consecrate leaders for ministry among us.  
In all of this, we celebrate that Christ still walks with us.  
Welcome to worship!

### Gathering Words:

We gather as travellers on the road,  
**We come weary, wondering, but seeking.**  
We gather with stories of loss and hope,  
**We come knowing that Christ walks beside us.**  
We gather to listen, welcome, consecrate, and be transformed,  
**Until our hearts burn within us,  
and our feet walk the path of hope.**  
Come, let us worship the God who journeys with us.

### Hymn: VU 415 *God, We Praise You for the Morning* (vs. 1-4)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | God, we praise you for the morning;<br>hope springs forth with each new day,<br>new beginning, prayer, and promise,<br>joy in work and in play. | 3 | God, we praise you for compassion,<br>all the loving that you show;<br>human touching, tears, and laughter,<br>help your children to grow. |
| 2 | God, we praise you for creation,<br>mountains, seas, and prairie land.<br>Waking souls find joy and healing<br>in your bountiful hand.          | 4 | God, we praise you for your Spirit,<br>Comforter and daily friend,<br>restless searcher, gentle teacher,<br>strength and courage you send. |

### Opening Prayer

*Silent Reflection*

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

Christ meets us on the road,  
opens the scriptures,  
and reveals to us that we are not alone,  
**Christ is with us, and reminds us that we are held in hope.  
Thanks be to God for such peace.**

*(You are invited to share a sign of Christ's peace in person or online, with a word, a gesture, or a quiet blessing.)*

## WE GROW IN FAITH

*"Christ opens the scriptures and our hearts."*

### Introduction to the Scripture

Our scripture today comes from the Emmaus road, where two disciples walk in confusion and grief, and the risen Christ draws near, unrecognized at first, yet fully present. As we listen, may our own hearts be opened to the One who walks with us, speaks to us, and reveals help and hope along the journey.

**Scripture:** Luke 24:13-35 (Inclusive Bible)

Herein is wisdom.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem:** *Psalm 91 On Eagle's Wings* by Michael Joncas

**Sermon:** *"Burning Hearts and Willing Feet!"*

*Silent Reflection*

## WE RECEIVE, CONSECRATE, GIVE & PRAY

*"We walk together as companions in faith and justice."*

### Reception of New Members

#### Presentation of Candidates

*On behalf of the congregation of TSP United Church, I present the following persons who seek to reaffirm publicly the faith proclaimed in their baptism and confirmation: **Rebecca Matthews, Brenda Styles, Roger Townshend, and Nathaniel Kozydubova** for full membership.*

#### Profession of Faith and Promises

*To the New Members*

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

**I do, by the grace of God.**

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ, resisting oppression and evil, seeking justice, and witnessing to God's love for all creation?

**I do, with God's help.**

Will you join with your siblings/companions in the TSP congregation and the wider UCC to celebrate God's presence in private and public worship, live with respect in creation as faithful stewards, and to love and serve others as a centre for faith, justice and the arts?

**I will, with God's help.**

*To the TSP Congregation:*

Will you welcome these new members, walk with them in faith, and support them in love and prayer?

**We will, with God's help.**

### Consecration of Church Leaders

*To Leaders:*

Will you offer your gifts in leadership with humility, prayer, and a spirit of collaboration, seeking the good of this

community and the wider world?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you seek to follow the way of Jesus Christ in your decisions and actions, working for justice, compassion, and the flourishing of all?

**I will, with God's help.**

*And to the congregation:*

Will you support and uphold these leaders with your prayers, encouragement, and shared commitment to the ministry of this community?

**We will, with God's help.**

### Offering Invitation:

As companions on the road,  
We are invited not only to receive, but to give.  
Our offerings become part of God's unfolding story,  
supporting ministries of faith, justice, and the arts. Let us give with grateful hearts.

*(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.)*



### Hymn: MV 161 *I Have Called You by Your Name*

1. I have called you by your name, you are mine;  
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.  
I will not abandon you;  
all my promises are true.  
You are gifted, called, and chosen;  
you are mine.
2. I will help you learn my name as you go;  
read it written in my people, help them grow.  
Pour the water in my name,  
speak the word your soul can claim,  
offer Jesus' body given long ago.
3. I know you will need my touch as you go;  
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.  
Like the woman reaching out,  
choosing faith in spite of doubt,  
hold the hem of Jesus' robe,  
then let it go.
4. I have given you a name, it is mine;  
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.  
With my wonder in your soul,  
make my wounded children whole;  
go and tell my precious people  
they are mine.

### Offering Prayer: VU 542 *We Give You But Thine 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

Barbara Lloyd

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:*

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

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

Betty Butterworth  
Greg and Vera Callaghan  
The family of Marilyn Whitely

### **Shining Waters Regional Council**

Trinity United Church, Bracebridge  
Grace United Church, Barrie  
College Street United Church, Toronto

## **WE GO TO GOD'S WORLD**

*"We go with burning hearts and ready feet."*

**Closing Hymn:** VU 686 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | God of grace and God of glory,<br>on your people pour your power;<br>now fulfil your church's story;<br>bring its bud to glorious flower.<br>Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,<br>for the facing of this hour.                  | 3 | Cure your children's warring madness,<br>bend our pride to your control;<br>shame our wanton selfish gladness,<br>rich in goods and poor in soul.<br>Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,<br>lest we miss your kingdom's goal. |
| 2 | Lo, the hosts of evil round us<br>scorn your Christ, assail your ways;<br>fears and doubts too long have bound us;<br>free our hearts to work and praise.<br>Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,<br>for the living of these days. | 4 | Set our feet on lofty places,<br>gird our lives that they may be<br>armoured with all Christlike graces,<br>pledged to set all captives free.<br>Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,<br>that we fail not them nor thee.       |

## **Benediction**

**Postlude:** *Praise* by Philip Nicolai, harmonized by J. S. Bach

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

## Upcoming Dates:

### April:

April 22: Wednesday Evening Reflection Group - *Newness* (7pm)  
April 25: Earth Weekend Retreat - "Rooted in Earth, Rising in Creativity!"  
April 26: Climate Justice Sunday

### May: Asian Heritage Month

May 3: Communion & Signing of Covenant with VAM  
Our Farewell to Betsy Anderson

May 10: Sacrament of Baptism

May 22: Spirit of the Annex Fundraiser

### June: Indigenous Heritage Month

June 12-13: Artists Wage Peace Weekend Event

June 21: Pride Sunday

June 28: Pay Rent Sunday with guest speaker Right Rev. Carmen Lansdowne

## Inclusive Language in Worship



As part of our commitment at Trinity-St. Paul's United Church to be an Affirming and intercultural community within the United Church of Canada, we intentionally use inclusive and non-colonial language in our worship, scripture readings and reflections. This includes resources such as the Inclusive Bible and thoughtful choices around words like "Lord," recognizing how such language has, at times, been shaped by histories of domination and exclusion. From the perspective of those whose identities and cultures have been marginalized through colonial systems, expanding our language for God is part of reclaiming the fullness of the Gospel, one that affirms dignity, justice, and belonging for all. In this way, our words in worship seek to reflect the wideness of God's love and our shared call to live faithfully in a diverse and evolving world.

## Wednesday evening Reflection Group



The next Wednesday Evening Reflection gathering is on **April 22nd from 7-8 pm on Zoom**. Contact the Church Office to receive the link. We invite you to bring:

~ A candle and a match. ~ A reading or poem or thoughts that speak to the theme. ~ Prayers for people needing support.

Although our group has many regular attendees, we warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us in creating a conversational space that honours the sacred and our shared longing for growth, community, and healing. You are also welcome to come for an hour of quiet listening. The reflection theme is *newness*.

In this Easter and spring season, we frequently hear the words "new life" or "renewal" of what is. Have you had an experience of being made new in your thinking, believing, acting – suddenly or gradually? Do you see signs of things being made new in our world today? How might we participate in the bringing of newness to human life and creation?

## TSP Spring Fundraiser - "Spirit of the Annex"!

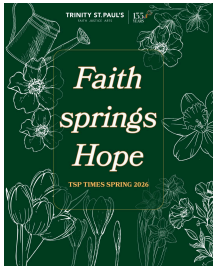
Join us on Friday, May 22, 2026 at 7:00 PM for Trinity-St. Paul's United Church's third annual Spirit of the Annex Fundraiser! Celebrate the season with an evening of connection, creativity, and community in the heart of the Annex. This year's festivities will feature:



- A lively Human Library experience
- A fun and friendly game of Trivial Pursuit
- Exciting silent and live auctions
- Curated Music artfully selected by our DJ

Tickets: \$20/each \*Your ticket includes food throughout the evening. All proceeds support the ministry and community work of Trinity-St. Paul's United Church. Tickets are available after Sunday services in the Narthex or online at: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/tsp-spring-2026-fundraiser-payments> We look forward to welcoming you for an inspiring evening of stories, laughter, and community spirit!

## Spring 2026 TSP Times: "Faith springs hope"



We're preparing for the spring edition of the next TSP Times. Our theme is "Faith Springs Hope". Please let your creativity sprout and bloom! Our deadline is Monday, April 27th. Please send your contributions to Sarah at church-admin@trinitystpauls.ca with cc: to Lina at medaglia.miller@rogers.com and Lois at tsploiskunkel@gmail.com. We look forward to receiving your contributions.

## Earth Week Retreat: *Rooted in Earth, Rising in Creativity!*



Join us as we explore our relationship with the Earth, honour our feelings about the climate crisis, nurture and renew our spirits, and get inspired for healing work in the world. ALL are welcome!

- When: Saturday, April 25, 2026, 9:15AM-4PM
- Where: Trinity-St. Paul's United Church and Centre for Faith, Justice and the Arts, 427 Bloor Street W, Toronto

Reserve your spot through our Eventbrite page. A suggested donation of \$25.00 will be collected at the door to provide honoraria for workshop facilitators. Cash, cheque, or e-transfer will be accepted. You are invited to make a donation that aligns with your finances. If you wish to donate more than \$25 that can help subsidize others.

To view the whole program and reserve your spot, scan the QR code or visit

<https://www.trinitystpauls.ca/earth-week-retreat-rooted-in-earth-rising-in-creativity/>

and click the **Eventbrite** link.



We will also need some volunteers on April 25th to help with set-up, hospitality, and clean-up. If you would like to volunteer contact Ann Russell, [russell.ann73@gmail.com](mailto:russell.ann73@gmail.com).

## Trinity-St. Paul's (TSP) appoints its first VAM!



Rev. Dr. Nan Hudson is returning to TSP as Voluntary Associate Minister (VAM). In the United Church of Canada, a VAM is an ordained minister who, on a voluntary basis, shares in aspects of a congregation's ministry, offering leadership, wisdom, and pastoral presence without being a paid staff member. Nan's specific roles will be given later as she supports Hewitt, our minister. This appointment was made by the TSP Board and the Shining Waters Regional Council. The congregation looks forward to celebrating Rev. Dr. Hudson's appointment in worship in May.

## Children's Church



Children are an important part of our community and our worship at TSP, and this is a reminder that Children's Church is offered every Sunday, during the service time, in the Memorial Room with our outstanding teacher, Jeorgina! Drop-ins are welcome. Visit <https://www.trinitystpauls.ca/worship/#childrens-church> to learn more!

## Connecting with Hewitt in May:

Hewitt's next week for research and study will be **May 11-17**. During this time, he will not be available for regular meetings or correspondence, except for urgent pastoral matters. His time away nourishes our time together, and we thank you for your understanding as he enters this period of focused study and renewal.

**TRINITY ST. PAUL'S**  
**UNITED CHURCH**  
FAITH JUSTICE ARTS



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

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

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**Voluntary Associate Minister,** Nan Hudson, (Rev. Dr.)

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**Church Board Secretary:** Dan Main

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**Nurturing Community, Chair:** Alexandra Horsky

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