



TRINITY ST. PAUL'S 
UNITED CHURCH
FAITH JUSTICE ARTS

April 26th, 2026 – 10:30 am
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Earth Weekend & Worship

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

"We are rooted in Earth, held by grace."

Prelude: Traditional Irish Music (*Tara Nova*: Jon Pilatzke - fiddle, Pat Simmonds - button accordion, Bill Kervin - bodhrán)

Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory

Lois Kunkel

In this Easter season...with wisdom and care.

**As we worship today,
may we remember that the Earth is not ours to possess,
but a gift to protect,
a sacred trust calling us into justice, balance, and renewal.**

Lighting of the Christ & Community Candles

Ann Russell

We light this candle for Christ..in creation.

Christ, the light of the world, shine in and through us.

We light this candle for the community..., and waters.

Creator, root us in the Earth, renew us within it and raise us in hope.

Words of Welcome

Gathering Words:

Come, we are rooted in the earth,

We are formed from dust, sustained by breath.

Come, we are rising in creativity,

We are called to care, to restore, and to imagine this earth anew.

Come, creation groans and sings,

We are part of its new story of hope,

Come, let us worship the Creator of all life.

Opening Hymn: MV 135 *Called by Earth and Sky*

Refrain (R): **Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.**

After last verse, repeat twice more; called by earth and sky.

- 1 **Precious these waters, endless seas,
deep ocean's dream,
waters of healing, rivers of rain,
the wash of love again. (R)**

- 2 **Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
wind born and free.
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,
our gathering and our grace. (R)**

- 3 **Precious these mountains, ancient sands;
vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,
Creation's faithful song. (R)**

- 4 **Precious the fire that lights our way,
bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone,
our faith and justice one. (R)**

Opening Prayer

Silent Reflection

Words of Hope for Creation & Passing of the Peace:

Even as creation groans...be with you all.

And also with you.

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

Anthem: *Agnus Dei* from *Missa Gaia Earth Mass** by Paul Winter and Jim Scott (TSP Choir, Tara Nova, Tom Reynolds)

** A mass in celebration of Mother Earth that integrates world music with songs from the wild to celebrate the whole earth as a sacred space*

Latin:

*Agnus Dei, qui tolis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
dona nobis pacem.*

English:

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
grant us peace.*

WE GROW IN FAITH

"We learn to care for creation as an act of faith."

Introduction of Speaker and to the Scripture

Jeanne Moffat

Scripture: Psalm 23 (VU, p.749 refrain 2), Acts 2:42-47, John 10:1-10 (Inclusive Bible)

Psalm Refrain (R): The God of love my shepherd is; what can I want or need.

God is my shepherd,

there is nothing I shall lack.

You, God, make me lie down in green pastures,

you lead me beside peaceful waters;

you revive my spirit,

you guide me in right pathways

for your name's sake. (R)

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
you are with me,

your rod and your staff are my comfort.

You spread a table for me in the sight of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in God's house my whole life long. (R)

Herein is wisdom.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Spiritual Values for Earth Community*

David Hallman

Silent Reflection

WE RECEIVE, GIVE & PRAY

"We go to live gently, love boldly, and protect the Earth."

Offering Invitation:

Rooted in the Earth ... who we are.
**May our offering support ministries
that nurture life, seek justice,
and protect the sacred gift of creation.**

(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: VU 217 *All Creatures of Our God and King* (v. 1-3, Organ Interlude, v. 5)

- 1 All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing:
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Bright burning sun with golden beam,
soft shining moon with silver gleam,
sing praises, sing praises,
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**

- 2 O rushing winds and breezes soft,
O clouds that ride the winds aloft,**

**sing praises, hallelujah!
O rising morn, in praise rejoice;
O lights of evening, find a voice:
sing praises, sing praises,
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**3 Earth, ever fertile, day by day
brings forth rich blessings on our way:
sing praises, hallelujah!
The flowers and fruits that verdant grow,
let them God's glory also show:
sing praises, hallelujah!
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**

** Organ Interlude*

**5 Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness:
sing praises, hallelujah!
Praise God eternal, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one:
sing praises, hallelujah!
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**

Offering Prayer: MV 191 *What Can I Do?*

**What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

Prayers of the People

Tom Clark

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:*

Trinity-St. Paul's United Church
Betty Butterworth
Greg and Vera Callaghan
The family of Marilyn Whitely

Shining Waters Regional Council
Fraserburg United Church, Bracebridge
Humbercrest United Church, Toronto
Temperanceville United Church,
Richmond Hill

WE GO TO GOD'S WORLD

"We go to live gently, love boldly, and protect the Earth."

Closing Hymn: MV 42 *Praise God for This Holy Ground* (vv. 1-3, Interlude, vv. 5)

Refrain (R): Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God's goodness is eternal.

- 1 Praise God for this holy ground,
place and people, sight and sound. (R)**
- 2 Praise God in whose word we find
food for body, soul and mind. (R)**
- 3 Praise God who through Christ makes known
all are loved and called God's own. (R)**
**Interlude*
- 5 Though praise ends, praise is begun
where God's will is gladly done. (R)**

Introduction to "Lights of Hope Ritual"

Ann Russell

Benediction

Lights of Hope Ritual & Postlude: Traditional Irish Music (*Tara Nova*)

(During the playing of the music, we are invited to come up to the Communion Table with tealights and light a candle signifying your prayers, visions and commitments for a renewed creation and climate justice)

United Church of Canada Climate Justice Resources:

<https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/climate-change>



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Thank you, Théa!

TSP wishes to express deep gratitude to Théa Nappert for the gift of her vocal talent with us these past years as an alto section lead in the choir. As she moves on to other musical opportunities, may rich blessings follow you as you continue to make beautiful music.

Upcoming Dates:

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

May 26: Celebrating Women in Ministry: In Honour of Dr. Marion Pope

June: Indigenous Heritage Month

June 12-13: Artists Wage Peace Weekend

June 21: Pride Sunday

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

July - Bloor & TSP Worship at TSP

August - Bloor & TSP Worship at St. Matthews

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.



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.



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 at the QR Code. *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.



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 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.

A Celebration of Women in Ministry



Tuesday, May 26, 2026 · 1:00–6:00pm at Emmanuel College Chapel (EM 319),
75 Queen's Park Crescent

Emmanuel College warmly invites you to *A Celebration of Women in Ministry*, an afternoon gathering honouring the life and legacy of Dr. Marion Pope, one of the first women ministers to serve in Korea and a United Church of Canada diaconal minister and nurse who devoted more than 36 years to overseas ministry. **Scan the QR code to register!**

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.



427 Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON M5S 1X7 - (416) 922-8435 - www.trinitystpauls.ca

*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) - hholmes@trinitystpauls.ca - (416) 922-8435 ext. 24

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

Music Director: Deborah Park - musicdirector@trinitystpauls.ca - (416) 922-8435 ext. 26

Communications and Administration Coordinator (Church Office): Sarah Redikopp
church-admin@trinitystpauls.ca - (416) 922-8435 ext. 23

Technical Support: James Mackey - jamesbb.mackey@gmail.com