



TRINITY ST. PAUL'S 
UNITED CHURCH
FAITH JUSTICE ARTS

May 03rd, 2026 – 10:30 am

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion & Voluntary Associate Minister Covenant

Signing

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

"We gather with many stories, many songs, and one Spirit."

Prelude: *Arirang* Traditional Korean Folk Song

Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory

Yvonne Stewart

As one who is not Indigenous ... yet Indigenous peoples remain its first caretakers.

May our gratitude lead us beyond celebration into justice, equity, and relationships where every voice is honoured and every community can flourish.

Lighting of the Christ & Community Candles

We light this candle... *(Light Christ candle)*

Shine in us with love and truth.

We light this candle for community... *(Light community candle)*

Make us one in justice, joy, and peace.

Words of Welcome

Gathering Words:

Come into God's house, where many rooms are prepared.

We come, seeking belonging and grace.

Come with the songs of many peoples and nations.

We come, bringing our languages, stories, and praise.

Come to the risen Christ, who welcomes all.

We come to worship in joy and hope.

Hymn: MV 1 *Let Us Build a House* (vv. 1, 3-5)

- 1 **Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

- 3 **Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground,
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

- 4 **Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone,
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;**

**let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

**5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard,
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Silent Reflection

Words of Hope & Passing of the Peace:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled,” says the scripture ... The peace of Christ be with you.

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: *Panis Angelicus* by Cesar Franck (Soprano Solo: May Sadan)

WE GROW IN FAITH

“We grow wiser when we listen across cultures and generations.”

Introduction to the Scripture

Chiyeko Fukushima

In today’s Gospel, Jesus speaks tender words to anxious disciples: “In God’s house there are many dwelling places.” In a world shaped by exclusion and fear, Christ offers a vision of belonging, hospitality, and hope. As we celebrate Asian Heritage Month and covenant together in ministry, we hear again that God’s house has room for all.

Scripture: John 14:1-14 (Inclusive Bible in English and Japanese)

Herein is wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *“A Place for All: Identity and Belonging in God’s House”*

Silent Reflection

WE CELEBRATE, GIVE & PRAY

“We celebrate with joy, give with gratitude, and pray with hope for the flourishing of all.”

Signing of the Covenant with TSP & VAM

Today, we celebrate a sacred moment in the life of this congregation...
(VU 34 “Come Now O God of Peace (O so-so)” is played during the signing).

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

... there is room for every language, every story, every nation, and every heart.

Christ invites us all to the table.

Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

.... your Spirit has moved among your people.

We praise you for your love made known in every land.

Institution

Prayer for the Spirit

... gathered from many places into one body.

**Make this bread for us the bread of life,
and this cup the cup of blessing.**

... and renew in us courage for justice and peace.

Make us one in Christ's love.

Invitation to Receive

Communion Hymn: VU 457 *As We Gather At Your Table*

- 1 As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's victory known.**

- 2 Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.**

- 3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.**

Prayer After Communion

Offering Invitation:

God's house is built not with bricks alone, but with generosity, compassion, and shared vision.

**As we bring our gifts today,
we join in creating spaces of belonging, justice, music, ministry, and hope.**

(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: *VU 698 With the Wings of Our Mind*

- 1 With the wings of our mind on the wind flying,
to the silent breathless earth God's love sending,
let the brave justice flag wave high above,
to the heavens and the earth freedom bringing.**
- 2 With the wings of our tears on the wind flowing,
to the dry and thirsty earth God's love sending,
let the fountain of love spring forth with joy,
'til the flowers of our hearts advent blooming.**
- 3 With the wings of our song on the wind flying
to the dreary desolate earth our love sending,
let the vision of light open wide our hearts
'til the songs of our hope freedom ringing.**

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

Nan Hudson

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

Sung Response: VU 34 *Come Now, O God of Peace* (O-So-So)
(with *alternative word "O God of Love")

**Come now, O God of love, we are your people;
pour out your spirit that we be one body.**

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

The United Church of Canada, Executive Ministers/Team Leads

- **Church in Mission:** Japhet Ndhlovu
- **Pension and Finance:** Harry Li
- **Indigenous Ministries and Justice:** Springwater Hester-Meawassige

Ecumenical Prayer

The pastors and congregations of Christ Disciples Church, India
The churches in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan,
Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan...

We pray for:

- *the people in these lands who suffer from poverty and repressive rule*
- *an end to clashes related to tribalism, traditionalism, and modernization*
- *the land, air and water that have been damaged by human abuse*
- *good relations between Muslims and Christians*
- *an end to oppression and violence*

WE GO TO GOD'S WORLD

"We go as people of Easter, making room wherever we are sent."

Closing Hymn: VU 606 *In Christ There Is No East or West*

- 1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great family of love
throughout the whole wide earth.**

- 2 In her shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
her service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.**

- 3 Join hands, then, people of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
all children of the living God
are surely kin to me.**

- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christ-like souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.**

Life and Works of the Congregation – *Farewell to Betsy Anderson*

Benediction

Postlude: *The Lord Bless you and Keep You* by John Rutter



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Asian Heritage in the UCC:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wizwayz7U9g>



Upcoming Dates:

May: Asian Heritage Month

May 10: Sacrament of Baptism

May 11-17: Hewitt's Reading Week

May 22: Spirit of the Annex Fundraiser

May 26: Celebrating Women in Ministry: In Honour of Dr. Marion Pope/Hymn Festival;
Church Board Meeting

May 31: Congregational Info Session - West Wing Development

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

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.

Church Board Meeting

The Church Board will be gathering for the final meeting before the summer hiatus in the Circles Room on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 6:30pm. Please send any items to be included in the agenda to Dan Main tspdanmain@gmail.com on or before Sunday, May 17th.

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, at the QR code or online at 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!

"Spirit of the Annex" Mocktail Bar - Supplies Needed!

We are looking for TSP'ers who can lend us some items for our mocktail bar at this year's fundraiser! Please see the e-newsletter for a supplies list. If you have any of these tucked away at home and are happy to let us borrow for the event, please let Alex Horsky know by May 9, 2026! Alexandra.Horsky@gmail.com

A Celebration of Women in Ministry



Tuesday, May 26, 2026 · 1:00–6:00pm

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.**

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.

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.



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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.*

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