



SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

TRINITY ST. PAUL'S
UNITED CHURCH
FAITH JUSTICE ARTS

May 10th, 2026 – 10:30 am
Holy Baptism, Mother's Day/Christian Family & Ascension
Sunday

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

"We gather as many stories, one family in God."

Prelude: *Your Unfailing Love* by Deborah Park (Flute: Paula Nieuwstraten)

Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory

Barbara Lloyd

We gather today on lands ... the earth itself is gift, shelter, and teacher.

With humility, as those who are not Indigenous, we give thanks for the privilege of gathering here and commit ourselves to the work of justice, reconciliation, and shared care for this land and for one another.

Lighting of the Christ & Community Candles

We light the Christ candle,
...one family. *(Light Christ candle)*

Shine among us with peace and love.

We light the community candle,
..., friendship, and faith. *(Light community candle)*

Kindle in us joy, compassion, and belonging.

Words of Welcome

Life and Works of the Congregation

Gathering Words:

Come, beloved children of God, gathered in many places.

We come to worship with open hearts.

Come, families of every shape and story.

We come to celebrate love that holds us together.

Come, seekers, friends, elders, youth, and neighbours.

We come to sing, pray, listen, baptize, and grow.

Come, for Christ calls us into one household of grace.

We come to worship God with joy.

Hymn: *VU 232 Joyful, Joyful We Adore You*

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
sound their praise eternally.
- 3 You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

**4 Mortals join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.**

Opening Prayer

Silent Reflection

Words of Hope & Passing of the Peace:

In Christ, fear does not have the final word.
... 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.)

WE GROW IN FAITH

"We grow when love makes strangers kin."

Introduction to the Scripture

Jeorgina Taganas

Today, we hear from the opening chapter of the book of Acts, where the risen Jesus gathers his disciples, blesses them, and commissions them for the journey ahead. In the wonder of the Ascension, Christ is lifted from their sight, not to leave them behind, but to remind them that his presence now reaches beyond one place and one moment. They are called not to stand frozen in fear or nostalgia, but to wait with hope for the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is a story of transition, trust, and widening vision. On this Christian Family Sunday, we hear again that Christ continues to gather ordinary people into an extraordinary community of love and purpose.

Scripture: Acts 1:1-11 (Inclusive Bible in English and Tagalog from the Philippines)

Herein is wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: *If Ye Love Me* by Thomas Tallis (Octet)

Sermon: *“Rising Together: Collective Vision Beyond the Sky”*

Silent Reflection

WE CELEBRATE, GIVE & PRAY

“We celebrate God’s love in baptism, we give with grateful hearts, and we pray together for healing, hope, and peace.”

Hymn: MV 171 *Christ Has No Body Now but Yours* (v. 1)

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.

Refrain: 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.

Sacrament of Baptism

Introduction

Presentation of the Candidate ... Chloe Godbout...

Questions to Candidate, Godparents / Sponsors, Congregation

Response by congregation: **We do.**

Pouring of the Water and Prayer Over the Water

Baptism

... Friends in Christ,
let us welcome the newly baptized.

**With joy and thanksgiving,
we welcome you into Christ’s Church.**

**We promise our friendship, prayers, guidance, and love,
as together we grow in faith as companions.**

Presentation of Candle & Bible

Offering Invitation:

God has blessed our lives with relationships that sustain us, families by birth, families by choice, and the family of faith. In gratitude for love received and hope shared, let us offer our gifts for the flourishing of this church, this city, and God's world.

(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 171 *Christ Has No Body Now but Yours* (vv. 2-4)

Refrain: 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.

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. *Refrain.*

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. *Refrain.*

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. *Refrain.*

Offering Prayer

**Generous God,
you bless us with companions for the journey,
with those who nurture, challenge, and encourage us.
Receive these gifts and use them
to build communities of belonging, justice, and care.
May they serve your kin-dom of love.
Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Barbara Lloyd

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

Sung Response: VU 34 Come Now, O God of Peace (*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

- **Shared Services:** Angelica Benalcazar
- **Philanthropy:** Sarah Charters
- **Organizational Development and Strategy:** Jennifer Henry
- **Theology and Ministry Leadership:** Jennifer Janzen-Ball

Ecumenical Prayer

The churches in Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India, especially the pastors and congregations of the Christ Disciples Church.

We give thanks for:

- the diversity of peoples in these countries: their cultures, values and spirituality
- for the resilience of minority religious groups and those on the margins of society such as indigenous communities, Dalits, women, youth, the disabled and sexual minorities, amid discrimination and persecution

- for the contributions of Christians and Christian churches in these countries to education and health services and for their innovative attempts in contextualizing their worship, theology and institutional life
- efforts to forge inter-religious solidarity for the sake of the common good.

We pray for:

- those who struggle to overcome grinding poverty
- Christians and others who selflessly work in the community, their efforts at ensuring the rights of all citizens, and their collaborative work
- efforts to build understanding and harmony among peoples across religious, caste and ethnic identities
- peoples' movements struggling for the rights of women, Dalits, Indigenous peoples, and the integrity of the earth
- leaders to keep priority on the wellbeing of the people and the earth itself amid demands for economic growth.

WE GO TO GOD'S WORLD

"We go to build God's kin-dom with courage and care."

Hymn: *Thousands and Thousands of Songs Full of Praise* (Tamil: Ayirem, Ayirem Padalgalgai), Words: Dayanandan Francis, India: para. James Minchin, Music: Thomas Thangaraj, India

***Verse 1 sung by choir; congregation joins verses 2 & 3:**

Refrain: **Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Sing Hallelujah for the day,
Sorrow's night gone, sorrow's night gone,
Joy arrives announced by the dawn.**

1* Thousands and thousands of songs full of praise, Holy Spirit,
draw from our hearts;
May each one add to the glory of Christ,
So from a sweet honey comb rich in art. **Refrain.**

2 **Now for the sake of this age and its hopes, Holy Spirit,
teach us your ways,
Coax our best music and words into flame,
Light myriad candles or worship and praise. Refrain.**

3 **All times of year, ev'ry season and mood, Holy Spirit,
capture for love;**

**Search out the longings of all humankind,
Join them to Christ's songs of Zion above. Refrain.**

Benediction

Postlude: *The Holy Light* (Indonesian: Cahaya Suci) by Paul Widyawan (Guitar: Daniel Moore)



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS



Asian Heritage in the United Church:

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

Upcoming Dates:

May: Asian Heritage Month

May 11-17: Hewitt's Reading Week
May 22: Spirit of the Annex Fundraiser
May 25: Marilyn Whiteley's Memorial Service - Chapel at 1 pm
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.

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.

TSP Times - Spring 2026!



The Spring 2026 issue of the TSP Times has arrived! To read it, scan the QR code, see this week's e-newsletter, or pick up a hard copy at the Welcome Table.

Repairs to the Northeast Steps



This week, work will begin to repair the northeast steps outside the building. These repairs are expected to take one week, and are expected to be completed by Sunday May 17th. If the work runs late, we may have to enter via the main entrance by the accessible ramp for Sunday May 17th. More details to come as the work unfolds.

Good News: Fawzi Toto has arrived in Canada from Sudan



We have some good news to share with the TSP congregation: Fawzi Toto has arrived safely from Sudan. Fawzi is brother to Botros and FakhrI - both assisted by this congregation over the years. See the e-newsletter for more details.

Thank you, from Betsy



Dear TSP Friends,

Thank you from the bottom of my now much bigger heart for the wonderful send off on Sunday. Such a special experience. Nan and Hewitt's blessing and the choir's blessing which has been echoing in my ears all week. Thank you Lois and all who crafted such an amazing event. The speeches, the gift, the input from so many of you imaginatively collated by Bill, the delicious cake and the presence of so many of you. What a treasure!

I was thinking of the great cloud of witnesses who have been present through all my years at TSP. They, you, have really led, encouraged and supported me in our life together as a faith community and in my everyday life. Wow!! I know you will continue to do so and there are no words to adequately express my gratitude except Thanks be to God and blessings on your continuing ministry.

Love, Betsy Anderson. P.S. We move to Peterborough May 31 but I will be a regular visitor, starting on June 7. See you then. Thank You, from Betsy

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. 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 the QR code.** We look forward to welcoming you for an inspiring evening of stories, laughter, and community spirit!

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.**

Artists Wage Peace: Palestinian and Jewish Artists and Peace Builders



When: June 12-13, 2026

Where: Trinity-St. Paul's United Church

RSVP & view the full schedule at www.robinpacific.ca/event

ARTISTS WAGE PEACE brings creative souls together to spread love and end conflict. You are invited to this groundbreaking and timely two-day interfaith event organized by local artist Robin Pacific and the Middle East Working Group, co-sponsored by Trinity-St Paul's, Bloor St. and Bathurst United Churches, St. Thomas Anglican Church, Shir Libenyu Synagogue and the Women's Mosque of Canada.

Thomas Anglican Church, Shir Libenyu Synagogue and the Women's Mosque of Canada.

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.



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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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