



TRINITY ST. PAUL'S 
UNITED CHURCH
FAITH JUSTICE ARTS

June 7th, 2026 – 10:30 am
Third Sunday of Pentecost Worship
Indigenous Peoples' Month

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

"We gather in the Sacred Breath that moved over creation long before our words, borders, or buildings."

Prelude: (Lute: John Edwards)

Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory

Gordon MacNeill

...

At Trinity-St. Paul's, we remember with humility the United Church of Canada's 1986 Apology to Indigenous Peoples, confessing that the church often failed to hear Indigenous wisdom, confused Western culture with the Gospel, and participated in systems that harmed communities, cultures, and the sacred balance of creation.

We acknowledge that reconciliation is not a completed act but a living commitment: to listen deeply, to honour Indigenous leadership, to seek justice in housing, water, land, language, and dignity, and to walk together in the Spirit of Christ "so that our peoples may be blessed and God's creation healed."

Drumming (Kenny Kirkwood)

Lighting of the Christ & Community Candles

As we light the Christ candle,
we remember the Sacred Breath of the Creator
who breathed life into humanity
and whose Spirit still moves through creation,
bringing healing, wisdom, and hope. *(candle is lit)*

As we light the community candle,
we honour the peoples of this land,
the wisdom of Indigenous communities in and around Toronto,
and our shared calling
to walk gently with the earth
and with one another. *(candle is lit)*

**May these lights remind us
that the breath of God lives among us still.**

Words of Welcome

Gathering Words:

Praise God in the sanctuary of creation!

Let every living being breathe praise and wonder. *(face east)*

Praise God with drumbeat, song, and sacred silence!

Let every heartbeat join the rhythm of the Spirit. *(face west)*

Praise God whose breath renews the earth and all peoples!

Let justice, healing, and reconciliation rise among us. *(face north)*

Let everything that has breath praise the Holy One!

We gather in gratitude, hope, and joy. *(face south)*

Hymn: MV 30 *It's a Song of Praise to the Maker*

**1 It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker,
The gray whale sings in the sea,**

**Refrain: And by the Spirit
you and I can join our voice to the holy cry**

and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

2 It's a call of life to the Giver
when waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver
when high tides break on the shore, *Refrain.*

3 It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover,
the summer breeze joins the song, *Refrain.*

Opening Prayer

Silence & Breathing Slowing

Words of Grace & Passing of the Peace:

...
Today, may that holy breath steady weary hearts, renew discouraged spirits, and remind us that none of us walks alone.
May the breath of Christ be with us.

May the Spirit's breath be 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: Solo, May Sadan

WE GROW IN FAITH

"As Indigenous wisdom teaches us to listen to the land, may the Spirit breathe wisdom and renewal into us today."

Introduction to the Scripture

Gordon MacNeill

Scripture: Genesis 2:7, Psalm 150:6, John 20:22, & Acts 17:25b (Inclusive Bible)

Herein is wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Response: VU 382 *Breath on Me, Breathe of God* (v. 1)

**1 Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.**

Sermon: *"Sacred Breath"*

Silent Reflection

WE CELEBRATE, GIVE & PRAY

We celebrate the Sacred Breath of creation, we give from its gifts, and we pray to walk gently with all our relations.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

May the Sacred Breath of the Creator be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Holy One.

Let us give thanks to Creator, who gives life and breath to all.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving

Creator God, long before settlers came to this land, Indigenous Peoples knew the sacredness of creation, the wisdom of the land, and the breath that connects all living beings.

... And so with creation and all our relations, we join in the song of praise:

Holy, holy, holy One,

Creator of earth, sky, and sea.

All creation is filled with your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Remembering - Institution

We remember that on the night before his death, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and shared it, saying:

“Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and shared it, saying:

“This cup is the new covenant of love and hope. Whenever you drink it, remember me.”

Prayer for the Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, Sacred Breath of God.

Renew us through this meal.

Make us people of justice, reconciliation, compassion, and peace.

Breaking and Sharing

The bread which we break is the communion of Christ's body.

The cup we share is the communion of Christ's love.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

All are welcome at Christ's table.

Communion Hymn: VU 200 *O Holy Spirit, by Whose Breath*

- 1 O Holy Spirit, by whose breath
life rises vibrant out of death:
come to create, renew, inspire;
come, kindle in our hearts your fire.**

- 2 You are the seeker's sure resource,
of burning love the living source,
protector in the midst of strife,
source and sustainer of all life.**

- 3 In you God's energy is shown,
to us your varied gifts made known.
Teach us to speak; teach us to hear;
yours is the tongue and yours the ear.**

- 4 Flood our dull senses with your light;
in mutual love our hearts unite.**

**Your power the whole creation fills;
confirm our weak, uncertain wills.**

**5 From inner strife grant us release;
turn nations to the ways of peace.
To fuller life your people bring
that as one body we may sing:**

**Coda: Praise to God, to Christ the Word,
and to the Spirit: all adored. Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Offering Invitation:

Every breath we take is gift.

Every act of generosity becomes part of God's healing work in the world.

Today, our offerings support ministries of worship, justice, community, reconciliation, the arts, and care for neighbour and stranger alike.

**As Indigenous communities continue advocating for safe housing,
clean water, dignity, and flourishing, may our giving become part of
the wider work of restoration and solidarity.**

Let us offer our gifts 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.)



Offertory Hymn: MV 150 Spirit God, Be Our Breath

**1 Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.**

**Our world seems inward, defensive, withdrawn...
Spirit God, be our song.**

- 2 Patient God: soothe our pride, calm our fear.
Comfort us. When we know you are near
we grow more certain, our vision is clear.
Patient God, calm our fear.**
- 3 Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer.
Reaching out, joining hands as we share,
we seek your guidance through friendship and care.
Loving God, be our prayer.**
- 4 Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.
Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new
dawn...
Spirit God, be our song.**

Offering Prayer

**Sacred Creator,
you breathe life into all creation
and call us into relationships of justice, compassion, and care.
Bless these gifts and those who give them.
May they become shelter for the vulnerable,
hope for the weary,
friendship across difference,
and signs of your healing Spirit in the world.
In the name of love, we pray. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

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

Sung Response: TLUS 84 *Heleluyan**

Helleluyan, helleluyan; helle, helleluyan;

Halleluyan, halleluyan; helle, halleluyan.

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

Trinity-St. Paul's United Church

Robert Monteith

The family and friends of Lily Gibson

Walter Whitely and family

Greg and Vera Callaghan

Shining Waters Regional Council

Sparrow Lake Camp, Severin Bridge

Camp Big Canoe, Bracebridge

Camp Scugog, Nestleton Station

Camp Simpresca, Midland

WE GO TO GOD'S WORLD

"Go now carrying the Sacred Breath of peace, walking gently with creation and one another."

Closing Hymn: VU 625 *I Feel the Winds of God Today*

- 1 I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift,
though heavy oft with drenching spray
and torn with many a rift;
if hope but light the water's crest,
and Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at his behest,
and brave another cruise.**

- 2 It is the wind of God that dries
my vain regretful tears,
until with braver thoughts shall rise
the purer, brighter years;
if cast on shores of selfish ease
or pleasure I should be,
O let me feel your freshening breeze,
and I'll put back to sea.**

3 **If ever I forget your love
 and how that love was shown,
lift high the blood-red flag above;
 it bears your name alone.
Great pilot of my onward way,
 you will not let me drift.
I feel the winds of God today;
 today my sail I lift.**

Benediction

Postlude: Indigenous Drum Song (Kenny Kirkwood)

Cover Image: Christi Belcourt (Michif). *The Wisdom of the Universe*, 2014. Acrylic on canvas. Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto; Purchased with funds donated by Greg Latremoile, 2014, 2014/6. © Christi Belcourt

Thank you to our Communion servers, Millie Poon, Ashwin Ranjit, Ann Russell, Joanne Sajtos and Bob McElhinney.

**A Muscogee version of Hallelujah, this song was sung on the Trail of Tears during the forcible displacement of the Muscogee in the 1830s.*



Upcoming Dates:

June: Indigenous Peoples' Month

June 10: Contemplative Online Bible Study (COBS)

June 12-13: Artists Wage Peace Weekend Event

June 14: Trustees Pizza & Pie Social

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

Living into the 1986 UCC Apology to Indigenous Peoples

At its May 26, 2026 meeting, the Board of Trinity–St. Paul’s United Church unanimously approved a motion to mark the 40th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada’s 1986 Apology to Indigenous Peoples. As part of this commitment, the congregation will recite the Apology prior to the Land Acknowledgment during worship on October 4, 2026. The Board has also invited the Indigenous Rights Solidarity Group to consider meaningful reconciliation actions related to this observance and has requested that Shining Waters Regional Council encourage communities of faith across the Region and sister Regional Councils across Canada to join in this act of remembrance, repentance, and renewed commitment to right relations.

Contemplative Online Bible Study (COBS) this Wednesday at 7:30!

From the Hebrew scriptures, we hear voices in the book of the Psalms from an ancient past, and a world, time, and culture vastly different from our own. Yet the poetry and beauty of the Psalms still touches us deeply today, and the range of emotions expressed... anger, joy, fear, yearning, praise and gratitude... all mirror emotions we feel in our own time and contexts.

This Wednesday evening, our Volunteer Associate Minister Nan Hudson will offer an online session focussing on a Psalm, and will involve hearing, silence, contemplation, meditation, discussion and prayer before we close after roughly an hour.

The session is absolutely open to all, and if you enjoy it, we will pick it up next fall as a regular online offering. Please join us Wednesday on Zoom at 7:30! See the E-Newsletter or contact the Church Office for the Zoom Link.

Congratulations to Hewitt!

Congratulations to our minister, Hewitt, on being awarded the McGeachy Scholarship for Th.D. and Ph.D. studies and receiving support through the Black Clergy Network, both granted by The United Church of Canada Foundation. We celebrate this recognition of his ongoing academic, theological, and ministerial work, and we give thanks for the ways his leadership, scholarship, and commitment to justice continue to enrich the life of Trinity–St. Paul’s and the wider church. Please join us in offering our prayers and congratulations.

Trustees Pizza & Pie Social

On Sunday, June 14th the members of the Board of Trustees will be hosting the fourth annual Pie Social after church in the gym. There will be pizza and pieces of pie for everyone!

Cooling the Offices in Summer

We are looking for three new or used portable a/c units with appropriate fixtures for the church offices asap. If you have any to donate or funds to give to this little project, please let Hewitt or Sarah know. With thanks!

Artists Wage Peace: Palestinian and Jewish Artists and Peace Builders

June 12-13, 2026 at 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.

Connecting with Hewitt in June:

Hewitt's next week for research and study will be **June 28-July 4**. 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.

Staff Summer Holidays

Hewitt will take his summer holiday in August this year. More info to come on other staff holidays!



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

Phone: (416) 922-8435 ext. 24

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

Music Director: Deborah Park - musicdirector@trinitystpauls.ca

Phone: (416) 922-8435 ext. 26

Church Office: Sarah Redikopp - church-admin@trinitystpauls.ca

Phone: (416) 922-8435 ext. 23