

St. Paul's United Church, Midland
Sunday, Aug. 27, 2017

Ministers: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam & Rev. Bev Irwin
Music Director–Victoria Warwick
Multi-Generational Community Worker - Paw Roe Shee



PRELUDE AND HYMN SING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO THE GATHERED

HYMN: VU #232 Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

As we light this candle, may it remind us that Christ is in us and in our world

SUNG RESPONSE: (Tune of MV #1)

**Let us weave a tapestry of love
with fingers skilled and true,
a work of art that blends God's grace with each dynamic hue.
Showing Alpha and Omega,
our beginning and our end,
May this tapestry display to everyone,
God is gracious, God is loving,
we are held in God's embrace.**

PRAYER OF THE GATHERED: (unison)

God who is Alpha and Omega, today we are graced with art that speaks to our spirituality. Be with us as we ponder its meaning for us and as we worship you. Amen

HYMN MEDLEY:

Of God's very Heart Begotten

**Of God's very heart begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
Christ is Alpha and Omega,
Christ the source, the ending He,
of the things that are and have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.**

Bathe Me in Your Light

**Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator;
let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.
Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding,
showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.**

**Bathe me in your love, O Source of Awe and Wonder;
help me walk the sacred path of harmony and peace.
May I be attentive to the musings of your presence,
drinking from the well of hope that brings the heart release.**

THEME CONVERSATION: Paw Roe

LORD'S PRAYER (*Discovery Kids*)

PRAYER FOR ENLIGHTENMENT (unison) **May these wise words be a source of wisdom, courage and strength. Amen**

SCRIPTURE: [Revelations 1:8; 21:6; 22:13](#)

SPECIAL MUSIC: Mary Skinner - Morning Has Broken

SERMON

THE GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC: Mary Skinner - Ching-A-Ring Chaw

*DOXOLOGY: VU #614

**In suffering love the thread of life
is woven through our care,
so send us out to touch the world
with blessings in your name.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

DEDICATION OF TAPESTRY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN: VU #264 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

SUNG BENEDICTION: VU #623 vs 1,3

**Dear weaver of our lives' design
whose patterns all obey,
with skillful fingers gently guide
the sturdy threads that will survive
the tangle of our days, the tangle of our days.**

**Let eyes that in the plainest cloth
a hidden beauty see,
discern in us our richest hues,
show us the patterns we may use
to set our spirits free, to set our spirits free.**

POSTLUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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308 King Street, Midland, On L4R 3M6

Phone 705-526-6077, fax 705-526-4020

Email stpaulsunited@rogers.com

Website: www.stpaulsmidland.org,

Service and Discovery Kids 10 am

Ministers: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam

& Rev. Bev Irwin

Music Director: Victoria Warwick

Multi-Generational Community Worker - Paw Roe Shee

Bible Reader: Fran Hill

Welcome Friends!

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,

You are welcome here!

Whether you are a child, youth, adult or elder,

You are welcome here!

Whatever your ethnic origin or language;

sexual orientation or gender identity;

religious tradition or theological position;

whatever your economic status or political persuasion

You are welcome here!

If you are differently abled,

you are welcome here!

If you are spiritually weary and in need of rest,

If you are mourning a deep loss in your life,

If you are skeptical;

if you have been hurt by religion,

If you have questions,

If you come full of doubts or confidence,

joy or sorrow,

You are welcome here because you are God's creation, and WIDE is God's Welcome!!

Friends! You are Welcome in this Place –

Just as you are.

A huge thank you to Paw Roe, our summer student, who was such a great help with so many activities and events during July and August. We will miss her and wish her well as she returns to her studies in September. She will be staying for the luncheon after the service today, if you wish to convey to her your best wishes.

Welcome back to Mary Skinner, who will be doing the special music today.

Surprise Lunch after Church today:

Please join us after the service for a lunch of roast beef, pulled pork on a bun and salads. Coffee, tea, and cookies will also be served. There is no charge, but donations are most welcome!

St. Paul's Summerfest has come to an end. Gary and his crew served **398** dinners and this year and we raised over **\$3,547** toward St. Paul's Accessibility Project. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and to those who came out to support this great summer program. **Great job St Paul's!!**

Update on finances as of July 30th, from your Stewardship Committee

Contributions: \$124,239

(Budget \$134,233 - shortfall of \$9,984).

Expenses: \$173,373 (Budget \$181,016 - positive difference of \$7,642).

The contributions shortfall is worrying.

Prior to year-end we hope that the congregation will improve givings to help us end up in the black for 2017.

Elevate Accessibility:

We've come a long way together through the renovations. We are now **only \$19,019.36 away** from reaching our fundraising goal of \$250,000 from the congregation. This figure includes the **\$3,547** raised through our Summerfest fundraising event. Thank you to everyone who has supported the Elevate Accessibility Project through their givings, pledges, and supporting the numerous fundraising activities. We're almost there, so please spread the word. Don't forget our "Loonies for a Lift" jar and the "Donate Now" button on our website. Let's continue to work together to reach our goal.

Coming up:

- ★ The next **Pastoral Care gathering** will be on September 13th, at 9:30 a.m.
- ★ St. Paul's **Annual Beef Dinner** is Wednesday Sept 20th. There will be 2 sittings, 5:00 and 6:15 p.m. Tickets are now available at the Church office, from Monday to Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- ★ **Theological Studies Group** starts up on Wednesday September 20th, from 11:00 to 12:30.
- ★ **UCW Rummage Sale** is Saturday September 30th, in the Great Hall. Donations will be received on Friday September 29th.
- ★ **UCW Soup and Salad Luncheon** is Saturday October 21st, in the Great Hall.
- ★ **Observer Reflections** will start up again on October 2nd at 7:00 p.m. The UCC Observer has some great articles. Bring the ones you want to discuss from the summer and September editions. All are welcome.