

**Joint Service of Waverley United Church and
St. Paul's United Church, Midland
Sunday, September 03, 2017**

**Ministers: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam & Rev. Bev Irwin
Music Director–Victoria Warwick**



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
CALL TO THE GATHERED

HYMN: VU #248 When Long Before Time (vs 1,2,3,6)

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 of the cosmos and of the atom, one who creates and weaves all of the
patterns & designs of the universe, be with us as we seek to connect with
you & with all of your creation. 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.**

**At his word the worlds were framed He commanded, it was done:
Heaven & earth & depths of ocean In the threefold order one;
All that grows beneath the shining of the moon and burning sun,
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
LORD'S PRAYER

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

SANCTUS BENEDICTUS VU #932(sung)

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are filled with your glory,
Hosanna in the Highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in your name.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION VU #933 (2x)

**Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come, come again.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: (unison)

**We pray that the food we have eaten, that the drink we have tasted, may
change how we live our lives. May we be blessed to live as disciples, called,
sustained, and equipped for love. Amen**

(Gord Dunbar, Port Nelson U.C. Burlington, Gathering Pentecost 2017 pg. 60)

(Children may go to Discovery Kids)

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

SCRIPTURE: [Genesis 1:1-13](#),
A Reading from the UCC Song of Faith

SERMON

THE GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC: Judy McConnell

*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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN: VU #226 For the Beauty of the Earth (vs 1,2-tune
#81)

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

Sept 3, 2017

308 King Street Midland, On L4R 3M6

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

Email stpaulsunity@rogers.com

Website: www.stpaulsmidland.org,

Service and Discovery Kids 10 am

Ministers: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam & Rev. Bev Irwin

Music Director: Victoria Warwick

Bible Reader: Winnie Paquette

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.

Thank you to Judy McConnell, who will be doing the special music today.

New opportunity to volunteer: Interested in volunteering at the church? We are looking for 2-3 volunteers to work from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Monday to Thursday. This would be to welcome/assist visitors to the church and could be e/month or once/week, whatever suits your schedule. If interested, contact Karen or Louise Leck, or enquire at the church office.



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. This is a wonderful beef dinner with all the trimmings, prepared by Gary Price and his crew. 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.



Sharon Whiteside will be selling tickets after church today.

★ **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.

Exercise Classes: VON exercise classes continue every Tuesday and Thursday at noon for 45 minutes. The program is open to both men and women and everyone is feeling the benefits of the strengthening and balance exercises. The classes are free and will continue indefinitely, so you are welcome to join at any time.

