

St. Paul's United Church, Midland

Sunday, September 10, 2017

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

Guest Pianist: Amanda Clarke



WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT: "Come Great Spirit"

CALL TO THE GATHERED

HYMN: VU #412 "This is the Day"

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:

HYMN MEDLEY:

PEOPLE LET US WALK TOGETHER

1. People let us walk together,
sharing sadness, loss and grief,
we will move through pain to wholeness,
brokenness transformed to peace.
2. People let us work together,
seeking justice, healing shame,
filled with hope, imbued with courage,
every violence we will name.
3. People let us love together,
joining spirits, linking hands,
we are God's unique creation,
clothed with dignity we'll stand.

UNBOUNDED SPIRIT, BREATH OF GOD (vs. 1,2,5)

1. Unbounded Spirit, breath of God,
refreshing water, cleansing flame,
we give allegiance, through your call,
to Christ, and to no other name.

2. Receive and open for review
the work we do, the word we preach,
and school us, as we teach and learn,
in careful thought and truthful speech.

5. Inscribe on every growing skill,
on every action, every vow,
the living name of Jesus Christ,
beginning here, beginning now.

GATHER US IN

Gather us in, ground us in you.
Gather us in, ground us in you. (2x)

THEME CONVERSATION

LORD'S PRAYER (*Discovery Kids may leave*)

ANTHEM: "A Tapestry of Love"

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

SCRIPTURE: [2 Corinthians 5:16-21](#)

United Church Apology 1986

Long before my people journeyed to this land, your people were here, and you received from our elders an understanding of creation, and of the mystery that surrounds us all that was deep and rich and to be treasured. We did not hear you when you shared your vision. In our zeal to tell you the good news of Jesus Christ we were closed to the value of your spirituality. We confused western ways and culture with the depth and breadth and length and height of the gospel of Christ. We imposed our civilization as a condition of accepting the gospel. We tried to make you be like us and in so doing we helped to destroy the vision that made you what you were. As a result, you and we are poorer and the image of the Creator in us is twisted, blurred and we are not what we are meant by God to be. We ask you to forgive us and to walk together with us in the Spirit of Christ so that our peoples may be blessed and God's creation healed.

SERMON:

THE GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

ANTHEM: "Spirit Dancing"

*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 #379 O Holy Spirit, Root of Life"

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 17, 2017

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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 Bible Reader: Doreen Gunson

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.

Welcome back and thank you to Amanda Clarke, our guest musician today.

St. Paul's **Annual Beef Dinner** is **this Wednesday** Sept 20th. Tickets are available at the Church office. **Sharon Whiteside will be selling tickets after church today.**

Greeters/Ushers Workshop is today in the Parlour, immediately following the service. All usher and greeters please attend!

Theological Studies Group starts up **this Wednesday** September 20th, from 11:00 to 12:30. We will explore who Jesus was in his time, and in ours, using a DVD study called "Saving Jesus".

Elevate Accessibility: Just look at how far we've come as a community! We've raised \$230,980.64 towards the congregational commitment of \$250,000. That's over 90% of our goal! With your generosity, we only have **\$19,019.36 to go!** The public Open House will be on November 4th and we'd like to have the project paid off in time for that event. Please use the special **"Let's Get It Done!"** envelopes to help us reach our goal in time. Consider fulfilling your three-year pledges, using the "Donate Now" button and "Loonies for a Lift" jar as well. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Fall Food Drive: Taking a moment from our busy lives to look around us and listen to what is occurring tells us a very disturbing fact. Throughout this world, throughout this country and indeed throughout our own community there exists a rising number of people who are in need shelter and food for their very existence. As we heard throughout this summer, desperate calls for food donations were going through our communities. This is the time of year for St. Paul's to make a special effort to answer that call. On Sunday, September 24th, October 1st. and October 8th, 2017 St. Paul`s will hold their annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. PLEASE SHARE BECAUSE YOU DO CARE. **Please leave your donations on the 2 small pews in the corner of the Sanctuary, near the organ console.**

Coming up:

UCW Garage Sale is Saturday September 30th, in the Great Hall. Donations will be received on Friday September 29th.

Observer Reflections starts on October 2nd at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Connections Project Organizational meeting: Now that the church office closes at 1 p.m., we have been seeking volunteers to welcome people in the reception area on weekday afternoons from 1 to 3 p.m. Several people have said they would like to contribute in this way. If you are interested, please attend a meeting here in the small meeting room off the reception area on **Wednesday October 4th, at 1:30 p.m.** Tea and cookies will be served. We will work out a schedule for October, so bring your calendar! If you need a ride, please contact Louise Leck at (705) 526-6389.

Art and Spirituality starts up again on October 7th from 10:00 to 1:00. Everyone is welcome as we explore spirituality through the process of making art! All supplies are provided and the cost is \$80. To sign up, contact Joan Neville at 705 526 3276.

UCW Soup and Salad Luncheon is Saturday October 21st, in the Great Hall.