

St. Paul's United Church, Midland, ON

Sunday, July 2, 2017

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

Music Director—Victoria Warwick



CANADA 150
1867-2017

SOMETHING TO PONDER: This is a service of celebration and lament marking 150 years since the Confederation of Canada. This is not a civic celebration but rather a worship service of faithful reflection on who we are as Canadian people. The tone of the service is balanced between celebrating who we are as Canadians and lamenting the past and present injustice to the Indigenous Peoples and other Canadian peoples. Celebrating 150 years of Canadian Confederation can only be a true celebration if first we acknowledge and lament, and then commit ourselves to continuing to work toward right relations with the First Peoples of this country. May God be our helper!

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO THE GATHERED (responsive)

One: We gather today to mark the 150th anniversary of the Confederation of Canada. As we gather, we recognize that a history of a people is not all glory. The history of Canada has both joy and sorrow, both triumph and tragedy. However, we have much to celebrate, much to lament, and much to dream.

All: We gather in the presence of God, our Creator.

One: Come friends, let us worship the Creator in whom we, and all of creation, are one.

All: We open our hearts in thanksgiving.

One: Come, let us be filled with the Spirit's vision as we worship today.

***O CANADA**

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: VU #958 (sung twice) Halle, halle, halle

PRAYER OF THE GATHERED (VU #525)

Eternal God, whose image lies in the hearts of all people, we live among peoples whose languages are different from our own, whose faiths are foreign to us, whose ways we fail to understand. Help us to remember that you embrace all people with your love, that all religion is a response to you, that the yearnings of other hearts are much like our own and are known to you. Help us to recognize you in words of truth, things of beauty, and actions of love about us. We pray in the name of the One who calls us to be neighbour and friend. Amen.

SUMMER HYMN MEDLEY (*next week you pick*)

When We Are Living VU# 581 vs 1 and 4

Three Things I Promise MV #176 vs 1, 4, 6

All Who Are Thirsty MV #4

THEME CONVERSATION & LORD'S PRAYER (sung VU#960)

(*Discovery Kids Activity with Pat File*)

SPECIAL MUSIC - MV #142 **Oh a Song Must Rise** - soloist Victoria Tovell

PRAYER FOR ENLIGHTENMENT (in unison)

**May these offerings (scripture and video) be a source of wisdom, courage and strength.
Amen**

SCRIPTURE READING: Video - Chief Dan George 1967 Lament,
[Isaiah 43: 5-7; 18-19](#) "Restoration is promised to the people of
Israel"

REFLECTION

THE GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

*DOXOLOGY: VU#540

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving, with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living we may offer faithfully.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN VU#678 **For the Healing of the Nations**

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

Sung Benediction: MV#156

**Dance with the Spirit
early in the morning,
Walk with the Spirit
throughout the long day,
Work & hope for the new life a-born-in,
Listen to the Spirit to show you the way.**

POSTLUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 2, 2017

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,

Bible Reader: Sharon Foster

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 to our guest singer today, Victoria Tovell.

Pastoral Care: During the month of July, the Rev. Bev Irwin will be available for pastoral care. Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam will be available during the month of August.

Pastoral Care Visitors Workshop: Are you currently a pastoral care visitor or do you wish to become a volunteer for a few hours per week or month? We have a growing number of home-bound folk who would welcome a visit on behalf of the St. Paul's church family. Bev is planning a Pastoral Visitor Planning Workshop on July 24th from 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. to meet, organize and share tips for visiting. This is a very important ministry of St. Paul's.

Extreme Hunger Appeal: Thank you to everyone who donated toward this humanitarian crisis. Through your generous donations, the congregation has raised **\$5,193**. Through the Canadian government's Famine Relief Fund, all eligible donations to the United Church's Extreme Hunger Appeal made from March 17 to June 30, 2017, will be matched, dollar for dollar, by the government.

Fundraising Dance Saturday July 15th:

The music still lives on. Save the date for this event, featuring The Desotos. Judy McConnell will be selling tickets after the service today. The Dance Committee is looking for volunteers to help at the dance, so if you're interested, please speak with Gail.

Annual Summerfest: The second annual St. Paul's Summerfest begins July 19th, running every Wednesday until August 23rd. There will be full course meals and entertainment.

Elevate Accessibility: We're getting closer to reaching the congregational goal of raising \$250,000 towards the Elevate Accessibility renovation. This week we added \$13,000 to the congregation's contribution representing the transfer of surplus funds from Toronto Conference hosting. When we add in new donations and \$170.00 from the "Loonies for the Lift" jar we are only short \$31,701.82 of the congregation's donation target. For those of you who wish to spread the word, don't forget to let your friends and family know about the "Donate Now" button on our website www.stpaulsmidland.org where you can direct your donation towards the project. Let's work together to meet our financial commitment in time for the Open House this Fall. Together, we can do it!

CAMP AWESOME!

Make a Joyful Noise!

July 31-August 4:

a great opportunity for children ages 5-12, from 9 am to noon. There are lots of activities including stories, games, music, crafts, snacks, fun and adventure! Please see Bev to register.

Camp Simpresca: If you know a child who may be interested but not able to attend camp due to financial restraints, please see Bev and/or Louise in the office. Cost for full week camp is \$525 and mini-camp is \$265. If you would like to assist a child in going to Camp Simpresca, please have your donation in to the Church Office by July 5th, so we can allot the funds based on the number of requests for assistance.

