

REMINDER TO THE CONGREGATION

At Karen's request, please remain following the service as we will be taking a congregational picture.

Everyone is invited downstairs for a luncheon to say good-bye to Karen and Keith and to enjoy a time of fellowship.



ST PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, May 26, 2024
Minister's Retirement Service

Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Assisting: Shaun McIntosh, The Rev. Dr. Todd McDonald, Sue Dorion, Cathy Metzgar
Music Director: Victoria Warwick
Singers: St. Paul's Choir
Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Gabriela & Rick Dell, Bruce Wilcox

WELCOME/CALL TO THE GATHERED/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

OPENING HYMN: MV #79 "Spirit Open My Heart"

Refrain: Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.

As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving, Spirit, open my heart.

1. God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.

Refrain

2. Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word and deed, may my living bring you glory.

Refrain:

3. May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.

Refrain:



OPENING PRAYER: The Rev. Dr. Todd McDonald from Shining Waters Regional Council

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE: As we light this Christ candle, may it remind us that Christ is in us and in our world.

SUNG RESPONSE: MV #79 Refrain

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving, Spirit, open my heart.

THEME CONVERSATION: Rebecca Amadei & Discovery Kids

SUNG LORD'S PRAYER: VU#959

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Read by Shaun McIntosh
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; Luke 4:14-19

ANTHEM: St Paul's Choir "Celtic Benediction"

SERMON:

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: St Paul's Choir "May the Light of God"

SUNG RESPONSE: MV# 150 "Loving God" v. 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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER: Shaun McIntosh

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Cathy Metzgar, Chair of the Worship Committee

CLOSING HYMN: VU#380 "She Comes Sailing on the Wind"

Refrain: She comes sailing on the wind, her wings flashing in the sun; on a journey just begun, she flies on.

And in the passage of her flight, her song rings out through the night, full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.

1. Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth, like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.

And from the heart of God the Spirit moved upon the earth, like a mother breathing life into her child.

2. Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight when the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form.

Deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts found new delight, and then down the ages still she flew on.

Refrain:

3. To a gentle girl in Galilee, a gentle breeze she came, a whisper softly calling in the dark.

The promise of a child of peace whose reign would never end, Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart.

4. Flying to the river, she waited circling high above the child now grown so full of grace.

As he rose up from the water, she swept down from the sky, and she carried him away in her embrace.

Refrain:

5. Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world, after dawn returned in flame of rising sun,

the Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled, bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on.

DECOVENANTING RITUAL (See Insert)

SUNG BENEDICTION: "Go In Love"

Go in love, have no fear, God will guide you, God is always near.

Go in love, take God's hand, God will hear you and will

understand. May God's light forever shine upon you. May God's

peace be always in your heart. Go in love, face each day. God will lead you, God will show the way. Go in love and live in faith. Amen

POSTLUDE