

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

August 18, 2024

Guest Preacher: Peggy Wallace

Music Director: Victoria Warwick

Reader: Terry MacPherson

Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Rick & Gabriela Dell, Bruce Wilcox

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO THE GATHERED & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

OPENING HYMN MEDLEY: VU#409 "Morning Has Broken"

1. Morning has broken like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
2. Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.
3. Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day!

"This Little Light of Mine"

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. (twice)

OPENING PRAYER: read by Terry MacPherson

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

SUNG RESPONSE: VU#588 v. 1 "Many Are the Lightbeams"

Many are the lightbeams from the one light. Our one light is Jesus.
Many are the lightbeams from the one light; we are one in Christ.

THEME CONVERSATION:

SCRIPTURE READING: (Matthew 13:10-17 and 34-35; Mark 4: 21-25)

HYMN: VU#82 "A Light is Gleaming"

Refrain: A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night, living in the light.

Come share its gladness, God's radiant love is burning bright, living in the light.

1. When light comes pouring into the darkest place, it hurts our eyes to see the glow.
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears, our memories and tears.

Refrain:

2. When night is round us and every shadow grows, a star is there to light our way.
It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say: "God's light will ever stay."

Refrain:

3. And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk. He showed us things we hadn't seen.
Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine, and this will be a sign:

Refrain:

4. So let us live in the brightness God has given and let us rise to see the dawn.
We trust that God is here asparkle and ablaze, warming all our days.

Refrain:

SERMON:

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & SPECIAL MUSIC: "God Who Touches Earth With Beauty"
sung by Victoria Tovell and Michael Kearney

SUNG RESPONSE: MV#136 "When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace" (verses 1 and 5)

1. When hands reach out and fingers trace the beauty of a loved one's face,
we thank you, God, that love relies on gifts of grace not seen with eyes.
5. Your Spirit gives us differing ways to serve you well and offer praise.
When all are joined as one, we'll be your able, strong community.

OFFERTORY PRAYER: read by Terry MacPherson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER read by Terry MacPherson

HYMN: VU#87 "I Am the Light of the World"

Refrain: I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

2. To find the lost and lonely one, to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food, to feel the earth below, the sky above!

Refrain:

3. To free the prisoner from all chains, to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will, to see God's children everywhere!

Refrain:

4. To bring hope to every task you do, to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart, and sing to the colours of the earth!

Refrain:

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION: read by Peggy Wallace

SUNG BENEDICTION: : "May I Share God's Peace With You?" (Words & Music: Steve Pitkanen)

May I share God's peace with you? That His love may see us through all the joys and trials of a life in his care. May I share what I know to be true? May I share God's peace with you?

POSTLUDE: