

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH**

**August 25, 2024**

**Guest Preacher: Fran Hill**

**Music Director: Victoria Warwick**

**Reader: Neal Foot**

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

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO THE GATHERED & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND**

**OPENING HYMN MEDLEY: VU#161 "Welcome Happy Morning"**

1. Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say;  
hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today:  
come then, True and Faithful, now fulfil your word;  
this is your third morning: rise, O buried Lord!

**Refrain: Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say;  
hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today!**

2. Earth with joyful welcome clothes itself for Spring;  
greeted with life reviving our returning king:  
flowers in every pasture, leaves on every bough,  
speak of sorrows ended, Jesus triumphs now! **Refrain:**
3. Author and sustainer, source of life and breath;  
you for our salvation trod the path of death:  
Jesus Christ is living, God for evermore!  
Now let all creation hail Him and adore. **Refrain:**
4. Loose our souls imprisoned bound with Satan's chain;  
all that now is fallen, raise to life again:  
Show your face in brightness, shine the whole world through;  
hope returns with daybreak, life returns with you. **Refrain:**

**VU#232 "Joyful Joyful We Adore You"**

1. Joyful, joyful we adore you, God of glory, life and love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
2. All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays,  
stars and angels sing around you, centre of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain, sound their praise eternally.
3. You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest.  
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!  
Source of grace and fount of blessing, let your light upon us shine;  
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.
4. Mortals join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;  
God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

**OPENING PRAYER:** read by Neal Foot

**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:** (Acts 9: 1-31)

**HYMN: VU#371 "Open My Eyes, That I May See"**

1. Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

**Refrain: Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.**

**Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

2. Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.

**Refrain: Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.**

**Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

3. Open my mouth, and let me hear gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.

**Refrain: Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.**

**Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**SERMON:**

**GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & SPECIAL MUSIC:** "Would You Bless Our Homes and Families" sung by Jacqueline Millett

**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:**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER** read by Neal Foot

**HYMN: VU#264 "Immortal, invisible, God Only Wise"**

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise; in light inaccessible hid from our eyes;  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small; in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree, then wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
4. Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light; thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all praise we would render, O help us to see 'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee!

**COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

**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:**