

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

September 22, 2024

Guest Preacher: Heather McDonald

Guest Music Director: Amanda Clarke

Reader: Louise Leck

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO THE GATHERED & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

OPENING HYMN MEDLEY: VU#175 "This is the Day that God Has Made"

REFRAIN: This is the day that God has made! Rejoice! Rejoice, and be exceeding glad!

This is the day that God has made! Rejoice! Rejoice! Hallelujah!

1. Christ has conquered death at last, left the tomb that held him fast!
Gone the sorrow, gone the night, dawns the morning clear and bright!

REFRAIN:

2. Jesus lives who once was dead, lives forever, as he said!
Risen now our Saviour, King; songs of gladness let us sing!

REFRAIN:

VU#296 "This is God's Wondrous World"

1. This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, God's hand the wonders wrought.
2. This is God's wondrous world: the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world: God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass, God's voice speaks everywhere.
3. This is God's wondrous world. O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world: why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring: God reigns, let earth be glad!

OPENING PRAYER: read by Louise Leck

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: MV#21 "Open Our Hearts"

Open our hearts. Open our minds. Open our lives to you O loving God. Open our hearts.

THEME CONVERSATION:

SCRIPTURE READING:

HYMN: 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 incompleteness 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!

SERMON:

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND SPECIAL MUSIC: "The Hope We Have In Jesus" sung by St Paul's Choir

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 Louise Leck

HYMN VU#226 "For the Beauty of the Earth" (alternate tune #81)

1. For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
2. For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
3. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
4. For each perfect gift sublime to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

SUNG BENEDICTION: MV#135 "Called By Earth and Sky" (refrain)

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.

This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified, called by earth and sky.

POSTLUDE: