

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

September 1, 2024

Guest Preacher: Pastor Trevor Tristram

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: MV#150 "Spirit God, Be Our Breath"

1. Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.
Our world seems inward, defensive, withdrawn... Spirit God, be our song.
2. Patient God: soothe our pride, calm our fear.
Comfort us. When we know you are near
we grow more certain, our vision is clear. Patient God, calm our fear.
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.
4. Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.
Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new dawn... Spirit God, be our song.

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#595 "We Are Pilgrims on a Journey"

1. We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
2. Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.
5. When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.
6. Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

SERMON:

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND SPECIAL MUSIC: "We Are Children of Our God" 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

HYMN VU#374 "Come and Find the Quiet Centre"

1. Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed: clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.
2. Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, face to face, making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun, raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.
3. In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain, let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain: there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care, in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

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, God 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: