

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
June 2, 2024 – Pride Sunday
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

OPENING HYMN: VU#183 "We Meet You, O Christ (tune VU#228)

1. We meet you, O Christ, in many a guise;
your image we see in simple and wise.
You live in a palace, exist in a shack.
We see you, the gardener, a tree on your back.
2. In millions alive, away and abroad;
Involved in our life you live down the road.
Imprisoned in systems you long to be free.
We see you, O Jesus, still bearing your tree.
3. We hear you, O Christ, in agony cry.
For freedom you march, in riots you die.
Your face in the papers we read and we see.
The tree must be planted by human decree.
4. You choose to be made at one with the earth;
the dark of the grace prepares for your birth.
Your death is your rising, creative your word:
the tree springs to life and our hope is restored.

OPENING PRAYER: read by Murray Lockhart

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

SUNG RESPONSE: MV#82 (v.1) "Bathe Me In Your Light"

Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator; let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace. Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding, show me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.

THEME CONVERSATION:

CHILDREN'S HYMN: VU#345 "Come Children, Join to Sing"

1. Come children, join to sing: Hallelujah!
Praise to our Servan King: Hallelujah!
Let all with heart and voice,
saved by God's gracious choice,
now in this place rejoice: Hallelujah!
2. Come, lift your hearts on high: Hallelujah!
Let praises fill the sky: Hallelujah!

Christ calls his people friends,
the helpless he defends,
a love that never ends: Hallelujah!

3. Praise yet our Christ again: Hallelujah!
Raise high the joyous strain: Hallelujah!
The whole creation o'er let all God's love adore,
singing for evermore: Hallelujah!

SCRIPTURE READING: read by Sandra Flint

SERMON:

COMMUNION HYMN: VU#468 "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

1. Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound! (2x)

2. Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.

Refrain:

3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out, bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!

Refrain:

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION LITURGY

Everyone is welcome here.

In this way, we lift up a world of inclusion, where all people live with respect and dignity.

Everyone present will receive a share.

In this way, we lift up a world of generosity, where as Jesus has shown us, abundance overcomes scarcity so all are fed.

Everyone is invited now to take a portion, and to serve others here and beyond, so all may receive.

In this way, we lift up a world of sufficiency, where entrenched systems of privilege are challenged, wealth is shared equally, and all are satisfied with enough.

MV# 203 Holy, Holy, Holy

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.
hosanna in the highest heaven, creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!

The last meal that Jesus shared with his friends was a celebration of the Jewish Passover. Jesus gave new meaning to this meal, using the common elements of bread and wine: bread for the journey and the wine of arrival. He told his friends that each time they shared the loaf and drank the cup they were to remember him.

A few days later, on the day of his resurrection, Jesus appeared to two of his disciples on the road to Emmaus, but they did not recognize him. Later while he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.

May Christ's presence be made known to us when we break bread and share the cup.

MV# 204 Memorial Acclamation (2x)

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!
Send, O God, your Holy Spirit on us and on this meal that we and these gifts may be signs of life and love to one another, and to the world.
Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours,
God most holy, now and forever.

MV# 205 Great Amen (2x)

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!
So, in the meal tradition of Jesus, we break and share bread, pour and pass the cup, pledging ourselves to allow the Spirit that moved in Jesus to move freely in our lives.

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer after Communion

God of amazing grace, we are grateful for your enlivening presence.

We pray this presence will strengthen us to follow in the way of Jesus, in our communities.

We give thanks for the Spirit of Life, visible in Jesus, visible in us, visible in people in all walks of life.

We give thanks for faith that recognizes and names this presence and this bonding of all people.

We pray that we will allow the life and the teaching of Jesus to motivate all that we do, so that what we profess to have seen in his life and heard in his teaching might be evident in our living and our loving. Amen.

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & CHOIR ANTHEM: "At This Table We Remember"

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER read by Murray Lockhart

CLOSING HYMN: VU#633 "Bless Now, O God the Journey"

1. Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.
2. Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way,
whose hope burns through the terrors, whose love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound.
Together we are seeking the road where faith is found.
3. Divine Eternal Lover, you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise, where milk and honey flow.
But waiting not for places, you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.

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?