

April 6th, 2025 Fifth Sunday of Lent.

Thought to ponder: *"You pray for the hungry, then you feed them. That is how prayer works."*—
Pope Francis

Welcome

Announcements, Life & Work of the Church

Prelude: Let It Be

Passing the peace:

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Acknowledgement of the Territories

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

One: Come down from the tree, Zacchaeus and friends. Come and worship together!

All: The bread of life satisfies our hunger and thirst.

One: You are witnessed, worthy, and welcomed today by Jesus, the bread of life.

All: The bread of life loves us and knows our needs.

One: Let us feast at the table of love and justice, where no one dines alone.

All: The bread of life has come to sustain us. Believing this promise, let us worship together!

Hymn: MV #178 Who is My Mother

**Who is my mother, who is my brother?
All those who gathered
round Jesus Christ:
Spirit blown people
born from the Gospel
Sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.**

**Differently abled, differently labelled,
Widen the circle round
Jesus Christ:
Crutches and stigmas,
culture's enigmas,
All are accepted round Jesus Christ.**

**Love will relate us colour or status
Can't segregate us
round Jesus Christ:
Family failings,
human derailing,
All are accepted round Jesus Christ.**

**Bound by one vision,
met for one mission
We claim each other,
round Jesus Christ:
Here is my mother,
here is my brother,
Kindred in Spirit,
through Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

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Gathering Prayer

Gracious God, as we gather in this season of reflection and repentance, you call us from our hiding places and invite us to the table of grace. You see us in our brokenness and meet us with mercy. You offer us the bread of life that nourishes our souls, heals our wounds, and strengthens us for the journey of faith. In this time of worship, open our hearts to your transforming love and lead us to greater humility and justice. May this sacred time draw us nearer to you and to one another. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Often, ... we have missed opportunities to honor our neighbors.

All: God of righteousness and justice, you know our hearts and minds. While we center and glorify people who are talented, famous, conventionally beautiful, or wealthy, you see beauty in places we tend to ignore or neglect. We confess we have judged people by their ability to fit into social norms, win awards, accumulate wealth, and perform with power. We miss the Zacchaeuses of our times because we have overlooked the value of those

who don't fit our standards, who struggle to be seen, or who are dismissed by society. We have neglected to honor the dignity of those unlike us or displaced from their homelands and have allowed our biases to shape our actions and choices. Forgive us, God, for the times we have failed to reflect your inclusive love and justice. Open our eyes to see the worth of every person, and teach us to honor all your creation with the respect it deserves.

-Silence-

The Grace of God:

Baptism

Opening Prayer

Presentation of the Candidates

Profession of Faith and Promises

Commitment of Parents

Commitment of Grandparents

Congregational Commitment

One: Will you support this family
with constant love,
wholesome example, Christian
teaching and faith prayer?

**All: We will, God being our
helper.**

The United Church Creed VU #918

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus,
crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death,
in life beyond death,**

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Thanksgiving-Pouring of the Water:

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

One: Gracious and Holy God,...

Act of Baptism:

Brooklyn Mae Douthwright

Act of Baptism:

Emma Rose Douthwright

Declaration and Congregational Welcome:

One: Into the household of faith, we welcome you with joy and thanksgiving.

All: We are members of the Body of Christ. We are inheritors of God's promise. In the name of Christ, we welcome you.

Blessing:

Hymn: MV #201 I am the Bread of Life x2

I am the bread of life

Broken for the world,

I am the cup poured out for all.

Those who believe in me

Will never die.

I am the life of the world.

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Prayer of Illumination:

Scripture

Luke 19: 1-10

Ministry of Music: You Are My All in All

Reflection: Bread for Community

Hymn: MV #198 When we Gather at the Table

**When we gather at the table
Wine is poured and Bread is broken.
Then love claims us offering healing
We hear welcome gently spoken.**

**Jesus offers our thanksgiving
Blessing God for life we're given
From the earth comes grain to feed us
Watered by the rains of heaven.
Word of promise claims attention
Earth renewed by God's designing.
All the creatures join in praises
God's intended wholeness finding.**

**Come, invited, now draw nearer,
Join this holy celebration.
Here be strengthened,
called to justice,
Living now God's new creation.**

**Christ, your coming and your hosting
Gives us place at widening table
Now embracing world and neighbour
Spirit strong, by love enabled.**

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Prayers of the People

One: Bread of Life

**All: Help us come down from our
hiding places and welcome you.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom
come, thy will be done on earth as it is
in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, for ever and
ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Generosity:

Prayer of Dedication

**Gracious God, we offer these gifts as a
sign of our gratitude for the bread of
life that sustains us. May these
offerings be used to feed the hungry,
welcome our neighbors, and spread
your love and justice throughout the
world. Bless both the giver and the
gift, that they may bear fruit for your
kin(g)dom. Amen**

Hymn: MV #182 Grateful

**Grateful for the life your give us,
thankful for your Holy Son,
Joyful in your Spirit flowing
over all, O God of Love,
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,
Thankful for your Holy Word,
Joyful in your mercy flowing,
we will praise you.**

You are more than we imagine,
Ancient, Holy, living Lord.
Even when we doubt your presence
You are faithful to your word

Refrain

May our lives proclaim your justice,
May our voices sing your praise.
May our hands work in your service
To the glory of your name.

Refrain

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Affirmation of Faith:

We believe all people, regardless of their past or position, are worthy of community and belonging. We believe Jesus calls us to break down barriers, share generously, and restore dignity to all, just as he did with Zacchaeus. We believe when we come together around a table, the transformative power of food and fellowship can heal divisions and create justice. We believe in sharing resources, lifting each other up, and ensuring everyone has enough. We believe all people are also worthy of safety and healthy boundaries around the table of Christ. May our actions reflect the abundance of God's love, creating a world where all are welcomed, safe, and have enough. Amen

Benediction:

Sung Benediction: The Lord Bless You

**The Lord bless you
The Lord keep you
May his love ever,
Always surround you,
Protect you and guide you,
In all that you do.
Our prayer for you.
Amen.**



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

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Church Family Ministry Team – Coleen Corbett, Lisa Folkins,
Shari Brenan

Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday 9:30 – 3:00

Announcements

April 6, 2025 5th Sunday of Lent.

Reader for this week: Erin Johnston

Reader for next week: Lisa Folkins

Greeter this week: Jean Thompson

Greeter next week: Harley and Linda

Tellers this week: Doug and Bonnie

Tellers next week: Shirley and Jo Ann

A/V this week: John

A/V next week: Lisa

Sunday 9:30 Coffee Time via Zoom
10:00 Sunday Service

Tuesday 6:30 CFMT

Wednesday 6:00 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday 1:30 St. Paul's Ladies

Next Sunday 9:30 Coffee Time via Zoom
10:00 Sunday Service via
Facebook and Zoom

Post service Palm Sunday get together

Easter Week: **Maundy Thursday** service at 6pm
with communion

Good Friday service at 10am

Sonrise Service Easter Sunday at
7:30 not 8 as in the letter. At the
park next to where the Ultramar
used to be. Raining? At the church
instead.

Breakfast following the Sonrise
service at 8am

Easter Egg hunt main floor and
basement from 9:30 to 10:00

Sunday service with communion at 10am.

Interested in joining the membership of St.
Paul's either through confirmation or transfer of
membership? Please contact Rev. Jenn.

Good News and Caring Corner: If you have
some good news you want shared with the
congregation, let us know and we'll pass it on. If
there is someone you think should have a card
from the caring corner for whatever reason, please
see the attendant in the corner, or call the office.

Offering Envelopes are available at the office or on the table in the entryway. If you are using them for the first time, be sure to have your name and address on the first one so we can get you your tax receipt at the end of the year.

Grocery Cards: It's an easy fundraiser as we all buy groceries so why not do it via grocery cards as it results in income for the church. We will be available (as we are able) before and after church for you to purchase cards. As well, cards are available for purchase in the office during regular business hours.

Contact information: Please keep your contact information and addresses updated so we can get information out to you. An inaccurate address may lead to delays for tax receipts. Thanks.

A reminder that you may be on our video presentation as we are broadcasting our services on Facebook.

Join in or listen to any of the Zoom calls via Internet using the link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/179750852?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/179750852?pwd=7IAYtPHcGTE)

[pwd=7IAYtPHcGTE](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/179750852?pwd=7IAYtPHcGTE)

If you know of anyone needing help, please contact the office or Rev. Jenn Brown