

March 16th, 2025 Second Sunday of Lent.

Thought to ponder: *Our spiritual hunger pangs are but our response to the aroma of the fresh bread of life that Christ has provided for us.*

Prelude: El Shaddai (God Almighty)

Welcome

Announcements, Life & Work of the Church

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: Calling all who are hungry for the goodness of life!

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

One: Come with empty pockets and open hands!

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

One: Let us gather from all walks of life, celebrating in unity our common needs and singular purpose.

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

Hymn: VU #460 All Who Hunger

**All who hunger, gather gladly;
 holy manna is our bread.
 Come from wilderness and wandering.
 Here, in truth, we will be fed.
 You that yearn for days of fullness,
 all around us is our food.
 Taste and see the grace eternal.
 Taste and see that God is good.**

**All who hunger, never strangers;
 seeker, be a welcome guest.
 Come from restlessness and roaming.
 Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
 We that once were lost and scattered
 in communion's love have stood.
 Taste and see the grace eternal.
 Taste and see that God is good.**

**All who hunger, sing together;
 Jesus Christ is living bread.
 Come from loneliness and longing.
 Here, in peace, we have been led.
 Blest are those who from this table
 live their lives in gratitude.
 Taste and see the grace eternal.
 Taste and see that God is good.**

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Gathering Prayer

**God, our mother hen, we gather
 beneath your ever-expanding wings to
 see how you will meet us today.**

Though we grow and mature, we cannot outgrow your love. Though our belief grows more complex, your mysteries always outpace our imaginations. Help us grow and mature today as we worship, delighting in new understanding and greater depth of meditation. Cause our hearts, empowered by your Spirit, to expand like dough becoming bread. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

and ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Often... commit ourselves to God's ever-expanding purposes.

All: God Most High, who knows the highest heights and deepest valleys of this universe, we confess we have limited your work because of our small thinking. While you long for the bread of life to expand and nourish all creation, our fears and worries keep us contained. While you long to create kin(g)doms of peace and reconciliation, we draw lines between us. While you make space for everyone, we worry about sharing too much or being too vulnerable. While you search tirelessly for lost lambs, we focus our concern inward on our own issues. Forgive us for our small

**perspective, and open our minds to
the big ideas you have for our future.**

-Silence-

God's Grace

All: Amen

Children's time: God's love is always growing

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 13: 18-21, 31-35

Ministry of Music: Blessed be Your Name

Reflection: Bread for Growth

Hymn: MV #194 Bread of Life, Feed My Soul

Bread of life, feed my soul,

as the presence of the

Spirit makes me whole.

Bread of life, fill my heart

with the grace and mercy you impart.

**I have heard your voice calling,
 "Come, my friend, and share
 in the feast that is laid out for you
 to show how much I care."**

Bread of life, help me live
 a life as pure and true as Jesus did.
 Bread of life, help me see
 the boundless love of Christ
 for you and me.

Refrain

Bread of life, feed my soul,
 as the presence of the
 Spirit makes me whole.
 Bread of life, fill my heart
 with the grace and mercy you impart.

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Prayers of the People

One: With your guidance and grace

All: may your kin(g)dom grow.

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

Generous and gracious God, help us steward these gifts with imagination and a spirit of abundance. May a little go a long way as you inspire us to share what we have with those in need. Teach us how to use the resources we have to thrive in this world of scarcity. Amen.

Hymn: VU #424 May the God of Hope

May the God of hope
go with us every day,
Filling all our lives
with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice
speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope
to every land and race.

**Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

May the God of healing free the
earth from fear,
freeing us for peace,
both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love
keep our commitment clear,
to a world restored,
to human life renewed.

Refrain

Words Alvin Schutmaat Music: Argentine folk melody
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Affirmation of Faith:

We believe the kin(g)dom of God is like baker's yeast, thorough and unstoppable, spreading and rising over time. We believe the bread of life is enough for all creation, enough for the hungry, the weak, and the poor. We believe Jesus is the bread of life, broken and shared with all who will receive it. We believe the bread of life cannot be limited to our finite imaginations. The bread of life is making all things new. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Benediction:**Sung Benediction: Irish Blessing**

**May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
And the rain fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
And until we meet again
May the good Lord hold you
In the palm of his hand
And until we meet again
And until we meet again
May the good Lord hold you
In the palm of his hand**



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

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

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

Announcements

March 16th, 2025 2nd Sunday of Lent.

Reader for this week: Brenda

Reader for next week: Muriel

Greeter this week: Eunice

Greeter next week: Muriel and John

Tellers this week: Harley and Linda

Tellers next week: Susan and Lori

A/V this week: Lisa

A/V next week: John

Sunday 9:30 Coffee Time via Zoom

10:00 Sunday Service

Wednesday 6:00 Choir Rehearsal

Next Sunday 9:30 Coffee Time via Zoom

10:00 Sunday Service via

Facebook and Zoom

AGM after the service. There will be 3 vacant positions to fill on the board. Nominations will be taken from the floor. The AGM will be café style. Please bring some cookies, treats or snacks.

A Lenten Program is available: if you would like a copy of the book 31 short spiritual practices, please contact the office to get your copy. It can be electronic or printed.

Minutes from the board will be posted on the bulletin board by the sanctuary doors as they are approved.

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 Brow