

March 8, 2026 Third Sunday in Lent

Thought to ponder: *"The smallest seed of faith is better than the largest fruit of happiness."* - Henry David Thoreau

Welcome**Announcements, Life & Work of the Church****Prelude: We Are the World****Acknowledgement of the Territories:****Christ Candle Lighting:****Call to Worship:**

One: Come into God's presence, you who imagine
and you who seek, you who disrupt and you
who repair.

All: By the Spirit, we gather in hope.

One: Come into God's abundance, you of great
faith, and you who grasp at crumbs; you
who resist, and you who persist.

**All: In Christ, we gather and are
transformed.**

One: Come into God's presence, singing for joy and
for justice; bringing prayer and worship,
your most faithful acts of resistance.

All: To God be the glory! We gather to praise!

Hymn: VU #232 Joyful Joyful We Adore You
Joyful, joyful we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,

**Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.**

**All your works with joy surround you,
Earth and heaven reflect your rays,
Stars and angels sing around you,
Centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
Sound their praise eternally.**

**You are giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
Let your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.**

**Mortals join the mighty chorus
Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
Joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.**

Gathering Prayer:

Compassionate God, you listen to the cries of all your children and are quick to respond with mercy. As Jesus' heart was opened by the pleading of a neighbor in need, open our hearts to the sighs and longings of our world. Teach us to be courageous in faith, speaking up for justice and persisting in hope that makes all things new. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Confessional Prayer and Assurance:

One: Siblings in Christ, ... family members with dignity.

All: We have used dehumanizing language or stereotypes. We have been critical when we should have been encouraging. We have told lies when we should have been honest with hard truths.

We have excluded people when we should have widened the invitation. Forgive us for the ways that we have failed our neighbors, friends, and family with unkind words. Amen.

Silence is kept

Grace of God:

Passing the Peace:

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Time for Young at Heart:**The Canaanite Woman** (narrative)**Hymn: TLUS #78 Trust These Words**

**Trust these words:
 You are forgiven!
 Through Christ's mercy,
 Broken hearts can be restored;
 Trust these words:
 You are forgiven!
 Live in peace, beloved,
 Know you are adored;
 Trust these words,
 Trust these words,
 Trust these words.**

**Live these words:
 We are forgiven!
 Through God's mercy
 Broken lives can be restored;
 Trust these words:
 We are forgiven!
 Live in grace and peace, oh,
 Love and serve the Lord;
 Trust these words,
 Trust these words,
 Trust these words.
 Trust these words.**

Words and Music: Lisa Waites Reprinted under OneLicense A-725110

Prayer of Illumination:**Scripture:****Numbers 27:1-11****Matthew 15:21-28**

Ministry of Music: Stand On The Rock

Reflection: Holy Confrontation

Hymn: VU #664

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

**What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.**

**Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Christ the Saviour is our refuge;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do our friends despise, forsake us?
Are we tempted to despair?
Jesus' strength will shield our
weakness,
And we'll find new courage there.**

Prayers of the People:

One: Holy One,

All: hear our prayer of thanksgiving.

One: Holy One,

All: hear our prayer born of struggle.

One: Holy One,

All: hear the prayer of our hearts.

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 forever and ever.
Amen.**

Invitation to Generosity:**Prayer of Dedication:**

**Generous God, we bring our gifts
before you and your church like tiny
seeds from a dandelion. Send out
these gifts on the mighty wind of your
Spirit, bringing growth, bearing fruit,
and nourishing both our faith
community and our neighbors. May
each gift of every size bloom with your
holy imagination. Amen.**

Hymn: VU #684**Make Me a Channel of Your Peace**

Make me a channel of your peace:

Where there is hatred,

let me bring your love;

Where there is injury,

your healing power,

And where there's doubt,

true faith in you:

**O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.**

Make me a channel of your peace:

Where there's despair in life,

let me bring hope;

Where there is darkness, only light;

And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Refrain

Make me a channel of your peace.

It is in pardoning

that we are pardoned,

In giving to all that we receive,

And in dying

that we're born to eternal life.

Music: Sebastian Temple Reprinted under OneLicense A-725110

Affirmation of Faith:

One: Let us affirm our faith as we participate in the holy work of imagination.

All: We believe in the dignity of human beings as image bearers and dearly beloved children of God. We believe all people carry God-given dignity—across every age, race, ethnicity,

gender, sexual orientation, language, accent, documentation status, refugee status, appearance, ability, illness, relationship status, social media following, family history, criminal background, education, geographical location, clothing, wealth or poverty, religion, hobbies, possessions, parents or non-parents, mental health, height, weight, hairstyle, tattoos, piercings, talents, or weaknesses. We believe human dignity is inescapable and irrevocable.

Benediction:

Sung Benediction:

Sung to the tune of Kum Ba Yah

**Hear our cry, O God,
hear our prayer.**

**Heal the ones who know
deep despair.**

**Mend the broken ones
from their pain.**

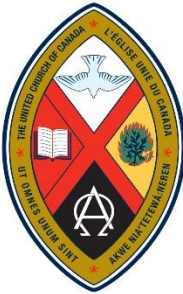
Make them, whole again.

**God, we need you too,
so we pray.**

**Give us life and health
every day.**

**Give us joy and peace,
trusting you.**

In Christ, make us new.



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

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

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:30 – 3:00

Announcements

March 8, 2026 3rd Sunday of Lent

Reader for this week: Elaine

Reader for next week: Brenda

Greeter this week: Bob and Sue

Greeter next week: Lee and

Tellers this week: Bob C. and Brenda

Tellers next week: Linda and Sharon

A/V this week: John

A/V next week: Lisa

Sunday 9:30 Coffee Time via Zoom

10:00 Service

Coffee and conversation after the service

Tuesday 6:30 Board meeting

7:00 Fundraising

Wednesday 6:00 Choir rehearsal

Thursday 1:30 St. Paul's Ladies

Friday 6:30 Youth Group.

Next Sunday 9:30 Coffee Time via Zoom

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.

Easter Messy Church March 26 at 5:45 in the Fellowship Hall

Palm Sunday: March 29

Maundy Thursday service: 6pm, April 2 in chapel

Good Friday service: 10am April 3

Sunrise service: April 5 at 6:45am at the gazebo in Sunnyside park across from where the Ultramar used to be. Breakfast to follow.

Easter service with communion at 10am.

VBS will be June 22-25. This year's theme: [Snowball Mountain Challenge](#)

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: We will be available (as we are able) before and after church for you to purchase cards and 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

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