

St. Paul's United Church

*Back to Basics: Tithing, Giving of our Very Selves
Scouts & Guides Sunday*

10:30 a.m February 19th, 2017

* Please stand as you are able, sit as you prefer *

Prelude

We Gather in Community

*Greeting (Responsive):

Here, we come into the presence of the Lord.

Today, we declare that we will claim what has been promised by our God.

Here, we bring our offerings from the gifts we have received.

Today, we thank the Almighty for all we have been given; and we offer our praise with joy.

*Introit:

O Canada

VU 524

O Canada! Our home and native land!

True patriot love in all thy sons command.

With glowing hearts we see thee rise, the True North strong and free!

From far and wide, O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

God keep our land glorious and free!

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

*Call to Worship (Responsive):

In our worship, God calls us to bring all that we are; all that we have; all that we hope for; and all that we can be...

And commit them to God in grateful thanksgiving.

Let us recommit ourselves to God's purposes, who gave us the gift of life itself, and all that it holds.

Let us worship God!

Welcome & Announcements

Prayer of Approach and Confession (Unison):

We come to encounter yet again a sense of your presence in worship, O God, longing to be at one with your Spirit, yet hindered by the goods and possessions that necessarily occupy so much of our thought and effort. Too much of our time is spent, we know, in concern for obtaining what we still do not have, or with holding on grimly to what we have been able to amass. Our vision becomes shortened and narrow, and we fail to see the riches that, within ourselves, we know have been showered upon us. Forgive our hungering for wealth and power as though they were the source of our security, rather than your love and grace. Forgive our clinging to money, as though it were an end in itself, rather than a mere symbol of the hours and days of our lives, lived out in the strength and ability that came from your hand. Confront us with a new vision of ourselves as a people richly blessed and heavily endowed with gifts for the renewal of our world. Set us free to open our hands in love, that our resources may build a better world, where peace and love are dominant chords in a great symphony of life lived in harmony with your will, for us and for all people everywhere, sons and daughters of your love. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

*Hymn of Praise:

Let All Things Now Living

VU 242

Scouts and Guides

Time for the Young at Heart

We Listen for the Voice of the Spirit

Scripture: Deuteronomy 26:1-3

One: Herein is wisdom

All: Thanks be to God

Anthem

Scripture: Mark 12:41-44

Rev. Richard

One: This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Praise be to you O Christ

Message First Things First

Rev. Richard

Affirmation of Faith: Article IV. Of Creation and Providence.

We believe that God is the creator, upholder, and governor of all things; that He is above all His works and in them all; and that He made man in His own image, meet for fellowship with Him, free and able to choose between good and evil, and responsible to his Maker and Lord.

***Hymn of Praise:** Jesus Christ is Waiting

VU 117

We Respond to the Spirit

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

***Dedication Verse:** Christ Has No Body

MV 171

**[Refrain]: Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.**

**Here on this earth, yours is the work,
To serve with the joy of compassion.**

**Through every gift, give back to those in need,
As Christ was blessed, so now be a blessing,
With every gift a benediction be to the people of God. [Refrain]**

***Dedication Prayer (Unison):**

These are our gifts, O God, but they are more than just paper and coin. They represent our love and care for one another, and our passion for you. They are symbolic of our time and talents spent in service to You, Your kingdom, and to one another. Bless them. Bless us. Bless the work of our hands and feet, and guide us ever closer to you.

AMEN

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

***Hymn of Praise:** There's a Wideness to God's Mercy

VU 271

***Blessing and Sending Forth (Responsive):**

We are called to give our wholes selves over to the work of the kingdom.

We are your hands and feet, O God, work in and through us.

Our time, our talents, our love and our lives.

All are gifts from you, O Wonderous Creator. Lead us from here that we may share all that we are with your children.

***Choral Closing:**

May God's Sheltering Wings

MV 214

May God's sheltering wings,

God's gathering wings protect you.

May God's nurturing arms,

God's cradling arms sustain you,

and hold you in God's love, and hold you in God's love.

Postlude

We invite you to stay and enjoy the postlude