

St. Paul's United Church

September 17th, 2017

Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.
At the points marked * - those who are able are invited to stand.

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Organ Prelude: Pastorale Haynes

Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Lighting of the Christ Candle & Introit: MV 1 (vs 5)

Welcome & Announcements

***Gathering Hymn:** Come In, Come In and Sit Down VU 395

Call to Worship (Responsive):

We are called by God to share the great story of amazing love,

We are called to follow where God leads, to live as God lives, to love as God loves, to preach the Good news of God's kingdom of justice and joy.

If we are to truly share in this story, we need to bring ourselves - all that we are, all that we have, all that we wish to be -before God.

As we come to worship may we invite God into the stories of our lives, the good and the bad, so we may see God is leading us, strengthening our faith and broadening our vision.

Come now, offering yourself before God in prayer and praise as we worship together.

Prayer of the Day

Story Time for the Young and Young at Heart

* **Family Hymn:** I Can Feel You Near Me God MV 48

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Today's Scripture: Genesis 21:1-3, 22:1-14 Eve Walker
Herein is wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem In the Shadow of Your Wings Medema & Harris
Sermon God is asking what? Rev. Michelle

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* **Hymn:** There's a Wideness in God's Mercy VU 271

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music Fairest Lord Jesus

Dedication Verse: VU 541

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures high and low.

Give thanks to God in love made known.

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

*** Prayer of Dedication**

*** Reaffirmation of Faith** VU 918

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

*** Closing Hymn:** Your Hand O God Has Guided VU 274

SENDING FORTH

*** Commissioning & Benediction (Responsive):**

God sends us into the world,

But does not leave us on our own

As we seek to follow faithfully

God provides all that we need

Stand firm in God's love, with open hearts and open eyes,

for God will show us the way to life.

Go now into the world, so full of challenges, knowing that the God who rolled back the red sea, the God who made water flow from rocks, the God who provided a ram in the middle of the desert, has made new ways for you through Christ our Lord. Go now to live this truth surrounded by the love of God, embraced by the grace of Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Amen

Choral Closing: Behold MV 115

Behold! Behold, I make all things new

beginning with you, and starting from today.

Behold! Behold, I make all things new,

my promise is true for I am Christ the way.

Ministry of Music: Allegro Handel

We invite you to stay and enjoy the Ministry of Music

Announcements

Greeters:

Ushers:	Left Side:	Linda & Alastair Lamont
	Center:	Isabel Green
	Right Side:	Tammy Coughlan & Dean Jones
	Upstairs:	Barb & Mel McGuigan
Coffee:		Congregational Board
Coffee:	Sept. 24	Worship Committee

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday is coming back! On September 24th all are encouraged to share their faith and bring a friend to worship. Following the service of worship there will be a pot luck lunch in Fraser Memorial Hall. Bring your favourite comfort food to share, but most importantly come and join in the fellowship.

Today in Sunday School: September unit: Judges and Kings. Anchor Point: We listen to God. Bible Verse for the month: Samuel was the last judge of Israel because the Israelites asked God for a king. Israel followed in the paths of many nations by trusting in human authority and allowing it to overshadow trust in God. King Saul suffered failure and tragedy but a new leader was anointed who would lead Israel to follow God's plans.

A **congregational meeting** will be held on October 1st following the worship service

Prayers in the Parlour: This summer we started having weekly prayers on Wednesday mornings in the ladies parlour. All are encouraged to come and pray for whatever is on their hearts and minds—no experience required! Prayer begins at 10 am every Wednesday Morning.

Seniors Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. In the Ladies Parlour, Chris Grant will lead this group through the book "Aging Gracefully"

UCW will meet at 10 am in the Ladies Parlour on Monday, September 18th. Please answer Roll Call with protein products in flip top cans for the Brown Bag Lunches. New members are always welcome. Please come and join us to see what UCW is all about.

Spirit Sisters will be exploring what does it look like to follow Jesus using the book ***Bullseye: Aiming to Follow Jesus***. We will have our first meeting at the church on Monday, September 18th, 7-8 pm. All women of the congregation and community are invited to join us as we explore what a Christian life looks like through 6 markers - spiritual practices, worship, community, serving, giving and sharing Christ.

Men's Conversation Group will be starting again on Wednesday, September 20th 7 P.M. in the **Ladies' Parlour**. Our focus for the fall will be *Bullseye*, a study resource that maps out six markers, including spiritual practices, serving, giving, and sharing, that are signs of a Christian life. Men of the congregation, wherever you are on your faith journey, are invited to join in this study and conversation time.

Youth Group will be meeting by-weekly this fall starting on Friday September 22nd from 6:30-9pm, we will meet at the church for games, popcorn and video exploration of spiritual gifts. Youth are also invited to join the new Sunday morning class for grade 5 and up where the program will be exploring a variety of topics including why do we do what we do in church, how do we respond to world events around us, and practices that help us deepen our practices of God.

UCW Rummage Sale: Saturday, September 30th from 9-12. Your items may be dropped off anytime, Looking for clean, wearable clothing, bedding, small household articles, lamps, children's toys, jewelry, glass ware, no large appliances, TVs, or computers please.

Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers, a Fredericton group supporting the unsung heroes of Africa, the grandmothers raising children whose parents have died as a result of Aids. We work with two national groups who are engaged in direct support at the grassroots level, the Stephen Lewis Foundation and Help Lesotho. We focus on 3 main purposes, Raising funds to meet the needs of African grandmothers and the children in their care, Raising Local Awareness and Building Solidarity among African and Canadian grandmothers. All who want to learn more or who would like to join the group, please call Sue Short 455-5377.

Bulletin Announcements: Please ensure that all announcements reach Cathy in the church office (458-1183) by Wednesday morning to be included in the following Sunday bulletin. Many thanks—Cathy

Volunteers are needed to help fold bulletins - once a month for approximately 1 hour. If you are able to help please contact Cathy Simpson in the office at 458-1183. We put 2 people on each team so if you have a friend who would also like to help it would be greatly appreciated.—many thanks, Cathy

Karon Croll, Contralto, and Ruth Nieboer, Piano, with guest Alexis Ervin, Soprano, will present **A Seesaw of Song – from Bach to Britten** on Sunday, September 24, 7:00 pm at Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 512 Charlotte Street. Along with sacred selections, the program will feature composers JS Bach, Franz Schubert, Ralph Vaughan Williams and a Benjamin Britten arrangement of a playful English folksong. Admission by free will offering at the door with reception to follow in the Church Hall. Please join us for an enjoyable hour of musical entertainment.

BOOK SALE at Wilmot United Church on October 5th and 6th from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Books for everyone: Biography, Science, Health, Travel, Fiction, Non-fiction, Cookbooks, Children's books,