

# St. Paul's United Church

March 22nd, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Lent

Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.

Mission Statement: To glorify God through Worship, proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and serving others in Christ's name.

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*I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.*

*-Psalm 89:1-2*

## THE PEOPLE GATHER

### Prelude

#### Greeting (Responsive):

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

**And also with you.**

#### Lenten Liturgy (Responsive):

We stand in the light of Christ,

**Where we are revealed not only to God, but to ourselves.**

We look at ourselves and know.

**We know the ways that we have made God second in our lives.**

**We know how often we have failed to look beyond ourselves.**

**We see how our fear and anxiety cause our vision to narrow, how we forget to stop and consider God's plan for us and the needs of our neighbour. We acknowledge that too often we are driven by selfish desires, think only of ourselves and put ourselves first and foremost in our thoughts and actions. When we stop to reflect, we know this isn't the way God intended life to be. God calls us to live in relationships where others are just as important as ourselves. O Lord, In our brokenness we struggle to follow you...**

*(silent reflection)*

The light that reveals who we are, also reveals a path at our feet.

**We walk that path with the assurance that God finds us in our sin, embraces us, and loves us to wholeness in Christ.**

**Reflection Question:** When has a choice you made hurt those around you?

**Sung liturgy response:** Take O Take me As I am (X2) MV 85

**Take, O take me as I am.**

**Summon out what I shall be**

**Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

### Welcome & Announcements

**Gathering Hymn:** We Are Pilgrims VU 595

**We are pilgrims on a journey. Fellow travellers on the road.**

**We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**

**Sister, let me be your servant. Let me be as Christ to you.**

**Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night time of your fear.**

**I will hold my hand out to you; speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping. When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.**

**I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony**

**Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, let me be your servant. Let me be as Christ to you.**

**Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

#### \* Call to Worship (Responsive):

Come, take your rest this day

**Lord, free us from the stresses we have endured this week.**

Come, put your minds at ease.

**Lord, ease the burdens and frustrations of our lives.**

We Come to remember that life is more the tension, stress and burdens of our week. For we are called to love our God

**With all our heart and soul, All of our mind and strength**

So we worship!

### Opening Prayer

**Hymn:** Will Your Anchor Hold VU 675  
**Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?  
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife,  
when the strong tides lift and the cables strain,  
will your anchor drift or firm remain?**

**Refrain:**

**We have an anchor that keeps the soul  
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,  
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,  
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!**

**It will surely hold in the straits of fear,  
when the breakers tell and the reef is near;  
though the tempest rave and the wild winds blow,  
not an angry wave shall our bark o'erflow? R**

**It will surely hold in the floods of death,  
when the waters cold chill our latest breath;  
on the rising tide you can never fail  
while our hopes abide within the veil. R**

**When our eyes behold, through the gathering night,  
the city of gold, our harbour bright,  
we shall anchor fast by the heavenly shore,  
with the storms all past for evermore. R**

**Prayer of Longing (Unison):**

**We cry out Lord, from the depth of our heart, we cry out to you as we watch everything we know fall away. We long for stability, in a world that has been turned upside down. We yearn for answers, as we find ourselves overrun by questions. As we are forced to be separate from each other, we desire connection. Amidst the uncertainty and fear created by this pandemic, we long for peace in our souls. We cry out to you O Lord, from the depth of our souls. For we are your children and we need you. Come to us in our fear, loneliness and worry. Speak to our heart and bring us peace. This we pray in Christ's name. Amen**

**Response:** Don't Be Afraid (x2) MV 90  
**Don't be afraid, my love is stronger,  
my love is stronger than your fear.  
Don't be afraid, my love is stronger,  
and I have promised, promised to be always near.**

**A New Creed:**

**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.**

**Illumination Verse:** I love to tell the Story (vs 3, refrain)VU 343

**I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.**

**I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

**Today's Scripture:** Mark 12:28-44

This is the Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**Message**

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn:** When Hands Reach out MV 169

When hands reach out beyond divides and hope is truly found,  
Each chain of hate will fall away and bells of peace shall sound,  
And bells of peace, of peace shall sound, and bells of peace shall sound,  
Each chain of hate will fall away and bells of peace shall sound.

When fear no longer guides our steps and days of war are done,  
God's dream for all shall live anew; our hearts will heal as one,  
Our hearts will heal, will heal as one, our hearts will heal as one,  
God's dream for all shall live anew; our hearts will heal as one.

When race and creed blind us no more, a neighbour's face we'll see,  
And we shall dance the whole world round, for love will set us free,  
For love, yes love will set us free, for love will set us free,  
And we shall dance the whole world round, for love will set us free.

**Moment for Community:**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory**

**Dedication Verse:** God of all Good (vs 1) VU 539

God of all good, our gifts we bring to you,  
Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill.  
Tokens of love and pledges brought anew  
That our whole life is offered to Your will.

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison):**

What we have to give God, might not be large, but you know the value and meaning in each offering. For you see our hearts and the impact that our offerings have. Take the offerings that we present this week, through PAR, Canada Helps, and offering envelopes in the mail. Bless this vital support of your ministry. And may a multitude of blessings flow to our community from them. This we pray. Amen.

**Prayers of the People & 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,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

**SENDING FORTH**

**Closing Hymn:** Make me a channel VU 684

Make me a channel of your peace:  
Where there is hatred, let me bring you love;  
Where there is injury, your healing pow'r,  
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

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.

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.  
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.

**Commissioning (Responsive):**

Filled with the knowledge that God is with us even now

**we can step back into the changes around us secure in the  
knowledge we are not alone**

We leave this worship remembering are called to Love God with all our  
heart, soul, mind and strength

**we are also called to love our neighbors as ourselves**

Go from this time of worship, to show that love in large and small ways,

**We go from this worship with peace to share and hope to spread.**

**Benediction**

**Choral Closing:** Walk with me

VU 649

**Walk with me, I will walk with you  
and build land that God has planned  
where love shines through.**

**Postlude**