

St. Paul's United Church

May 2nd – The Season of Easter

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.

GATHERING TOGETHER

Prelude

Greeting (Responsive):

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 Christ Candle:

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship (Responsive):

When our hearts are open,

when our egos trust enough to be at rest,

when we invite the Divine into our lives,

not to do our bidding,

but to seek the ways of wisdom, She comes—

as breath, as fire, as inspiration, as calm stillness,

as disturbing holy presence...

Let us light our candle, let us open our hearts,

let us welcome Ruah, the Spirit of God.

Written by Juanita Austin, Gathering, Pentecost1 2016, p.27

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Triune God, we offer the prayers of our hearts to you this day. We know that your love for us is never-ending, and that you are with us always. Help us, God, to see you as you are: our loving parent. Help us to hear your Word and find in it a place of refuge. God, we may be wealthy in material things, but we know that our true wealth is in your love for us. Help us once again, God, to be your faithful people, as we journey through this life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Written by Allister Rose, Gathering, Pentecost1 2016, p.27

Hymn: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy VU271
There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such gracious judgement given.

There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that Christ has shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.

Troubled souls, why will you scatter
like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will you wander
from a love so true and deep?

For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

Holy One, Let us hear your word for us in the reading from John's gospel. And, having heard may we choose to act in faith.

Today's Scripture: Acts 15: 1-18

This is the Word of our God.

Praise be to you, O Creator.

Message Widening Horizons: The Limitless Nature of Spiritual Development,

Anthem

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

We are embraced by God who loves us.

We are made whole by Christ who heals us.

We are set free by the Holy Spirit who empowers us.

We offer all we have and even our very selves.

Thanks be to God, who works great things in us.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: In Christ there is no East or West VU606
In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great family of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

In him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, people of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
all children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
All Christ-like souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth."

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive)

And now in the future we go,

may God's holy name be praised!

Remembering how God has helped us,

committed to share in Christ's ministry of helping one another.

Sailing on the winds of the Spirit into the world,

We go thankful for a faith that calls us and leads us.

Amen.

Benediction (Unison):

May the strength of God sustain us; may the power of God preserve us; may the hands of God protect us; may the way of God direct us; may the love of God go with us this day (night) and forever. Amen.

Postlude

St. Paul's United Contact Information

Church Office phone number is 458-1183

Email is stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com

Eric Hotte Church Manager is in the church Sunday through Thursday. The office would love to hear from you!

Etransfer is an easy way of giving wherever you are physically from your phone or computer, this helps to support the work and ministry of the church. **Etransfer Email** is stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com

Emergency Pastoral care for **May** it is Bev Sharpe 506-471-4326

