

# St. Paul's United Church

JUNE 20, 2021 – Indigenous Sunday/Father's Day

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.**

#### Land Acknowledgement:

#### Lighting of the Christ Candle

#### Welcome & Announcements

#### Call to Worship (Responsive):

God has called us to be people of love.

**God didn't mean the "syrupy" stuff of movies and novels.**

Truly loving can sometimes be difficult

**Yet we are called to reach beyond the difficulty with compassion.**

We come to remember and learn from Jesus, the great love

**We come to offer thanks and praise.**

In all we do, God is with us, guiding us, correcting us, helping us.

**Thanks be to God for God's faithful presence. AMEN.**

-Prayer adapted from Ministry Matters worship connection Oct 25 2020

#### Opening Prayer (Responsive/Movement prayer)

##### *-facing east Parking lot side of Narthex*

From the East, the direction of the rising sun,  
we receive peace and light and wisdom and knowledge.

**We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

##### *-facing south towards Fraser hall*

From the South comes warmth, guidance,  
and the beginning and the end of life.

**We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

##### *-facing west towards the Church Office*

From the West comes the rain,  
purifying waters, to sustain all living things.

**We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

##### *-facing north towards York side of Narthex*

From the North comes the cold and mighty wind,

the white snows, giving us strength and endurance.

**We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

##### *-facing upward*

From the heavens we receive darkness and light,  
the air of your breath, and messages from your winged creatures.

**We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

##### *-facing downward*

From the earth we come and to the earth we will return.

**We are grateful for your creation, Mother Earth, O God.**

May we walk good paths, O God,  
living on this earth as brothers and sisters should;  
rejoicing in one another's blessing,  
sympathizing in one another's sorrows,  
and together with you, renewing the face of the earth.

**Amen.**

-Celebrate God's presence weekly worship – general

## HYMN

Come and Find the Quiet Centre

VU 374

Come and find the quiet center  
in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter,  
find the frame where we are freed:  
clear the chaos and the clutter,  
clear our eyes, that we can see  
all the things that really matter,  
be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us,  
cools the heat and slows the pace,  
God it is who speaks and names us,  
knows our being, face to face,  
making space within our thinking,  
lifting shades to show the sun,  
raising courage when we're shrinking,  
finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel,  
open to each other's pain,  
let our loves and fears unravel,  
celebrate the space we gain:  
there's a place for deepest dreaming,  
there's a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit's lively scheming  
there is always room to spare!

### Prayer of Confession (Unison):

**Merciful God, it isn't easy for us to follow the commandments of loving. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God and to love our neighbors. But we have allowed misunderstanding, fear, hatred, and prejudice to cloud our spirits, turning them away from those who need our love. We get wrapped up in our own thoughts and opinions, that we forget to deeply listen to those around us, becoming poor neighbors in the process. Truly loving others means we have to be vulnerable and that is scary. So too often we seek to control, dominate and demand that our neighbors and friends become just like us, so we can feel safe. Please forgive us for this foolishness and stubbornness. Give us the courage to be people who will care for others. Let us dedicate our lives in your service, always aware of your awesome love for us and your call to share that love with others. This we ask in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

-Prayer adapted from Ministry Matters worship connection Oct 25 2020

### Assurance of God's Love

**Today's Scripture:** Matthew 22:34–40

This is the Word of our God.

**Praise be to you, O Creator.**

**Message:** Being a Good Neighbour  
Preaching Reverend Michelle Armstrong

**Hymn:** When I Needed a Neighbour VU 600

When I needed a neighbour, were you there,  
were you there?

When I needed a neighbour, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there,  
were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
were you there?

I was cold, I was naked, were you there,  
were you there?

I was cold, I was naked, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
were you there?

When I needed a healer, were you there,  
were you there?

When I needed a healer, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
were you there?

Wherever you travel I'll be there,  
I'll be there,  
wherever you travel I'll be there.  
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
I'll be there.

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

#### Prayer of Dedication (Responsive):

Through the gifts we give, O God,  
**may all heed the voice of justice,  
hear the call to compassion,  
embrace the way of sharing,  
and know solidarity with the loving Christ. Amen.**

#### Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Hymn: O God of Every Nation VU 677

O God of every nation,  
of every race and land,  
redeem the whole creation  
with your almighty hand;  
where hate and fear divide us  
and bitter threats are hurled,  
in love and mercy guide us  
and heal our strife-torn world.

From search for wealth and power  
and scorn of truth and right,  
from trust in bombs that shower  
destruction through the night,  
from pride of race and station  
and blindness to your way,  
deliver every nation,  
eternal God, we pray.

Give strength to those who labour  
that all may find release  
from fear of rattling sabre,  
from dread of war's increase;  
when hope and courage falter,  
your still small voice be heard:

with faith that none can alter,  
your servants undergird.

Keep bright in us the vision  
of days when war shall cease,  
when hatred and division,  
give way to love and peace,  
till dawns the morning glorious  
when peace on earth shall reign  
and Christ shall rule victorious  
o'er all the world's domain.

### SENDING FORTH

#### **Commissioning and Benediction (Responsive)**

As God's united yet diverse peoples, we go to become neighbours  
to each other and to the earth.

**For in Christ we are all kin and We are called to be good  
neighbours.**

As we learn more, respect more, love more, we all can gain, not  
lose!

**We will open our hearts and remember to treat others as  
ourselves**

Postlude

#### *St. Paul's United Contact Information*

**Church Office phone** number is 458-1183

**Email** is [stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com)

**Emergency Pastoral care** Reverend Michelle Armstrong 506-259-  
7602

