

**St. Paul's United Church**  
**June 14, 2026**

**Welcome/Announcements**

**Land Acknowledgement:**

This morning, we acknowledge that this place where we gather is the traditional and treaty land of the Anishinabek and Haudenosaunee peoples. It is also connected to the histories of the Erie, Neutral, Wendat and Mississauga people. We are mindful of the rich culture, history, and spirituality of the First Peoples who inhabited and cared for this land for generations—long before the first settlers arrived here. We gather in deep gratitude for their past and ongoing hospitality as we continue to live together on their land. We also recognize the contributions Métis, Inuit, and other Indigenous Peoples have made in shaping and strengthening this region, the provinces, and Canada as a whole.

**We commit as a community of faith to continue to work to build relationships that are just and equitable for us all.**

With thankful and respectful hearts, we acknowledge that we are one in the Spirit.

**Moment of Silence**

**Prelude:** “This is God’s Wondrous World” – arr. Joel Raney

**Call to Worship:**

Come and give thanks to God

**God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

Let the people of St. Paul’s United say:

**God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

Let all of creation proclaim:

**God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

When we look to God in times of trouble,

**we know that better times lie ahead.**

So, why live in fear and worry about the future?

**Christ is always at our side.**

Why live with guilt or regret about the past?

**There is forgiveness and a new day to begin.**

We start today, as we hope to begin every day,

**with prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving.**

Come, let us worship together.

**Candle Lighting:**

With gratitude, we gather here

where the doors are open wide to all.

We come with open hearts and open minds,

thankful that we are children of the light.

**Christ is the light of the world.**

**Opening Hymn:** V.U. #232 “Joyful, Joyful We Adore You”

**Opening Prayer**

**Time with the Children**

**Scripture Reading:** Hebrew Scripture Genesis 18: 1-15  
*A son is promised to Abraham and Sarah*

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 22: 34-46

*Love God; love your neighbour as yourself*

**Musical Offering:** “Come and Sing a Song Unto the Lord”

– Dan Edwards Chancel Choir, Joyful Voices and

Andrew Smart, Soprano Saxophone

**Reflection:** “Trusting Our Anchors”

**Hymn:** MV #154 “Deep in Our Hearts”

**The Offering**

**Sung Offertory:** V.U. #543 “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

## Prayers of the People

### Dedication

#### Prayer of Dedication:

Loving and gracious God,  
we give you these gifts in the hope that  
through them your kin-dom might be realized,  
for your people gathered here,  
and also for others who need your touch.  
Through these gifts, you have our commitment  
to live as your people.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Hymn: "Build a Longer Table" (*from Then Let Us Sing*)

**Build a longer table, not a higher wall,  
Feeding those who hunger, making room for all.  
Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,  
Christ breaks walls to pieces, false divisions end.**

**Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;  
Where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.  
For any place where justice is denied,  
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.**

**Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence,  
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.  
When we embrace compassion more than fear,  
Christ tears down our fences; all are welcome here.**

**When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,  
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.  
So must our tables welcome those who roam.  
None can be excluded; all must find a home.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

The Spirit of God be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us open our hearts to God.

**We open them to God and one another.**

Let us give thanks to our God.

**All our thanks and all our praise!**

We awaken to God, the source of life.

**We lift our hearts in prayer.**

Spirit God, your breath is life, and your love is freedom.

Your Spirit moved across the waters, and all things came to be.

...

And so it is that on this day,

we give you praise and thanks for your many gifts,

joining with all your people that as one body we may proclaim your  
praise:

**O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.**

**All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

**Blessed is the One who comes in your name.**

In the midst of our thankfulness we remember Jesus.

...

Remembering your boundless love for us in Jesus Christ,

we offer you our praise, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do,

...

We gather these and all our prayers,

and bring them to you in Jesus' name, as we use his words that have  
shaped your church for generations:

**The Lord's Prayer** (*spoken*)

## **Communion**

### **Prayer After Communion**

**God of abundance, fed by your presence in this sacrament,  
send us out to touch your world with peace, justice,  
and compassion.**

**May all we meet be drawn to believe  
because they have encountered the living God through us.  
In the name of our Saviour, we pray. Amen**

**Closing Hymn:** V.U. #634 “To Abraham and Sarah”

### **Commissioning and Benediction**

**Choral Benediction:** “May You Run and Not Be Weary”

**Postlude:** “Toccata in Seven” – John Rutter