



July 16, 2023

## We Gather Together

<u>Prelude</u>	Tyson Kerr
<u>Welcome and Announcements</u>	Rev. Valerie Oden
<u>Introit</u>	<i>Gather Us In</i> MV 7
<u>Call to Worship</u>	<i>(Celebrate God's Presence)</i> Charles Hitschfeld, Lay Reader

One: God has given us this beautiful earth, all that grows, all that lives upon it.

**All: We gather here to give thanks for the fruits of the earth.**

One: God has given us breath to live and spirit to sing.

**All: We gather here to give thanks for the gift of life.**

One: God has brought us together as a community of care and worship.

**All: We gather here to grow in love as followers of Christ.**

Opening Prayer *(unison)* *(Celebrate God's Presence)*

**Source of life, as a gentle rain soaks the earth, may your peace and love fall upon us, bringing growth and life.**

**Soak into our innermost being.  
Till the soil of our hearts that we may receive you.  
Help us to linger in your presence,  
and send us out refreshed,  
ready to carry your peace to others. Amen.**

## Lighting the Christ Candle

\*Opening Hymn *For the Beauty of the Earth* VU 226

## We Listen for the Spirit Stirring

Scripture Readings Isaiah 55: 10-12; Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

Reflection "Good Soil" Rev. Valerie Oden

\*Hymn of Response *Each Blade of Grass* MV 37

Prayers of the People *(Sharing our Joys and Concerns)*

Prayer Hymn *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* VU 400

Silent, Personal Prayer

Pastoral Prayer, The Lord's Prayer

## We Respond with our Gifts and our Lives

Offering our Gifts / Offertory Tyson Kerr

*Offering plates and envelopes can be found in the narthex. Electronic gifts are welcome to either church. We give in gratitude for God's grace and in the hope that peace may spread to all.*

\*Closing Hymn *Sent Forth By God's Blessing* VU 481

\*Benediction

\*Musical Response *Walk with Me (Chorus only)* VU 649

Postlude Tyson Kerr

*\*denotes you are invited to stand as you are able if you wish*

"VU" refers to the red hardback hymnal *Voices United*

"MV" refers to the spiral bound songbook *More Voices*

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**Welcome** to this worship partnership with St. Paul's UC and Riverbend UC. Throughout July, we will worship together at St. Paul's UC. Throughout August, we will worship together at Riverbend UC. If you're new with us, we'd love to meet you. Feel free to introduce yourself to your neighbour in the pew or to the worship leaders.

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