

Today's bulletins are sponsored by Rev. Diane in loving memory of **Patricia Joan Rorke**, her beloved mom.

"Mom lived to be 91. Yes, she lived a long and faith-filled life but that doesn't negate the flood of sad and difficult emotions that wash over you when your mom takes her final breath. Mom brought me into the world, and I had the honour of helping to escort her into the next. You're leaving behind a trail of love mom and God's arms are open wide welcoming you home with a warm and tender embrace. We miss you already!"

Donations in Patricia's memory may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or to the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada.

"Death is not the extinguishing of the light but the blowing out the candle because the dawn has come."



Flowers in the sanctuary are in memory of Rev. Diane's dear mom, Patricia Joan Rorke, with sympathy from the Pastoral Care and Worship Teams.



Minister: The Rev. Diane Knowles
Pastoral Care Coordinator: Judy White
Director of Music: Kyung-A Lee
Church Administrator: Suzy Simson
Custodian: Judy Hall

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 **TRINITY**
UNITED CHURCH
The heart in the heart of Huntsville

WELCOME

We're glad
you're here!



Loving hearts.
Open minds.
Serving hands.

Welcome to Trinity
Sunday, September 22nd, 2024
Back to Church Sunday!
10 am

“Loving Hearts ... Open Minds ... Serving Hands.”

Be here! Be you! Belong!

*“It’s that time again! New beginnings. New challenges.
New accomplishments and new obstacles.
With God, we can do all things.”*

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude: *Kyung-A Lee*

Introit (new): *“Love will be my guide”* (Scott Kearns)

**In what I do,
in where I go,
through all my life,
I want to know -
that love will be my guide**

**In how I talk,
In what I choose,
In how I gain,
In how I lose -
Oh, love will be my guide.**

(Chorus)

**Love will guide me, love will lead,
I will follow in word and deed.**

Love will be my guide.

(Sing Twice)

Greeting

One: This is the day that God has made.

All: We will rejoice and give thanks in it.

One: Hungry for meaning?

All: Welcome home!

One: Thirsty for purpose?

All: Welcome home!

One: Yearning for comfort?

All: Welcome home!

One: Eager for serving, wanting to make a difference in this world?

All: Welcome home!

One: Welcome in friendship, welcome in faith, welcome in God’s transforming love!

Jesus didn’t exclude anybody and neither do we!

Whoever you are and wherever you may be on your spiritual journey we’re glad you’re here united in Spirit as we celebrate God’s presence together.

In our Announcements this morning

Joys/Concerns/God Moments?

“Wherever we go God is present also. We are in God and God is in us. God is here. In you. In me. In between.”

- Rev. Dawn

A Moment of Mediation

Call to Worship

One: Welcome back! Fall officially begins today and summer is now in our rearview mirrors. We gather today to re-start our spiritual engines and to re-ignite our faith traditions.

All: We are home again, and we are enfolded by love and our faith community.

One: We come to sing, to pray, to share, to tell our stories and to be inspired.

All: We come to learn how to become all the person God created us to be- our best selves- thriving and flourishing. We come to hear God speaking to us, empowering us to be an instrument of love and peace in the world.

One: Some of us come broken and weary, others come jubilant and whole. We all come together as God's people.

All: We come to celebrate God's presence together!

Opening Hymn: *"This Is God's Wondrous World"* (VU 296)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

One: As we light the Christ candle this morning may its flame remind us not only of the words Jesus taught us but also how he calls us to spread his light and love into our hurting and chaotic world. May our light shine brightly this coming year.

Opening Prayer

All: Welcoming God, we are grateful for our faith community and our time to come back to church and to one another.

Inspire our minds and guide our actions. Forgive us for the hurts we may have caused and for the kindnesses we have left undone. Restore us and embolden us to truly and fully live out who Jesus calls us to be. Amen.

Anthem: *"Take It to the Lord in Prayer"* (Joel Raney)

(A special welcome back to members of our choir. We missed you! We are looking forward to another year of beautiful music and song.)

Our Light Beamers Song

Look at me you'll see God's light,
shining in my eyes so bright.
Look at me you'll see God live,
in all the love that I can give.
God's light is in me.
God's light is in me.
God's light is in me.
For all the world to see.

Time with our Light Beamers - Welcome Back!

It's time to hear the stories of Jesus and how his stories teach us a better way to live. We strive to teach our Light Beamers to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, following his movement and mission of hope, forgiveness and love. During our time with our Light Beamers our goal is to teach them how to be their best selves so they can in return go into the world to help other people.

With God's help, may this be so.

Rev. Diane.

The Blessing of School Backpacks for the new school year

Remember in the new school year ahead- God always has your back! Our students are now invited to bring their school supplies and backpacks to the front of the church for a blessing.

The Blessing

One: As we begin this new school year, we gather together to bless these backpacks that will accompany our students on their journey of learning. They are more than a backpack to carry books and supplies. They are symbols of the challenges to be faced and the knowledge to be gained. We lift up each student here and ask your blessing upon them and their backpacks. Guard their hearts and their minds and help them to be kind to their classmates and respectful to their teachers. Remind them God walks with them and encourages them to be their best. In the name of our great Teacher. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR OUR GOD'S WORD

Today's Scripture Reader is Esther Murphy.

Prayer of Illumination

God of Grace may your word of truth abide deep within our souls. May we not only listen to God's Word but also live it out in our daily lives. True blessing comes when we apply God's Word to our lives.

Old Testament Reading: Proverbs 4: 18-27

(Our hearts, our thoughts will determine our actions and ultimately how our life story will unfold. God wants us to have hearts that are rich in goodness and in light.)

New Testament Reading Mark 7: 1-8; 14-15 and 20-23

(It's what's on the inside of us that counts. Jesus is not a fan of those who pretend to be something they are not.)

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to our hearts.

All: Amen.

The Minister's Message: "Inside Job."

Invitation for Offering

One: May God's word of truth implanted within us bloom into acts of loving faithfulness. May that word shape our lives so that we put our words into action by sharing what we have, our gifts with others.

Our morning tithes and offerings will now be received.

New Offering Hymn: "To Love More Truly"

To love more truly this is my goal.

To care more deeply with all my soul.

To show compassion, extend forgiveness,

to make a difference, I give my all.

Offering Prayer

God of light and beauty, every gift is from you. We offer you now the gifts of our minds and our hands. We offer what we have and who we are. Bless us and these gifts to give birth to a world of righteousness where none are in need and where all draw close to your healing and grace. Amen.

Hymn: "Prayer" (sung to the tune of "Rock of Ages Cleft for Me.")

God of life and God of love,

Holy Spirit, Blessed Dove,

**in each moment of my life,
in times joyful, times of strife,
listen to the words I share,
as I come to you in prayer.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

(A Paraphrase as found in VU page 916)

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo
through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In time of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: *"Would You Bless Our Homes and Families"*
(VU 556)

One: Go from this place feeling blessed and refreshed.
Go from this place in peace and may God's peace be in
your hearts.

The Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face.
And the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold us all in the palm of God's hand. Amen.

New Sung Blessing: *"We Will Go Out In Love"*

**We will go out in love!
We will go out and bring love to the world!
We will go out in love!
We will live God's love!
We will go out in love!**



*Join us in Trinity Hall following today's service for a hotdog
lunch, a cup of tea or coffee and fellowship time.*

Your hosts today: The Worship Team.



Spiritual thought for your week

As I live in the awareness of God and feel the healing
presence of my Creator, my soul is renewed and restored.
"As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you."
Isaiah 66: 13

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER STUFF!

The **Outreach Team** thanks you for helping to collect food for the Salvation Army and the Table Soup Kitchen, two of our local food banks.



➤ **September is CRACKERS!**

The **Outreach Team** will meet on Wednesday September 25th at 12:30 pm in the Arnold Room.

Trinity's **HOSPITALITY TEAM** Leader is Barb Dalziel. This team helps Trinity be "a place of community" where "our hearts are open to all". Implementing and encouraging opportunities for hosting events for the Trinity congregation and the broader community, along with coordinating with other teams as needed, are among the duties of this team. Your opportunity to get involved regularly is helping with Trinity's Sunday morning coffee! Talk to Barb!

Updating Trinity's Main Street Sign - the Directors and Team Leaders have been working through the process to update the sign with a new look including digital possibilities.

- Len Ross has been coordinating the information and Craig Fairley has proposed a design in keeping with our new 'branding'.
- We have met (early July) on the site (Main Street) to discuss positioning and Len has been contacting companies for quotes.
- The present sign will be repositioned possibly between the Town Hall and the church. You'll notice there is nothing there presently indicating we are 'Trinity'!

- A potential funding plan will include applying for a grant from the United Church of Canada, possible Trustee Memorial funds, a loan and fund raising/donations from our congregation.

With the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada next spring, it is hoped that we will have our new sign installed to celebrate this special year (next May 2025).

If you have questions, please ask either Len or me.

Companions on this journey!

Lynda Arnold

Looking ahead:

- **"Mug Up with the Minister"** - Thursday October 3rd at 10:00 am in the Arnold Room. To kick start our new season we are having a guest speaker who will be discussing nurturing faith in our children and grandchildren.
- **Inspirit Speaker Series** - Thursday October 17th in Trinity Hall. Speakers will be in person as well as visiting by Zoom because of travelling limitations. The series will run for four weeks beginning with dessert at 6:30 pm and speaker's presentation commencing at 7:00 pm. A list of speakers will be announced shortly.
- **Cornhole and pizza** returns to Trinity on Friday, October 18th! Mark your calendars now for this fun, entertaining evening. Sheila Ramshaw will be defending her trophy and hoping to hold onto it for another year! Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks.

