

St. Paul's United Church

Third Sunday of Advent "Joy"

10:30 a.m. December 11th, 2016

* Please stand as you are able, sit as you prefer *

Prelude

Noel Polonais

Guilmant

We Gather in Community

Greeting

Introit:

Sing Ding-a, Ding-a, Dong! Vocal Collective

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship/Candle Lighting Liturgy (Responsive):

Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses,

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Grant us vision to behold your glory.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion and grace.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:

Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

First & Second Purple Candle are Lit

Pink Candle Lit

Sung Response: Christ Be Our Light (vs 3 and refrain)

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,

Shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Prayer of Approach & Lord's Prayer

***Hymn of Praise:** Joy to the World

VU 59 (vs 1-3)

Time for the Young at Heart

***Hymn of Praise:** Joy to the World

VU 59 (vs 4)

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Upside-down God, you announce your coming with exciting news: the hungry will eat their fill, the oppressed will dance in newfound freedom; you proclaim your mission with hard news: the well fed will go hungry, the powerful will lose their status. We find ourselves squirming as we acknowledge our participation in structures that oppress and marginalize. Help us accept and proclaim the coming of your Son as truly good news. Give us the courage to set aside our privilege, and help bring about this upside-down world, where everyone can sing together for joy.

Assurance of God's Love

We Listen for the Voice of the Spirit

Sung Prayer for Illumination: O Radiant Christ Incarnate Word
O radiant Christ, incarnate Word, VU 84 (vs 1)
eternal love revealed in time:
come, make your home within our hearts,
that we may dwell in light sublime.

Scripture: Luke 1:39-55 Lynne Naugler & Rev. Richard
One: This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
All: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Anthem The Joyful News Trad. French, arr. Davis
Message We Are Not Alone: A Sermon about the Joy of Outcasts
***Hymn of Praise:** Angels from the Realms of Glory VU 36

We Respond to the Spirit

Invitation to Offering

Offertory All on a Silent Night Vocal Collective

***Dedication Verse:**

(Words by Sandra Jenkinson. Sung to "Good King Wenceslas.")

**Here our gifts we offer, God, thankful for your blessings.
Take them, Spirit, use them to spread the joyful message
that Christ comes to bring to us life for all creation.
May our gifts help bring to all love and transformation.**

***Dedication Prayer (Unison):**

In hope we give our lives to you, in peace we live each day. With joy we'll serve and worship you, Your love shall guide the way. O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your son, inspire and guide, empower us until your kingdom come. AMEN

Welcoming New Members (*see insert*)

***Hymn of Praise:** Hark the Glad Sound

VU 29

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

***Choral Closing:** May the God of Hope

VU 424

**May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

**Praying, let us work for peace; (*clap, clap*)
singing, share our joy with all; (*clap, clap*)
working for a world that's new, (*clap, clap*)
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

Postlude

Fantasie sur "Picardy"

Bedard

We invite you to stay and enjoy the postlude

Announcements

Greeters:	Dec. 11:	Hope & Andrew Steeves
Ushers:	Left Side:	Linda & Alastair Lamont
	Middle:	Isabel Green
	Right Side:	Florence Bartlett & Roger Miller
	Upstairs:	Barb & Mel McGuigan
Coffee Hour:	Dec. 18:	Trustees

This morning we give a warm welcome to Tricia & Michael Berry, Colleen Hanna, and Diana & John Otteson into St. Paul's church family. Please come and help us celebrate in the Hall after the worship service.

NO SCENTS IS GOOD SENSE: Please be mindful of those around you who may have reactions to heavy perfumes, deodorants, etc.

PARKING RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT: As of Dec 1st, parking around the downtown is changing. Please be aware of the signs, and note that parking on side streets like George St will be limited, if not restricted entirely.

Congregational Meeting: Taking place on December 18th following worship in Fraser Memorial Hall. This meeting is to consider a candidate being brought forward by the Joint Search Committee.

Organ Recitals at St. Paul's - Two noon-time organ recitals will be held at St. Paul's United during the Advent season. They will be on Wednesday, Dec. 14 and Wednesday, Dec.21. Both will start at 12:10 p.m. and conclude at 12:50 p.m. The December 14 recital will feature David Drinkell, Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral. Dr. Sharon Pond, organist at St. Paul's, will present the second recital on December 21. Both recitals will include classical repertoire as well as seasonal selections. The December 21 concert will also include The Choral Collective, a quintet of teenaged singers, performing a program of Christmas and seasonal songs. Freewill offerings in support of Hospice Fredericton will be received.

2017 Offering Envelopes are ready this morning in Narthex as well as your Christmas Letter and flyer. Please ensure you pick yours up today.

White Gift Envelopes: Please return your donations to the office this week or place in the collection plate today. This money will be delivered to the Salvation Army and to St. Paul's Benevolent Fund.

Guided by Grace, Love, and Light: Final session this afternoon @ 2pm

Spirit Sisters, will meet this Monday Dec. 12th. in the Ladies' Parlour, start time 7:00 PM

Men's Conversation Group: No meeting on Tuesday December 13

Thanks to all our Sunday School volunteers so far this fall! We still need a leader for the December classes so please prayerfully consider how you might offer your gift of leadership in this. If you know you will be available for a month (or a Sunday every now and again) in the new year, please contact Rev. Richard Bowley(458-1183 or rev.bowley@outlook.com)

Lectionary Readings

Wondering where we get our ideas for scripture readings Sunday morning? Here are next week's readings so you can read ahead.

December 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10–16, Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19, Romans 1:1–7, Matthew 1:18–25

Hospice Fredericton is accepting referrals for the Adult Day Centre at 621 Churchill Row. We are open 3 days a week; Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am to 3pm. We welcome clients with cognitive or physical impairments of any kind that are 55 and older. The centre offers a wide range of stimulating programs for memory loss, physical challenges, or social isolation. Activities will include music, games, trivia, bingo, and various exercise programs. For more information on our Adult Day Program, to make a referral or on volunteering please contact Nicole Pike in person at 621 Churchill Row, Fredericton, NB, E3B 1P5, over the phone at (506) 206-7955 or by email at hospiceadc@gmail.com

St. Paul's Christmas Services

Dec 24 3:00 pm Family Service and Baptism
Dec 24 7:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service
Dec 24 11:00 pm Holy Communion
Dec 25 10:30 am Christmas Day Service
Jan 1 10:30 am New Year's Day Service