

St. Paul's United Church

Back to Basics: Reading Scripture, Embracing the Word

10:30 a.m February 12th, 2017

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

Prelude Tell Me The Story of Jesus arr. MacDonald

We Gather in Community

***Greeting**

***Introit:** Let Us Build A House MV 1 (vs 5)

**Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.**

**Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.**

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

***Call to Worship (Responsive):**

We come seeking wisdom and truth. By your power and by your grace you, O Most High, you reveal yourself to the world that we might glimpse your glory.

Reveal yourself to us again today, O God.

In our Holy Scriptures, your hand dances, touching lives, guiding your people, lifting the lowly.

Reveal yourself to us in your inspired word today, O God.

In Jesus Christ you came fully among us, living and loving, laughing and crying. You showed yourself to us. You opened to us a path to your embrace.

Reveal yourself to us in the Word made flesh today, O God.

In the pouring out of your Holy Spirit, you write your word on our souls, teaching us your way with every beat of our hearts.

Reveal yourself to us in the whispered words of the Holy Spirit today, O God.

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Prayer & Lord's Prayer

***Hymn of Praise:** God of the Bible MV 28

Children's Choir: Jesus Loves Even Me Phillip Bliss

Time for the Young at Heart

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

God of Revelation, we say that we come to you seeking truth, and yet often what we mean is that we want answers. We see situations that we don't understand and rather than turn to you in prayer, we would interrogate you with the whys, the hows, and the whens. In the event that we do seek your guidance in our Holy Scriptures, we pick and choose stories of comfort, ignoring the truth revealed in stories we find hard to read again, because we do not understand. Open our hearts to you again, O God, and inspire trust in us. Speak to us through the written and living Word and help us to glimpse the works of your hands. AMEN

Assurance of God's Love

We Listen for the Voice of the Spirit

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:16-21 Kaitlyn McCarthy

One: Herein is wisdom

All: Thanks be to God

Anthem Sanctus F. Schubert

Scripture: Matthew 17:1-8 Pastor Sarah

One: This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Praise be to you O Christ

Message Studying Scripture Pastor Sarah

Affirmation of Faith: Article II. Of Revelation

We believe that God has revealed Himself in nature, in history, and in the heart of man; that He has been graciously pleased to make clearer revelation of Himself to men of God who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit; and that in the fullness of time He has perfectly revealed Himself in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, who is the brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of His person. We receive the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, given by inspiration of God, as containing the only infallible rule of faith and life, a faithful record of God's gracious revelations, and as the sure witness of Christ.

***Hymn of Praise:** God Who Has Caused To Be Written VU 498

We Respond to the Spirit

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Interlude on "Give Me Jesus" arr. Lau

***Dedication Verse:** Christ Has No Body MV 171

[Refrain]:

**Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.**

**Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.**

**Through every gift, give back to those in need,
as Christ was blessed, so now be a blessing,
with every gift a benediction be to the people of God. [Refrain]**

***Dedication Prayer (Unison):**

God, whose giving knows no ending, we offer up the treasure that you have entrusted to us; we offer up the skills and time that you have graciously given to us; we offer up ourselves in service and praise. Receive these gifts by your grace. Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish Christ's work of love in the world. Amen.

Prayers of the People

***Hymn of Praise:** How Firm A Foundation VU 660

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

***Choral Closing:** May God's Sheltering Wings MV 214

May God's sheltering wings,

**God's gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms,
God's cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in God's love, and hold you in God's love.**

Postlude

Immortal, Invisible

arr. Kendall

We invite you to stay and enjoy the postlude

Announcements

Back to Basics! Continuing this month, we will be rediscovering our core as a people of faith. We've already explored the Holy Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as well as the importance of Christian Fellowship. Join us for the rest of the journey!

February 5th: **Prayer: Private, Public, Powerful**
February 12th: **Reading Scripture, Embracing the Word**
February 19th: **Tithing: Giving Our Very Selves**
February 26th: **Sacraments: Symbols of Grace Eternal**

Greeters: February 12 John Davis & Abby Henderson
Ushers: Left Side Dow Johnston & Alastair Lamont
 Middle Isabel Green
 Right Side Ann & Harold Raper
 Upstairs Katie & Eric Lakes

Coffee Hour: February 19 Senior Choir

Annual Congregational Meeting has been set today following the worship service. Please meet in Fraser Memorial Hall.

Volunteer(s) Needed: We are looking for a **Chair of Finance!** If you or you wish to suggest a possible candidate(s) please speak to Ron Naugler or call Cathy Simpson in the office at 458-1183! Thanks!

Are you 12 or older? Are you looking to join the church or just want to find out more about the church you call home? Pastor Sarah and Rev. Richard will be holding **Confirmation classes** throughout the **season of Lent**. If you or your child are interested in joining the church family, please call the office or email Pastor Sarah or Rev. Richard (emails available in back of bulletin).

If you are an adult looking to join the church, we will be welcoming New Members on Easter Sunday. Contact the office or either of your ministers for more information.

It's almost Lent, and you know what that means? **Pancake supper!** On Shrove Tuesday, February 28th, we will be having a pancake supper. The meal starts at **5:45 PM** and is a free-will offering.

2016 Income Tax Receipts & 2017 Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex, if you are interested in donating to the church and are not on PAR or using weekly offering envelopes please contact Cathy Simpson in the office at 458-1183.

BIBLE STUDY for **World Day of Prayer 2017** will be held at Forest Hill United Church on Monday, February 13, at 10 am. It will be led by Rev. Ali Anningson with the theme "Am I Being Unfair to You?" Presented by the Fredericton Women's Inter-Church Council. Women of the congregation are urged to attend this preparation for the services to be held on Friday, March 3. For more information please contact Ann Raper at 457-0164

The **UCW** will meet on Tuesday, February 14th at 10 a.m. in the Ladies Parlour. Marguerite MacAlpine will be our guest speaker. Please answer Roll Call with protein products for the Brown Bag lunches.

UCW Spring Rally: April 29th in Florenceville. Theme: Reaching Out With Purpose. Please watch for further details.

St Paul's currently has **space for rent**, that being the room (14' x 27'=348 sq ft) off the lower level gym. This includes access to the gym, the lower level kitchen and the washrooms. The area would appeal to a Daycare operation (pre-school or after school), exercise class, dance class, etc. If you know of potential tenants please contact Greg Morton 455-8179)

Grand or Baby Grand Piano Needed

The piano in Fraser Memorial Hall has seen its better days and is beyond repair. If you have or know someone who has a Grand or Baby Grand Piano that could be gifted to St Paul's please contact Greg Morton 455-8179.

Kiwanis Delights: Sunday, February 26th, Delta Hotel. Doors open at 6:30. Delights include a draw for Diamond Ring valued at \$1,000, a Fashion Show sponsored by Hospice Boutique, a Dessert Buffet, and a Silent Auction. Tickets are available from Kiwanis members (454-1298), at the Hospice Boutique on Prospect St., and Westminster Books on King St. Monies raised support Kiwanis Fredericton community programs and Hospice Fredericton.