

# St. Paul's United Church

10:30 a.m. December 6th, 2015

Second Sunday of Advent—Peace

\* Please stand as you are able or sit as you prefer \*

**Prelude** Advent Noel Chauvet

**Introit** Lord Prepare Me (X2) MV 18

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living,  
sanctuary for you.**

## \*Greeting

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all,  
**and also with you.**

**Welcoming the Light  
Welcome and Announcements**

## Call to Worship (Responsive)

A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

**Make God's paths straight.**

Every valley will be filled, and every mountain will be leveled.

**The crooked will be made straight.**

The rough and rocky ways will be smoothed.

**All will see the salvation of God.**

See the light from on high. The dawn is breaking.

**The Lord is coming! The Lord is coming!**

**Reading:** Malachi 3:1-4 Allison Gorrill

**Opening Prayer**

**\*Hymn** There's a Voice in the Wilderness VU 18

## Prayer of Reconciliation (Unison)

**O Lord, darkness surrounds us like a cold stone tomb, until  
your light bursts into our lives like a clear, bright dawn. We**

## St. Paul's Contact Information

stpaulsunitedchurch@nb.aibn.com

www.stpaulsunited.ca Tel. 458-1183 Fax: 458-1944

**Keep up to date on upcoming activities  
and stay in touch in-between Sundays!**

<http://www.facebook.com/stpaulsunitedfredericton>

**Minister:** Rev. Richard Bowley rev.bowley@outlook.com

**Pastoral Care:** Rev. Bob Jones 476-8020

**Music Director/Organist:** Alexis Ervin aervin17@gmail.com

**Choir Accompanist:** Vivian Ni

**Sexton:** Joe Robicheau robicheaujoseph@rogers.com

**Office Administrator:** Cathy Simpson cathysimpson@nb.aibn.com

## Rev. Richards's Office Hours

**Sunday:** Afternoon By Appointment

**Monday:** 8:00—Noon, 1:00-4:00

**Tuesday:** 8:00—Noon

**Wednesday:** 1:00—4:00

**Thursday:** By Appointment

## Regular Weekly Activities

<b>Monday-Friday</b>	8:30 am-4 pm	Adult Learning Association
	11:30-1 pm	AA - Youth Lounge
<b>Mon., Wed., Friday</b>	12-1 pm	Exercise Group - Gym
<b>Tuesday &amp; Thursday</b>	1-4 pm	Quilting - Quilter's Parlour
<b>Tuesday &amp; Saturday</b>	7-9 pm	AA - Youth Lounge
<b>Monday</b>	6-8 pm	Shoe Box Dance - Gym
	7 p.m.	Men's Conversation Group
<b>Last Monday (month)</b>	7-8 p.m.	Stress Release Exercisers-Hall
<b>Tuesday</b>	6:30-8 pm	Beavers & Cubs - Gym
	7 pm	River Valley Chorus-Sanctuary
<b>Wednesday</b>	9-11 am	The Pantry
	9:30-11:30 am	Play Group - Gym
<b>Thursday</b>	7 pm	Senior Choir - Hall

## **St. Paul's Christmas Services**

**Christmas Communion:** Sunday, December 20, 10:30 am

**Longest Night:** December 21, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Join us on December 21st for a service of reflection in the midst of this time of lights and celebration. This time of year isn't so joyful for everyone, and so the Longest Night gives us an opportunity to acknowledge our loss, loneliness, or sadness during the season while still feeling the presence of the Holy surrounding us. The service will be held at Wilmot United Church, 7 p.m. on Monday December 21st.

### **Christmas Eve Services, December 24th**

7:00 p.m.	Family Service
11:00 p.m.	Communion Service

**“The Observer”** It's renewal time! Subscription cost for 2016 is \$25. Please contact Cathy Simpson at 458-1183 to start or renew your subscription.

**Men's Conversation Group:** Tomorrow (Monday) at 7 p.m. in the Parlour, the Men's Conversation Group will continue.

**Open Bible Study:** This afternoon's Bible study will be held at **2 p.m. in the Ladies Parlour** on the main level. Readings for today (and beyond) are on the website at <http://www.stpaulsunited.ca/open-bible-study/>

**New to the congregation?** We would love to meet you and keep you informed of our activities. If you could call me (Cathy, Office Administrator) at 458-1183 and give me your name, address, telephone numbers and email address we will see you are kept up to date and included in our church family and informed of all that is going on. If you are in need of offering envelopes or would like to join the PAR (Pre Authorized Donation) program, I would be pleased to assist you with that as well. [cathysimpson@nb.aibn.com](mailto:cathysimpson@nb.aibn.com)

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### **Multicultural Association of Fredericton**

Lunch and Learn sessions for Sponsorship Groups & Volunteers

When: Every Thursday 12-1:00pm

Where: Multicultural Association of Fredericton (MCAF)

28 Saunders Street, Rm. 136

Dec. 10: Health services

Dec. 17: Culture Shock [cosman@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:cosman@nbnet.nb.ca)

Please register by 12:pm on the Wednesday before each session

[joanne@mcaf.nb.ca](mailto:joanne@mcaf.nb.ca) or call 452-0652. Please bring your lunch.

**First Fredericton Friend (s)** are volunteers who will be matched with newly arrived Syrian Refugees to meet once a week for 2 hours or more (for a minimum 6 month period) for conversation, friendship building, to share in each other's traditions and to introduce them to their new community.

Some of the volunteers' roles include:

Offering social support and introduction to the community

Introducing their newcomer friends to places and people in the community

Practicing conversation in English

Sharing and learning about each other's traditions and customs

Exchanging ideas, information and resources

An information session for First Fredericton Friends will be held at MCAF (28 Saunders St) on Tuesday, Dec 8, 5:30-6:30pm

To apply to be a First Fredericton Friend, go to our website

([www.mcaf.nb.ca](http://www.mcaf.nb.ca)) To register for the information session, contact

Bonnie Doughty at [community@mcaf.nb.ca](mailto:community@mcaf.nb.ca).

*cover our eyes, we're so unprepared for your coming. Your light blazes forth like a white-hot fire, consuming all that it touches. How can we stand before you, O God? The road that we thought was straight and wide is now exposed as a twisted, crooked path, blocked and broken. Where can we turn? Who will guide us back to the way of peace—the way that leads to you?*

### **Assurance of God's Love & Lord's Prayer**

#### **Time for the Young and Young at Heart**

#### **Advent Candle Lighting**

The Murphy Family

We know that God is always with us.

***We are not alone; we live in God's world. This is our Hope for the way forward.***

*(First Candle Lit)*

This Advent we prepare to be transformed by the peace Emmanuel brings. As we wait, we long for:

***A new heaven and a new earth, where faithful love and truth have met; where peace abounds.***

*(Second Candle Lit)*

We light this candle as a symbol of God's gift of peace, and as a reminder that even as we wait for Emmanuel, God is with us always.

***We are not alone. Thanks be to God.***

#### **Candle Lighting Verse: Hope Shines as a Solitary Star** MV 220

***Peace shines as a solitary star,***

***faith is the inner light.***

***You and I together mirror the light of lights,  
and illumine the pathway home.***

#### **Prayers of the People**

#### **Moment for Community: Property**

**\*Hymn** Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands

MV 173

#### **Invitation to Offering**

#### **Offertory**

Winds Through the Olive Trees

Bayley

**\*Dedication Verse**

VU 55 (vs 4)

*What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise one, I would do my part.  
Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.*

**Dedication Prayer (Unison)**

*We delight in your love and salvation, Lord, there can be no greater gifts than these. We will gladly serve you in holiness and righteousness. We offer ourselves. We offer all that you have provided us. May it be used to bring your light to those who dwell in darkness. Prepare us and complete us, Lord.  
AMEN*

**Reading:**

*Luke 1:68-79  
Luke 3:1-6*

*Rev. Richard*

**Anthem**

*Prepare The Way*

*Martin*

**Message**

*Filled with the Holly Spirit*

**\*Hymn**

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

*VU 2*

**\*Commissioning (Responsive)**

May your love overflow,

*rich and wholesome in the world.*

May you be found ready and waiting,

*having prepared a way and a place for the Lord in our hearts.*

May you reap the bountiful harvest of righteousness

*that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. AMEN*

**Benediction**

**Closing**

*A Candle is Burning*

*VU 6*

*A candle is burning, a candle of Peace;  
a candle to signal that conflict must cease.  
For Jesus is coming to show us the way;  
a message of Peace humbly laid in the hay.*

**Postlude**

*Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts*

*Saint Saens*

***We invite you to stay and enjoy the postlude***

**Greeters:**

Etta Davis & Barbara MacBean

**Ushers:**

Upstairs

Sheila and Brian Baird

Downstairs

Isabel Green, Betty Fitzpatrick,  
Lois Walker, John Gaskin and Ed Bujold

**Coffee Hour Dec. 13:**

Trustees

**The 26th Annual Advent Carol Service** received \$4,709. in donations for the Fredericton Food Bank, a \$200. increase over 2014! Thank you for your support and for attending!

**Thank you** for supporting the **Children's Wish Tree**. Your generosity is appreciated. Your donations of toys, books, games and clothing will bring great happiness to those young children on Christmas morning. Thank you for sharing the joy of Christmas."

- Carrie Phillips

**2016 Offering Envelopes**

Please pick up your 2016 envelopes this morning—they can be found in the Narthex. If anyone wishes to begin on the PAR program or receive envelopes please contact Cathy Simpson at 458-1183—thank you.

There will be a **Stewardship meeting** on Monday, December 7th at noon in the Ladies Parlour.

The **Board** will meet Tuesday, December 8th at 7 p.m. in the Ladies Parlour.

The **UCW** will have their **Christmas Pot Luck** at Doug Warman's, on December 7th at 6 PM.

**Financial Contributions or Nov. 29, 2015**

2015 Weekly Budget for December \$8,500.00

Envelopes 2,551.20

Loose 46.00

PAR 1,845.55

4,472.75

**- \$4,027.25**

White Gift \$985.00