

St. Paul's United Church

10:30 a.m. December 13th, 2015

Third Sunday in Advent - Joy

* Please stand as you are able, 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)

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!

Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.

Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.

Let your praise dance and swirl in tribute to God!

Surely God blesses and saves us. Hallelujah! Praise be to God. AMEN.

Reading: Philippians 4:4-7 Marguerite MacAlpine

Opening Prayer

***Hymn** Once in Royal David's City VU 62

Prayer of Reconciliation (Unison)

It is getting more and more difficult, O God, for us to keep our attention on the holy things. We're caught up in the planning,

St. Paul's Contact Information

stpaulsunitychurch@nb.aibn.com

www.stpaulsunitychurch.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/stpaulsunitychurchfredericton>

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

Monday-Friday	8:30 am-4 pm	Adult Learning Association
	11:30-1 pm	AA - Youth Lounge
Mon., Wed., Friday	12-1 pm	Exercise Group - Gym
Tuesday & Thursday	1-4 pm	Quilting - Quilter's Parlour
Tuesday & Saturday	7-9 pm	AA - Youth Lounge
Last Monday (month)	7-8 p.m.	Stress Release Exercisers-Hall
Tuesday	6:30-8 pm	Beavers & Cubs - Gym
	7 pm	River Valley Chorus-Sanctuary
Wednesday	9-11 am	The Pantry
	9:30-11:30 am	Play Group - Gym
Thursday	7 pm	Senior Choir - Hall
Sunday	2-3 pm	Open Bible Study

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.

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 Remittance) program, I would be pleased to assist you with that as well. cathysimpson@nb.aibn.com

Financial Contributions for Dec. 6, 2015

2015 Weekly Budget for December	\$8,500.00
Envelopes	2,928.86
Loose	56.10
PAR	<u>1,845.55</u>
	4,830.51
	- \$3,669.49

Thank you and may God truly bless and multiply your gifts

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. 17: Culture Shock cosman@nbnet.nb.ca

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

To apply to be a First Fredericton Friend, go to our website
(www.mcaf.nb.ca)

Please join us at the Oromocto United Church for an alumnae **CGIT Candlelight Vesper Service** this Sunday evening, December 13, at 7:00 PM. Let us celebrate the 100 year anniversary of CGIT in this traditional way.

parties, and gifts. The cries of those in need abound and we are overwhelmed. Open our ears to hear those cries. Heal our hearts and spirits, Blessed Comforter. Remind us that you do not ask us to heal everything but rather to find a way in which we might lighten someone else's burden. You have brought hope and peace to us. Now cause us to rejoice in the wondrous things that you have done. AMEN.

Assurance of God's Love & Lord's Prayer

Time for the Young and Young at Heart

Advent Candle Lighting

The Walker Family

We know that God is always with us.

We are not alone; we live in God's world. This is our Hope, our light for the darkness. This is our peace, one unlike any the world has seen, but one that Christ offers freely.

(First & Second Candle Lit)

This Advent we celebrate the never-ending joy that is Emmanuel. As we wait, we remember God's promise that

those who go forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying sheaves of gladness.

(Third Candle Lit - Pink)

We light this candle as a shining example of God's gift of joy, 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

***Joy 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: Worship

***Hymn** It's a Song of Praise MV 30

Invitation to Offering

Offertory The Angel Gabriel

***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)

*Bless these our offerings O God that they might work for our
Hope, that they be steps to Peace, that all people might find
Joy in this season and beyond. AMEN.*

Reading: Luke 3:7-18 Rev. Richard

Anthem Morning of Promise Martin

Message *The Joy Within*

***Hymn** Joy to the World VU 59

***Commissioning (Responsive)**

We go from this place of worship into a world in need of service,
*We bring the Hope we have found here to a world that
needs much, Peace to a world seeking relief, and Joy to all
seeking Good News.*

Benediction

Closing A Candle is Burning VU 6

*A candle is burning, a candle of Joy;
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow
as Joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.*

Postlude Hark! The Glad Sound arr. Landon

We invite you to stay and enjoy the postlude

Greeters: Etta Davis & Barbara MacBean
Ushers: Upstairs Sheila and Brian Baird
Downstairs Isabel Green, Roger Miller,
Lois Walker, John Gaskin and Ed Bujold

Coffee Hour Dec. 20: Senior Choir



A donation has been made to St. Paul's operating fund in memory of Winifred E. Donaldson (13/12/1886–16/06/1979) and Andrea J. West (13/12/1962–19/01/2012) by Caroline and Ralph Simpson.

An Afternoon at St. Paul's. On Sunday afternoon Dec. 20th, in place of our regular Bible Study, we're invited the congregation, and anyone else, to come and watch *The Nativity Story*. As we near Christmas day, let us gather for the retelling of that first Christmas Journey. Come and get a seat at 1:45 pm for the movie to start at 2 p.m.

Christmas Letters from the church will be sent out by email before the 20th of Dec. For those who don't have email, copies will be available in the Narthex before worship on December 20th. If you haven't already—please get your email address to Cathy in the office 458-1183 or cathysimpson@nb.aibn.com

Call for Sunday School Teachers! Our Sunday school has been in need of support for a long time, and we need to help. Whether you are a parent of a child in the Sunday school or just someone looking to volunteer, you can help! You don't have to sign up for every Sunday, but if enough of us offer ourselves for a Sunday a month, then no one has to carry the work alone. Sign-up sheets for 2016 are available in Fraser Memorial Hall.

*** Please note that there will be no Sunday School on Dec. 27th or on January 3.

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.

The Worship Committee is looking for **Ushers** for 2 week periods, if you are interested and willing to help out please call Roger at 461-8295 or email him at roger_miller@rogers.com Thank you for your consideration.