

# St. Paul's United Church

10:30 a.m. December 20th, 2015

Fourth Sunday in Advent - Love

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

**Prelude** A Bethlehem Pastorale Paxton

**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.**

## Welcome and Announcements

### Hope

## Call to Worship (Responsive)

What a journey it has been!

**We started seeking the Christ, but look what we found on  
the east.**

We began with Hope...

**Hope that on this journey we would not be alone,  
supported by the Holy, supported by one another.**

We discovered Peace...

**A Peace unlike anything we have experienced; a peace  
flowing from the divine, binding us together.**

We were filled with Joy...

**Joy that comes from the depths of our souls because God  
chose to live and walk among us.**

And on the road to Christ we find Love...

**God's love for us, our love for one another, love for  
creation and all that moves within it.**

Let us carry these discoveries as gifts for the Christ-child,

**Born anew in us each and every day.**

**Reading:** Micah 5:2-5a

Beth Henderson

## 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>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
Christmas Break	9:30-11:30 am	Play Group - Gym
<b>Thursday</b>	7 pm	Senior Choir - Hall

## St. Paul's Christmas Services

**An Afternoon at St. Paul's.** This afternoon in place of our regular Bible Study, we're inviting 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.

**Longest Night:** Join us on Dec. 21st at Wilmot United, 7 p.m. 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.

### Christmas Eve Services, December 24th

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

### 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. [cathysimpson@nb.aibn.com](mailto:cathysimpson@nb.aibn.com)

**2015 Donations**—please ensure that all donations reach the church office by 10 a.m. on Dec. 31st if you wish to have them included in your 2015 tax receipt.

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

**New to the congregation?** We would love to meet you and keep you informed of our activities. If you could call Cathy at 458-1183 and give 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.



A donation has been made to the Organ/Memorial Chimes Fund in memory of Marion Blackmer by son, John and family.

A donation has been made to St. Paul's Operating Fund in memory of Merle Cull by his wife Jean & daughters Heather, Barbara & Joanne.

A donation has been made to St. Paul's Operating Fund in memory of our parents, Frank and Mary Hallett by daughters Roberta Watson and June Hallett.

A donation has been made to the Operating Fund in memory of my parents, Marven and Diana Palmer by Alanna Palmer.

Flowers in the sanctuary have been placed in loving memory of Ralph Dingee, by daughter, Mary, and grandchildren, Melinda and Michael Jacobs.

**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.

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.

### Financial Contributions for Dec. 13, 2015

2015 Weekly Budget for December		\$8,500.00
Envelopes	1,891.75	
Loose	77.00	
PAR	<u>1,845.55</u>	
	3,814.30	- \$4,685.70

**Thank you and may God truly bless and multiply your gifts**

### Prayer of Hope

**\*Song:** *Advent's Here, Are You Ready?*  
(To the tune of Winter Wonderland)  
(During the singing of this song, the Hope Candle is lit)

### Prayer and Lord's Prayer (Responsive)

You are the hope of the world, God.

**You are the guiding light in our lives.**

Open our eyes to your world.

**Open our hearts to your presence.**

Open our lives to your hope that we might be the eyes, hearts, and hands of hope everywhere we go.

**We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray saying:**

**Our Father...**

**Children's Choir** Christmas Means Jesus Ruth Schram

**Anytime Prayer**

**Communion** (see insert)

### Peace

**Reading:** *Psalm 80:1-7* Graeme Smith

### Shared Story: *Twas the month before Christmas* (Responsive)

One: *Twas the month before Christmas and all through God's place, the people were running-not a moment for Grace!*

Two: *There was much to be done, oh yes, so much to do- carols to be sung, Christmas cookies chewed through.*

One: *The wreath it was ready, candles purple and white With the touch of a match to blaze out the Christ light.*

Two: *But something was missing in all of our rush- What was it I wondered, what was it-*

**All: Oh, hush!**

One: (pause) *In the silence that fell, I knew what we'd miss, in our great to- and fro-ing if we didn't desist...*

**All: Peace,**

One: *Peace in our hearts.*

**All: Peace in our lives**

One: *Peace in our families.*

**All: Peace in the world.**

(Peace Candle is lit)

Two: So let this light shine for some moments, each day,  
to quiet our hearts, to enlighten our way.

One: As we join hands together, this great Advent-tide,  
let us look round the world, let us look side-to-side,

Two: and with all that we are, and all that we do,

**All: let us be peace-beaters forever, Christ's people, right through.**

### Prayers of the People seeking Peace

**Anthem** Arise, Arise and Shine McDonald  
**Joy**

### \*Invitation to Offering

**Offertory** Gifts of Music From our Youth

**\*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 man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him -- give my heart.***

### Dedication Prayer (Unison)

***This is the season of giving, and yet if we count our blessings, we have received much. In our giving this day we ask that you, O God, receive and bless our money, our time, our very selves in the hopes that they may be a blessing to others. In the name of Christ, who gave his all, we pray. AMEN***

**Reading:** Luke 1:39-45

**\*Song:** Angel's Wings (to the tune of Silver Bells)  
(Joy Candle is lit)

### Prayer for Joy

For the mothers who are ready to tear tyrants from their thrones,  
so that their children may live and love;

***For fathers that stand beside their children to offer their strength and support, Alleluia God!***

May the Joy that we feel in your presence fill us with life abundant,  
***So that, when the time is right, that Joy can be birthed, new, into your Creation.***

Alleluia!

***Alleluia!***

Alleluia!

***Alleluia! AMEN***

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### Love

**Solo:** Ding Dong Merrily on High  
**Message** Four Candles

**Reading:** Luke 1:47-55

**\*Song:** Jesus People Walking Christ's Way  
(to the tune of Santa Clause is coming to Town)  
(Love Candle is lit)

### Prayer for Love

**\*Song:** Love Is Alive (tune of Joy to the World)

### \*Commissioning

Loaded up with gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, we seek the child of promise.

***Guide us, O God, on all our roads so that whether they are winding or straight, broken or smooth, each and every one leads us right into your waiting arms.***

### \*Benediction

**\*Choral Closing** A Candle is Burning VU 6  
***A candle is burning, a candle of LOVE,  
a candle to point us to heaven above.  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth  
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.***

**Postlude** Fantasia on the First Nowell Hughes

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

**Greeters:** Youth

**Ushers:** Upstairs Hope Brewer & Darrell Bruce  
Downstairs Youth

**Coffee Hour Dec. 27:** UCW

For the week of December 28th to January 3rd, **Rev. Richard Bowley** will be on vacation. For emergency pastoral care, please contact the office.