

St. Paul's United Church

10:30 a.m. October 9, 2016

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

Thanksgiving Sunday

Prelude

Prelude on Netherlands

Fisk

***Greeting (Responsive):**

Who are you?

We are the seekers searching for a sign.

Who are you?

We are the lost calling to be found.

Who are you?

We are the hesitant wanting to be sure.

Who are you?

We are the faithful, coming to worship.

Whoever you are: believers, questers, doubters - God is for all!

***Introit:** For the Beauty of the Earth

VU226

**For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
God of all to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship (Responsive):

We gather this morning to celebrate the harvest and where it comes from!

We are surrounded by the beauty and bounty of the earth.

We gather with hearts filled with gratitude as our senses take in all that we have received:

the warm embrace of our church family; the sight of produce fresh from the garden, orchard, or field; the aroma of roast turkey and fresh-baked pie; the sound of wild geese overhead and the crunch of leaves beneath our feet; the expectation of a feast that awaits.

For the bountiful blessings, in praise and thanksgiving,

let us worship God!

Prayer of Approach

Lord's Prayer (sung)

VU 959

Time for the Young at Heart

***Hymn of Praise:** For the Fruit of All Creation

VU 227

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Merciful God, we confess that too often we limit you, by limiting our perceptions of you and our acceptance of your grace. You provide us with everything we need, but we are often too preoccupied to notice. We spend our time worrying about things that do not matter instead of opening our eyes to your bounty. We designate one day to give things, rather than recognizing that thankfulness, like faithfulness, is required each and every day. Forgive us, God, and set us on a new path from this day forward. Amen

Assurance of God's Love

Sung Prayer for Illumination: Listen God is Calling

MV 97

Listen God is calling, through the word inviting offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

One: Herein is wisdom.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Thanks Be To Thee

Handel, arr. Wiley

Scripture: John 6:25-35

Pastor Sarah

One: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise be to you O Christ.

Message

How Jesus is Like Lembas Bread

Pastor Sarah

***Hymn:**

Bread of Life, Feed My Soul

MV 194

***Invitation to Offering**

Offertory

Fairest Lord Jesus

Adams

***Dedication Verse:** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

***Prayer of Dedication (Unison):**

Fill us with gratitude, O God. From you, all blessings flow. To you, all gratitude shall return. Fuel us as gracious people, full of your Spirit, led by our Saviour, overflowing with compassion and power, to shape our lives and your world for good. Amen.

Prayers of the People

***Hymn:** Grateful

MV 182

***Blessing and Sending Forth (Responsive):**

If we have gathered exhausted by the week's issues and the prospect of celebrations yet to come,

**may we go forth energized by the prayers, songs, the community,
and the Holy Mystery we have encountered here today.**

And may that energy enhance, uplift, and invigorate our connections in the week before us.

May the Creator who gave us life in the first place, once again engender within all of us and within our world, new joy, hope, meaning, and gratitude. Amen!

***Choral Closing:** We Shall Go Out with Joy

VU 884

**We shall go out with Joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before us;
there'll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!**

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands (*clap clap*)

the trees of the field will clap their hands (*clap clap*)

the trees of the field will clap their hands (*clap clap*)

while we go out with joy!

Postlude

O God Our Help in Ages Past

Wehmeyer

Announcements

We invite you to stay and enjoy the postlude

Spirit Sisters, a women's spirituality/discussion group will be gathering this fall. The next meeting will be in the Ladies' Parlour at St. Paul's on **Monday, October 17**, at 7pm. This will be a weekly group (except for holidays), and for the fall session, we will be looking at Stormie Omartian's book "The Power of a Praying Woman" which is available at Westminster Books. All who self-identify as women and sisters in Christ are welcome to come and explore your spirituality with us. Any questions, queries, concerns, and conundrums can be addressed to Pastor Sarah at sarah.magie@gmail.com.

Men's Conversation Group will continue on **Tuesday** evenings starting at 6:45 pm. Our focus will be the book **Three Ways of Grace**, a collection of ways that we in the church have come to experience the mystery of the Trinity. For more information contact Rev. Richard at rev.bowley@outlook.com

Lectionary Readings

Wondering where we get our ideas for scripture readings Sunday morning? Here are the next few weeks so you can get an idea of what we might talk, pray, and sing about.

October 16

Jeremiah 31:27–34, Psalm 119:97–104, 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5, Luke 18:1–8

October 23

Joel 2:23–32, Psalm 65, 2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18, Luke 18:9–14

October 30

Habakkuk 1:1–4; 2:1–4, Psalm 119:137–144, 2 Thessalonians 1:1–4, 11–12, Luke 19:1–10

PANTRY NEEDS: The pantry is in need of protein (flip top lids) and brown paper bags for packing the lunches (flat bottom please). Many thanks for your consideration.

The **Choral Fest 2016** choir will perform Haydn's "Missa Brevis" and Chilcott's "Missa Cantate" under the baton of renowned choral conductor, Michael Zaugg of Edmonton.

The choir consists of singers from across the Maritimes who have met for a weekend of rehearsal and coaching under Mr. Zaugg and will give a public

performance on Sunday, October 16 at 2:30PM at Grace Memorial Baptist Church. Guest choirs are the Bel Canto Singers and the Priestman Street School Choir. A free will offering will be accepted.

On Thursday, October 27th, the Nashwaaksis United Church UCW, Unit 6, will host their **Fall Bridge Luncheon** at 12 noon at the church auditorium, 46 Main Street, Fredericton. Cost is \$40 per table of four with proceeds going toward church and community initiatives. Contact Sharon at 458-5246 to reserve your table.

The Arthritis Society, New Brunswick Division is hosting a conference, **“Ease the Pain: Seniors Take Charge of Arthritis”**, on Saturday, November 12, at the Delta Fredericton. The conference runs from 9:30 to 4 pm, and includes lunch and refreshment breaks, at a total cost of \$10.00. This conference will bring together seniors with arthritis and others of all ages who experience chronic pain. “The Arthritis Society aims to connect seniors with healthcare professionals, treatment options they may not be aware of with the hope of making day-to-day life more manageable and a little more pain-free” says Susan Tilley- Russell, Executive Director. To register, visit: arthritis.ca/EaseThePainConferenceFredericton or call 1.800-321-1433