

St. Paul's United Church

10:30 a.m. October 23rd, 2016

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

Prelude

***Greeting (Responsive):**

All you people, old and young, see God's visions, dream God's dreams.

Young and old, all of us together, feel the Spirit fall like rain.

People everywhere on earth, join creation, shout for joy:

**Praise is due you, O God,
for all that you do,
for all that you have done,
for all that you promise to do.**

***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):

Praise is due to you, O God, you who answers prayer.

**Happy are those who live in your courts—those who are satisfied
with the goodness of your house and your holy temple.**

You are the hope of all things, Holy One, from the ends of the earth to the farthest seas.

**You make the gateways of the evening and the morning shout for
joy.**

Rejoice in God, O people, and be glad.

Let us shout and sing together for joy.

Prayer of Approach

Lord's Prayer (sung)

VU 959

Time for the Young at Heart

***Hymn of Praise:** Praise God for This Holy Ground MV 42

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Creator God, we confess this day to living into practices that diminish the greatness of your creation. Not satisfied with the goodness of your holy temple, your seas and mountains, your rain and soil, we have fashioned a system of sustenance that seems good to us, but cannot be sustained. Be merciful to us, for we have broken but seek your mending hand. Answer us with awesome deeds of deliverance, O Hope of the Earth. Give us vision and a prophetic spirit. Renew our vocation, as stewards of your creation. 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: Joel 2:23-32

One: Herein is wisdom.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

One: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Message Hope in spite of Locusts

***Hymn:** Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness VU 375

***Invitation to Offering**

Offertory

***Dedication Verse: Grant Us God The Grace**

**Grant us God the grace of giving
with a spirit large and free
That ourselves and all our living,
we may offer faithfully.**

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

This is how the earth praises you, O God: giving thanks for Your abundance! The meadows clothe themselves with flocks and the valleys deck themselves with shimmering fields of grain, sharing their bounty with the rest of creation. We, too, worship God by being abundant and fruitful with our lives, offering up our yields as if they were songs of joyful praise. These are just a glimpse of the many blessings God has given us. May they be acceptable in Your eyes, O God. Amen.

Prayers of the People

***Hymn:** Lead On, O Cloud of Presence VU 421

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

Go in peace, love and care for one another in the name of Jesus,
and may our confidence be entirely in God our Creator, may our hope rest fully in God our Redeemer, and may our only boast be in the power and the wisdom and the compassion of God our Sustainer this day and forevermore. 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

We invite you to stay and enjoy the postlude

Announcements

Greeters:	Oct. 23:	Carole Peacock
Ushers:	Left Side:	Linda & Alastair Lamont
	Middle:	Isabel Green
	Right Side:	John Gaskin, Tammy Coughlan
	Upstairs:	Barb & Mel McGuigan
Coffee Hour:	October 30:	UCW

Today's bulletin covers have been donated by Harold & Ann Raper in loving memory of Harold's dad, Harold Keighley Raper 1st who passed away in 1958.

Congratulations to Jamie Henderson on receiving his Masters in Educational Administration.

From the Inter-church Refugee Committee: Come and meet our refugee families at Forest Hill United Church on Oct.23 from 2-4 pm.

The annual meeting of the **Women's Inter-Church Council**, Fredericton District, will be held at Morning Gate Church, 74 Morning Gate Drive ,on Monday, October 24th, [that's tomorrow] at 1.30pm. Anyone interested in the work of the council is welcome and urged to attend. For information or a drive contact Ann Raper 457-0164.

Dr. Sharon Pond is playing two recitals in Toronto on Nov. 9th and 10th. The congregation is invited to come listen to her **recital program** Monday Oct. 24 at 6:30 pm. In the Sanctuary

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday is coming back! On October 30th we are having our second invitational Sunday where all are encouraged to bring family and friends to join in worship of God. Following the service we will have a soup and sandwich pot-luck during which there will be a special presentation by Rev. Brent Bishop on his work in Prison Ministries. As before, the pot-luck fellowship is **FREE** and open to all. Come and share in the bread that sustains body and soul.

Family Night Movie & Nachos: All are welcome to join us for a Family Night in Fraser Memorial Hall on Saturday, October 29th, beginning at 6:00 pm.

Come and enjoy a family friendly movie, popcorn, and your choice of chicken or veggie nachos. To confirm your attendance, or for more information, please contact Jennifer or Brad Green at 454-7543.

Spirit Sisters, a women's spirituality/discussion group continues this fall. The next meeting will be 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" . 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 please address to Pastor Sarah at sarah.magie@gmail.com

Men's Conversation Group will continue on **Tuesday** evening **October 25th** 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

Guided by Grace, Love, and Light: Beginning on October 30th at 2 PM Pastor Sarah and Reverend Richard will be sharing leadership of a unique Bible exploration time. With videos and perspectives from modern theologians, we will explore the work of God in our lives and in our sacred Word. Join us as we explore together!

Though we have been blessed to have volunteers in our Sunday School for the months of September and October, we are in need of teachers for the months of November and December. Material is prepared for you ahead of time. Please prayerfully consider how you might offer your gift of leadership in this.

From the Inter-church Refugee Committee: Come and meet our refugee families at Forest Hill United Church on Oct.23 from 2-4 pm.

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 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

November 6

Haggai 1:15b—2:9, Psalm 98, 2 Thessalonians 2:1–5, 13–17, Luke 20:27–38

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.

It's a "Square Dance"-- Bring your partner, bring your friend and "do-si-do" in the Nashwaaksis United Church gym to the rhythm of foot stompin' and hand clappin' music. **Saturday, Nov 5th, 2016 from 7-8:30 pm** – a free-will offering will be received. All are welcome no matter age, dancing ability, or shoe size. Join the fun as we dance in lines and squares, or laugh alongside, to the call of Gerry O'Hara. (Proceeds of this dance will go to the General fund.)

Schedule of Services in November

November 6th – Remembrance Day Service

November 13th – St. Paul's 184th Anniversary (Wilmot joining, Rev. Ellen Beairsto Guest Speaker)

November 20th – Wilmot's Anniversary (We join with them to celebrate)

November 27th – First Sunday of Advent, Bring a Friend to Church Sunday,

Communion

In an effort to create a one-stop calendar, we are asking the various groups in the church to submit their events and activities for the month of November by **Wednesday, October 26th** for the October 30th bulletin.