

St. Paul's United Church

10:30 a.m. November 13th, 2016

Anniversary Sunday

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

Prelude

*Greeting

*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): *Light One Candle by Peter Yarrow*

We remember the founders and builders. People who had a dream for a church in this place. People who helped it to grow. People who created space for worship, for study, for faith to be nurtured. We remember those who lit the light of faith. And as we light their candle we pledge:

Don't let the light go out

As it has shone for so many years, may it shine through our love and our tears

We remember the outreach. We remember how Jesus called us to be like lights set high on a lamp-stand for all to see. We remember how Jesus called us to serve the least of his brothers and sisters. And so we remember all the ways the people of this place have lived those out. Providing a home for community groups, pushing for needed resources in the wider community like a place for people to sleep or a friendship centre. Supporting the community in which we live work and have our ministry to the best of our ability. And we light a candle, setting it high so all can see and saying:

Don't let the light go out

As it has shone for so many years, may it shine through our love and our tears

We remember the programmers. CGIT, Explorers, Messengers, Scouts. Sunday School, Junior and Senior Choirs, Handbells, Bible Studies, Faith Discussions, Presentations. Places people have grown their understanding of faith and the world, places people have found a way to express their faith. As these experiences have

helped the light shine brighter, we light a candle and promise:

Don't let the light go out

As it has shone for so many years, may it shine through our love and our tears

We think of the present. Those of us who are here now. We give thanks for the gifts shared by those who have prepared the way for us. We pledge ourselves to make good use of what they have passed down. We light a candle and commit ourselves to it saying:

Don't let the light go out

As it has shone for so many years, may it shine through our love and our tears

And now we come to our central candle, our light of hope for the future. This candle stands for those who will gather in this place in the years to come. We light it as our promise that we will pass on the light of God. We light it to show our trust in the promise that life continues, that faith continues, that there is indeed a future to await with joy and expectation. As we light this candle we ask:

Don't let the light go out

As it has shone for so many years, may it shine through our love and our tears

Prayer of Approach & Lord's Prayer

Time for the Young at Heart

***Hymn:**

To Show By Touch and Word

VU 427

**To show by touch and word devotion to the earth,
to hold in high regard all life that comes to birth,
we need, O God, the will to find
the good you had of old in mind.**

**Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most,
our hearts to long for truth till pride of self is lost.
For every challenge that we face
we need your guidance and your grace.**

**Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule, and norm,
and let our lives portray your word in human form.
Now come with us that we may have
your wits about us where we live.**

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Merciful One, you know when we are afraid to love; you know when we are too cowardly to show mercy. Remind us again that perfect love casts out such fears. Surround us and strengthen us with your perfect love, even in the face of our imperfections. Imbue us with a love so strong, with such growth toward perfection, that we may cast aside our pride and embrace the power of love.

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: **Philippians 2:1-5**

One: Herein is wisdom.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Scripture: **John 15:1-8**

One: This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

All: Praise be to you O Christ

Message

***Hymn:** **Christ has no Body now but Yours** **MV 171**

Refrain

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.

Here on this earth, yours is the work,

To serve with the joy of compassion.

No hands but yours to heal a wounded world,

No hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,

No touch but yours to bind the broken hope of the people of God.

Refrain

No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,

To find the lost, to gaze with compassion,

No eyes but yours to glimpse the holy place of the city of God.

Refrain

No feet but yours to journey with the poor,
To walk this world with mercy and justice,
Yours are the steps to build a lasting peace for the children of God.

Refrain

Through every gift, give back to those in need,
As Christ was blessed, so now be a blessing,
With every gift a benediction be to the people of God.

Refrain

*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 (Responsive):

A community of faith conveys God's good news of love,

And leads its members along pathways of faith.

It sows seeds of life in the soil of our hearts,

Causing faith and hope to sprout in our souls.

This congregation has been a vehicle of God's grace,

Shining God's marvelous light across the years;

A place for growing in relationship with the Lord,

For living, loving, and forgiving in the spirit of Christ.

We celebrate the many members of this family of faith,

Who have walked with the Lord through their years.

We remember how they have blessed us so richly,

Conveying God's gift of love from their hearts to our hearts.

We celebrate the gift we are to one another,

As we learn and grow along this spiritual journey.

We give thanks for the togetherness we feel with one another,

Sharing in all of life's joys and sorrows, its victories and defeats.

It is a day of great joy in the life of this congregation,

As we celebrate the many lives it has already touched.

We give thanks for the body of Christ that we are today

And for what God will inspire us to become tomorrow.

In light of all that God has given us through the gift of this community of faith,

We joyfully dedicate this offering to the glory of God. Amen and Amen!

Prayers of the People

***Hymn:**

Blessed be the Ties that Bind

VU 602

**Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.**

**Before our Maker's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.**

**We share each other's woes,
each other's burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.**

**The glorious hope revives
our courage on the way;
that we shall live in perfect love
in God's eternal day.**

Ellen: We go back out into the world to love and serve the community around us,
Richard: just as we have done for 184 years, so we will continue to do.
Sarah: We go out held in the loving arms of God who Creates, Redeems, and Sustains us.

***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!**

We invite you to stay and enjoy the postlude

Announcements

Sympathy and prayers of the congregation are extended to Maude & Bill McNamara and family in the death of Maude's brother Eldon Evans who passed away last week.

Special thanks to Rev. Ellen Beirsto for leading our 184th Anniversary service this morning and we also welcome those who have joined us from Wilmot United to take part in our celebration.

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday is coming back! On November 27th we are having our third 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. As before, the pot-luck fellowship is FREE and open to all. Come and share in the bread that sustains body and soul.

Spirit Sisters, will be meeting this **Monday November 14th** to continue journeying through *Power of the Praying Woman*. Gathering in the **Ladies' Parlour**, start time **7:00 PM**

Men's Conversation Group will be gathering again this Tuesday, **November 15th** to continue the discussion of *Three Ways of Grace*. The group gathers for **conversation and coffee at 6:45** and begins the session with prayer at **7:00 pm in the Ladies Parlour**.

Guided by Grace, Love, and Light: Continuing this afternoon 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!

Thanks to all our Sunday School volunteers so far this fall! We still need a leader for the December classes so please prayerfully consider how you might offer your gift of leadership in this. If you know you will be available for a month in the new year, please contact Rev. Richard Bowley(458-1183 or 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.

November 27 – First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44

December 4—Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1–10, Psalm 72, Romans 15:4–13, Matthew 3:1–12

December 11 – Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1–10, Psalm 146:5–10, Luke 1:47–55, James 5:7–10, Matthew 11:2–11

Schedule of Services in November

November 20th – Wilmot's Anniversary **11 AM** (We join with them to celebrate)

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

Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers Annual Wreath Sale

Double sided balsam fir: UNDECORATED - \$12.00 DECORATED - \$14.00

Deadline for orders is November 21 Pickup at 83 Grey St. on Sunday November 27

Contact Sue Short - 455-5377, Anna Goddard - 459-8771, or Nancy MacGarvie - 455-3026

Proceeds to Stephen Lewis Foundation and Help Lesotho

Advent Carol Festival, Wednesday, December 7th at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's United Church, 224 York Street. Local choirs will gather to perform for the benefit of the food banks.

Advent Organ Recitals, Wednesdays from 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. At St. Paul's United Church, 224 York St. The December 14th recital will feature David Drinkell, Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral. The December 21st recital will feature Dr. Sharon Pond, Organist at St. Paul's, with The Choral Collective. There will be a free will offering at each recital to benefit Hospice House.

St. Paul's Tween Singers

Boys and girls aged 8-13 who like to sing are invited to join a youth choir. Rehearsals will be held on Sunday from 11:45 am -12:15 pm. in the Youth Lounge.

Christmas Luncheon

Bake & Craft Sale

Join us on Saturday November 19th for our annual Bazaar! There are baked good and

craft items galore including mincemeat pies and the beautiful wiremesh wreaths., and if you're hungry there is a lunch to! Lunch tickets are \$12/person and the menu is chicken-a-la-king as the main and lemon angelfood cake as the dessert. For more information, please contact Donna Chauvin at 458-5885.

SHARE THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS WITH A CHILD

Please check out the **Children's Wish Tree** at the front of the sanctuary after the service today. On it, you will find gift tags bearing Santa wishes from children whose families are being looked after by the Fredericton Food Bank this Christmas. Select a tag for a boy or a girl, a tot or a teen. Please buy the gift the child would like and return it to the Church by Sunday, November 27th.

Please write your name and the gift tag number you have selected on one of the cards and place it in the basket by the tree. This will help us keep track of who has selected which angel.

DO NOT WRAP YOUR GIFT

St. Paul's has always been generous in helping those who have little. Let us continue this tradition as we celebrate this wonderful time of year. If you have any questions, please contact Caroline Phillips (carrieph74@gmail.com) or call 459-8586.

There will be a **Turkey Supper and Bake Sale at Forest Hill United Church** from **4 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, 19 November**. Prices for the meal are \$12.00 for adults, \$7.00 for those of ages 6 – 12, and those 5 and under, are free. Celiac meals and take-outs will be available. The meal area is wheelchair accessible.

WILMOT UNITED CHURCH GIANT AUCTION takes place Saturday, November 26th at corner of King and Carleton. Live viewing and bidder registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and auction

(live and silent) starts at 10:00 a.m. Hundreds of quality items up for bids! For a sneak peak at some of the items, please visit

www.wilmotuc.nb.ca/auction.

Thinking of joining the church family? We'd love to have you! On December 11th, Joy Sunday in Advent, we will be welcoming new members to the congregation. If you would like to be a part of this celebration, contact Pastor Sarah or Rev. Richard for more information.