

St. Paul's United Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love

10:30 a.m December 18th, 2016

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

Prelude

Noel

Balbastre

We Gather in Community

Greeting (Responsive):

God is soaked in our world. God's Spirit lives and breathes in and through all that is.

We are lost only when we do not understand that God is already with and in each one of us.

Our task is recognition of God's initiative to be at home in us—acceptance of God-With-Us.

Then we cannot but be glad.

Tween Singers:

Gloria in Excelsis

Anderson

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship/Candle Lighting Liturgy (Responsive):

It is a time to bind up the broken hearted;

come, Lord, and make all things new.

For past wrongs that prevent us from moving forward;

come, Lord, and make all things new.

For any bitterness that drains our soul;

come, Lord, and make all things new.

For relationships left in decay and neglect;

come, Lord, and make all things new.

For any action that has wounded us or by which we have wounded others:

grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

First & Second Purple Candle are Lit

Pink Candle Lit

Third Purple Candle is Lit

Sung Response:

Christ Be Our Light

(vs.4 and refrain)

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,

walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

How good are we at watching for signs of God's presence in the world—in our lives, our homes?

(silent reflection)

Advent God, forgive us when we pay more attention to satisfying our own needs, than seeking you and your will for our lives—for being more interested in possessing the material things of life, rather than your spiritual gifts. Turn our lives around so that we are looking in the right direction - towards

you. Only then can we hope to recognize the signs of your loving presence in the world. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love (Responsive):

Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ we have been enriched in every way—in everything we say and in everything we know. In addition, through God's grace we do not lack any spiritual gift as we wait with anticipation for Jesus to be revealed. He is the one who will keep us strong to the end, so that we shall be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor.1:5-8)

Thanks be to God.

***Hymn of Praise:** Hark the Herald Angels Sing VU 48
Celebrating the Sacrament: Holy Communion (*see insert*)
Children's Choir: A Babe is Born Anna Page

We Listen for the Voice of the Spirit

Prayer for Illumination: O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word VU 84 (vs 1)

O radiant Christ, incarnate Word,
eternal love revealed in time:
come, make your home within our hearts,
that we may dwell in light sublime.

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25 Natalie Bowley
One: This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
All: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Anthem Hodie Anderson

Message What to expect with the unexpected Rev. Richard
***Hymn of Praise:** People Look East VU 9

We Respond to the Spirit

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Chorale Prelude on song of the Crib Reeser

***Dedication Verse:** (Words by Sandra Jenkinson. Sung to "Good King Wenceslas.")

Here our gifts we offer, God, thankful for your blessings.
Take them, Spirit, use them to spread the loving message
that Christ comes to bring to us life for all creation.
May our gifts help bring to all love and transformation.

***Dedication Prayer (Unison):**

In hope we give our lives to you, in peace we live each day. With joy we'll serve and worship you,
Your love shall guide the way. O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your son, inspire and
guide, empower us until your kingdom come. AMEN

***Hymn of Praise:** My Love Colours Outside the Lines MV 138

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

Look, a young woman is with child and shall bear a son. He shall be called Emmanuel.

We go forth with anticipation and longing.

Share the good news—Emmanuel—God with us, is coming.

We go with joy and hope, trusting in the promises of God.

***Choral Closing:** May the God of Hope
 May the God of hope go with us every day,
 filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
 May the God of justice speed us on our way,
 bringing light and hope to every land and race.

VU 424

Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Postlude

Praise to the Lord of Hosts

Saint Saens

We invite you to stay and enjoy the postlude

Announcements

Greeters:	Dec. 18:	Isabel Green
Ushers:	Left Side:	Tammy Coughlan & Dean Jones
	Middle:	Roger Miller
	Right Side:	Ann & Harold Raper
	Upstairs:	Katie & Eric Lakes
Coffee Hour:	Dec. 25:	Trustees

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING today in Fraser Hall following the worship service.

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

NO SCENTS IS GOOD SENSE: Please be mindful of those around you who may have reactions to heavy perfumes, deodorants, etc.

PARKING RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT: As of Dec 1st, parking around the downtown is changing. Please be aware of the signs, and note that parking on side streets like George St will be limited, if not restricted entirely.

Congregational Meeting: Taking place today following worship in Fraser Memorial Hall. This meeting is to consider a candidate being brought forward by the Joint Search Committee.

Organ Recitals at St. Paul's - There is one more noon-time organ recital to will be held at St. Paul's United during this Advent season. It will be on Wednesday, Dec.21. The start time will be 12:10 p.m. and will conclude at 12:50 p.m. Dr. Sharon Pond, organist at St. Paul's, will present this recital. It will include a classical repertoire as well as seasonal selections. This concert will also include The Vocal Collective, a quintet of teenaged singers, performing a program of Christmas and seasonal songs. Freewill offerings in support of Hospice Fredericton will be received.

Spirit Sisters, will gather at The Palate on Monday December 19th @ 6:45 PM

Men's Conversation Group: Will be gathering at **Isaac's Way at 6 PM** on Tuesday December 20th.

CHRISTMAS DINNER: if people have food donations please bring them any day next week but no later than Dec. 22. Many thanks

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 (or a Sunday every now and again) in the new year, please contact Rev. Richard Bowley(458-1183 or rev.bowley@outlook.com)

All the leaders and volunteers who help out in **The Pantry** wish to extend our thanks for all your contributions during the past year. Your support is so appreciated by us as well as our clients. We are currently serving 92 clients. This fall has seen new people register with us for our help on a weekly basis. The winter months are a difficult time for them. We appreciate your donations in non-perishable food as well as your monetary donations. Many thanks for all. The Pantry volunteers.

St. Paul's Christmas Services

Dec 24	3:00 pm	Family Service and Baptism
Dec 24	7:00 pm	Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Dec 24 11:00 pm Holy Communion
Dec 25 10:30 am Christmas Day Service
Jan 1 10:30 am New Year's Day Service

Hospice Fredericton is accepting referrals for the Adult Day Centre at 621 Churchill Row. We are open 3 days a week; Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am to 3pm. We welcome clients with cognitive or physical impairments of any kind that are 55 and older. The centre offers a wide range of stimulating programs for memory loss, physical challenges, or social isolation. Activities will include music, games, trivia, bingo, and various exercise programs. For more information on our Adult Day Program, to make a referral or on volunteering please contact Nicole Pike in person at 621 Churchill Row, Fredericton, NB, E3B 1P5, over the phone at (506) 206-7955 or by email at hospiceadc@gmail.com