

St. Paul's United Church
Fifth Sunday in Lent
10:30 a.m. April 2nd, 2017

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

Gathering Music: Chorale Prelude Bach

We Gather in Community

***Lenten Procession of Symbols**

***Vocal Collective** Beautiful City Godspell

***Call to Worship (Responsive):**

Coming from places that have seen better days,

God bids us to celebrate this day, a day full of new possibilities.

Coming with our breath taken away by grief,

the Holy Spirit breathes new life within us, renewing our connection with God and with one another.

Coming to worship seeking a hope that will endure,

Christ unbinds the fetters that hold us in death, speaking in word and sacrament, and building community for holy service.

Welcome & Announcements

Prayer of Approach & Lord's Prayer

***Hymn of Praise:** Great is Thy Faithfulness VU 288

Vocal Collective Ezekiel Saw the Wheel a Rollin' Keen

Time for the Young at Heart

We Listen for the Voice of the Spirit

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Forgive us, O God, when we see the world through rose-colored glasses rather than as it really is, much less the way you seek it to be. Forgive us, Holy One, when we forsake lively and risky faith calling us to be agents of change in our world for the safe conviction that all will be well. Renew us with your grace and ground us with your Spirit, that we might be empowered to live, in word and deed, as testimonies to the power of your love over the grave. In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Sung Prayer of Illumination: Take, O Take Me As I Am MV 85

Take, O take me as I am.

Summon out what I shall be,
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.

Scripture: Ezekiel 37: 1-14 Erin Hayes

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: Sanctuary Thompson, Scruggs & Larson

Scripture: John 11: 1-45
One: This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Sarah

All: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Message by Pastor Sarah

***Hymn of Praise:** Let My Spirit Always Sing MV 83

We Respond to the Spirit

Invitation to Offering

Offertory - Vocal Collective Homeward Bound

***Dedication Verse:** In Gratitude and Humble Trust VU 544

**In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today.
To serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.**

***Dedication Prayer (Unison):**

Generous God, accept and bless these gifts which we offer in response to the gracious gift of your life-giving Spirit to us. May these gifts and our lives be used to flesh out your love and justice, mercy and peace as they are revealed in and through Jesus, your Son and our Saviour, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People

***Hymn of Praise:** We Shall Go Out With Hope VU 586

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

Come out! Jesus commands,

and calls us from the tombs of our existence into the brightness of a new day.

Come out! Jesus cries,

and unbinds us from the chains of our past.

Come out! Jesus calls,

and entices us into a world filled with grace and possibility. And so, we are called to go out: Into a world that needs our life, our breath, our spirit!

Go out!

Into a world that needs the Spirit of God, carried on our lips and in our loving arms.

Go out!

Into the world to live as God's resurrected people!

***Choral Closing:** Go Make a Difference MV 209 (vs 2)

[Refrain] Go make a difference, we can make a difference.

Go make a difference in the world.

Go make a difference, we can make a difference.

Go make a difference in the world.

We are the hands of Christ, reaching out to those in need

The face of God for all to see

**We are the spirit of hope, we are the voice of peace
Go make a difference in the world.**

[Refrain]

Ministry of Music: All For the Best

Godspell

We invite you to stay and enjoy the Ministry of Music

Announcements

Sympathy and prayers of the congregation are extended to the following families:

Family of Peter Dykeman who passed on March 18th

Family of Rev. Bill Randall Sr. who passed away on March 21st

Diana & Brandon Brown in the passing of Diana's sister Gillian MacLean who passed away suddenly on March 21st. Gillian's funeral will be held on Wednesday, April 5th in Plaster Rock.

Family of George Noble who passed away on March 23rd

Family of Becky Watson who passed away on March 28th. Becky's funeral will be held here at St. Paul's on Monday, April 10th at 2 p.m.

Greeters: April 2

Ushers: Left Side Dow Johnston & Roger Miller

Middle Isabel Green

Right Side Betty Fitzpatrick & Greg Morton

Upstairs Andrew, Hope, Laura and Graham Steeves

Coffee: April 9 Board of Trustees

If you are an adult looking to join the church, we will be welcoming New Members on Easter Sunday. Contact the office or either of your ministers for more information.

Today in Sunday School: Anchor Point, We Celebrate Jesus. Bible Verse for the month, "Hosanna in the highest!" Matthew 21:9. Bible Story, Matthew 26: 69-75, Cock-A-Doodle-Do! The children will learn of Peter's three times denying knowing Jesus when he was questioned in the courtyard of Caiaphas.

Lenten Organ Recital: Wed., April 5th, 12:10 - 12:50 p.m.

All are welcome to hear the following recital: Dr. Sharon Pond (organ) with the Vocal Collective (youth Choir). A free will offering will be received.

UCW Bridge Luncheon: Saturday, April 8th at noon. Reserve your table (\$48.) by calling Isabel Green at 459-7116.

UCW Spring Rally: April 29th in Florenceville. Theme: Reaching Out With Purpose. Please watch for further details.

AND CAN IT BE? Please join the congregation of Brunswick Street Baptist Church for a reflective candlelight worship concert for Easter on Sunday, April 9, 6:30 pm. The church's music ministries will take part in the service. The offering will go to the Fredericton Downtown Community Health Center. A reception will follow. All welcome.

UCW Bridge Luncheon: Book your table now for our upcoming Bridge Luncheon. **Thursday, May 11th, at 12 noon.** At the Nashwaaksis United Church gym. Tables are \$40.00. Contact Connie – 472-4744

Upcoming Easter Services

Palm Sunday: 10:30 a.m. at St. Paul's

Downtown United: Maundy Thursday pot-luck super (gym) and service at Wilmot United, begins at 6 p.m.

Downtown United: Good Friday Service at St. Paul's, begins at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Downtown United Sunrise Service: On the Green (across the road from the back of the library) at 7 a.m., followed by breakfast at Wilmot United

Easter Communion Service: 10:30 a.m. at St. Paul's