

St. Paul's United Church

Second Sunday of Advent: **Peace** - Dec. 10th, 2017



Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the congregation.
At the points marked * - those who are able are invited to stand.

John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Organ Prelude: God's Son is Coming Buttstett
Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

Sarah, James, Emma & Muriel Rodgers

We started with hope.
(light Hope candle)

We pause on our journey for peace, but not one that we can find in rest or in silence,

nor any kind of peace that the world can give.

But a peace that comes from Holy breath,
from Holy Spirit.

We are as dry bones awaiting prophecy.

We are a womb awaiting a miracle.

This is the peace we seek.

And so we light this candle for Peace, waiting for Christ to be born anew in us.

(light Peace candle)

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.**

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

**The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

Welcome & Announcements

St. Paul's Contact Information

stpaulsunitedchurch@nb.aibn.com www.stpaulsunited.ca

Tel. 458-1183 Fax: 458-1944

**Keep up to date on upcoming activities
and stay in touch in-between Sundays!**

<http://www.facebook.com/stpaulsunitedfredericton>

Ministers: Rev. Richard Bowley rev.bowley@outlook.com
Rev. Michelle Armstrong michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com
Pastor Sarah Magie is on maternity leave

Organist: Dr. Sharon Pond spond@bellaliant.net

Choir Director: Alexis Ervin aervin17@gmail.com

Sexton: Sam Zakaria

Office Admin: Cathy Simpson cathysimpson@nb.aibn.com

Office Hours

	Rev. Richard	Rev. Michelle
Sunday:	By Appointment	By Appointment
Monday:	8:30—12	9-12, afternoon by appointment
Tuesday:	8:30—12	9-12, afternoon by appointment
Wednesday:	By Appointment	9-12:30, 1:30-4
Thursday:	8:30—12	By appointment

These hours are subject to change due to Emergency Pastoral Care, meetings and other church business elsewhere.

Upcoming Weekly Activities

Monday-Friday	8:30 am-4 pm	Adult Learning Association
	11:30-1 pm	AA - Youth Lounge
Mon., Wed., Friday	12-1 pm	Exercise Group - Gym
Tuesday & Thursday	1-4 pm	Quilting - Quilter's Parlour
Tuesday & Saturday	7-9 pm	AA - Youth Lounge
Tuesday	6:30-8 pm	Beavers & Cubs - Gym
	7 pm	River Valley Chorus-Sanctuary
Wednesday	9 am	Pantry
	10 am	Parlour Prayers
Thursday	7 pm	Senior Choir Practice - Hall
Friday (1st and 3rd)	6:30-9 pm	Youth Group
Sunday	11:45 am	Children's Choir - Ladies Parlour

Youth Group will meet for our Christmas Gathering on Dec 22 @ 5:30 (note time change) for potluck supper and Christmas party. More details to come via email. So mark your calendar and keep your eyes open for more details. If you are/have a youth in Middle School thru High School and are not receiving emails please contact michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com to be added to our list

The United Church **Observer**: If you are interested in a subscription for next year please place your \$25 in an envelope with your name and address (if new or changed) on it and drop it off in the office with Cathy or place it in the collection plate.

Church Calendars are on sale through the office at \$8 per calendar.

2018 Offering Envelopes are ready for pick-up. If you are not using envelopes or on PAR and wish to contribute to the life of the church please contact Cathy to select a method of participating.

When you are planning Christmas financial donations please consider the **Interchurch Refugee Committee**. We have been supporting several new refugee families. Our costs have been greater than anticipated due to unexpected expenses. In order to meet commitments to our families we need to raise funds. Donations will be gratefully received to your local church treasurer and designated for the interchurch Refugee Fund. Many thanks.

St. Paul's Upcoming Events

Dec. 13 @ noon Advent Recital , CD launch & reception
Dec. 15 @ 7 p.m. 'Twas the Night Before
Christmas reading

Last week of Advent/First week of Christmas Schedule

Dec. 21 @ 7:00 p.m. Blue Christmas/Longest Night (@ Wilmot)
Dec. 24 @ 10:30 a.m. Advent 4: Love
@ 3:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service
@ 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candle-light Service
@ 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service
Dec. 31 @ 10:30 a.m. Joint Worship @ St. Paul's

***Gathering Hymn:** Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming VU 8

***Call to Worship:**
The hand of the Lord has brought us to this place.
To hear the word and find strength. To join in song and breathe in the Spirit. To come together in prayer and find the peace that only comes from the Most High.

We come seeking the prophecy that will unify us as one body.
A prophecy that brings a new way to a people who have become lost and lonely, a new path from the valley of death to the dawn of new life.

Let us open ourselves to what the Holy Spirit is saying.
Let us worship who does and calls us to impossible things.

Prayer of the Day
Family Hymn: There Was a Child in Galilee MV 134 (vs 1)

Story Time for the Young and Young at Heart

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Anthem Long Awaited One Elsey, arr. Nolan

Today's Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14 Lynne Naugler
Herein is wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

Message Breath Of the Spirit Rev. Richard

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*** Hymn:** Spirit God, Be Our Breath MV 150

Invitation to the Offering
Offertory Music O Come Little Children Payne
Dedication Verse: In The Bleak Midwinter VU 55 (vs 4)

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise one, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him -- give my heart.**

*** Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

SENDING FORTH

* Closing Hymn: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus VU 2

* Commissioning & Benediction (Responsive):

He is coming.

The Holy Spirit moves in us, as it moved in the bones, as it moved in Mary. It has been moving since before we could have noticed. It is a part of us.

It is in our heart. It is in our bones.

Like Israel, we carry the promise of new life. Like Mary, we carry the promise of a new way.

So go with the love of God in your hearts, the way of Christ at your feet and the breath of the Holy Spirit, to a world that is craving a miracle.

AMEN

*Choral Closing: Peace Be With You MV 215

Peace be with you, peace forever,
peace be with you my friends.

Till we meet again, may God be with you.

Peace, peace, peace.

Ministry of Music: Fantasie sur Picardy Bedard

We invite you to stay and enjoy the Ministry of Music

Greeters: Linda & Alastair Lamont


Ushers: Left Side: Linda & Alastair Lamont

Center: Isabel Green

Right Side: Bob & Roger Miller

Upstairs: Katie & Eric Lakes

Coffee: Dec. 10 Board of Trustees

 The bulletin covers for today's service have been donated in loving memory of family and friends by Ron & Lynne Naugler.

Sympathy and prayers are extended to Margaret and Don Fletcher in the death of their daughter Gillian who passed away last week and whose funeral was held here at St. Paul's yesterday.



"Thank you for supporting the Children's Wish Tree. Your generous donation of toys, books, games and other special items will bring great joy and happiness to those young children being looked after by the Fredericton Food Bank. Thank you for sharing the joy and magic of Christmas."



White Gift Envelope donations are divided equally between the Salvation Army and St. Paul's Benevolent Fund. The Benevolent Fund covers costs such as; brown bag items, bus tickets, food gift cards, medications, gas cards and clothing needed to get a job...there is always a need. We appreciate those who donate to this fund throughout the year and especially at this time of year when the needs seem greater. Please return by December 17th.

Today in Sunday School: December unit: A Time is Coming. Anchor Point: We prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth. Bible Verse for the month: "The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up a righteous descendant from David's line, and he will rule as a wise king. (Jeremiah 23:5). Bible Story: Mary and Joseph (Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 1:26-38): The Gospel of Luke tells the most complete Christmas story which begins with Mary and Joseph, a young couple engaged to be married.

Advent Recitals: Spend your lunch time at St. Paul's as we celebrate the Advent season with music. On Wednesday, Dec. 13th, Dr. Sharon Pond will offer us her gift through the playing of the Organ. Following there will be a Reception and CD launch for her CD of Christmas music played on the organ. Get your copy, and take in some of the music in person. We hope you can make it to one or both of these days as we make our way through the Advent season towards Christmas.



'Twas the Night Before Christmas Reading: Come to St. Paul's to hear the classic story, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas as read by Tim Yerxa. There will be musical offerings as well from The Vocal Collective, Sharon Pond, and Alexis Ervin. Join us for the story and the music at 7 PM on Friday December, 15th. There will be a Free Will offering.

2017 Weekly Budget for December \$ 10,000.00

Financial Contributions for December 3, 2017

Envelopes	\$2,053.95	
Loose	142.25	
Anniversary Envelopes	410.00	
Christmas Envelopes	400.00	
PAR	<u>2,032.48</u>	- \$4,961.32
	\$ 5,038.68	

Interested in PAR? You can help increase the above figure by joining the “**PAR Team**” or by increasing your monthly PAR contributions. Contact Cathy Simpson in the office at 458-1183 if you are interested. Offering envelopes are also available if you care to donate through that system.

Thank you and may God truly bless and multiply your gifts

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