



St. Paul's United Church

Third Sunday of Advent: Joy - Dec. 17th, 2017

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

John 4:13-14 - Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.'

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Organ Prelude: Variations sur un Noel Dupre

*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

Jamie, Beth, Sydney & Abby Henderson

We started in hope (*light purple candle*)

We paused for peace (*light purple candle*)

We find ourselves now so filled with joy that we want to leap.

Because God is near, we are animated. Feeling God's presence, we seek our makers face.

Listening closely for God's word, we learn that we are not the only ones in creation who cry out with joy

The mountains sing God's praises, the trees clap in eagerness to worship God.

Our hearts swell even more with the joy of the Lord

And so we light this candle for Joy, overflowing with anticipation as we move closer to the dawn. (*light the pink candle*)

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world that the Saviour is born.

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	<i>is on maternity leave</i>
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
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 (5:30 pm)
Sunday	11:45 am	Children's Choir - Ladies Parlour

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 your church please contact Cathy Simpson at 458-1183 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.

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

2017 Financial Update

BUDGET FOR 12 MONTHS OF 2017	\$314,000
RECEIVED TO DECEMBER 16,2017	<u>271,500</u>
REQUIRED TO MEET OUR OFFERING BUDGET	\$42,500

Thank you and may God truly bless and multiply your gifts

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.

Presentation of Life Time Memberships

UCW

***Hymn:** O Come, O come Emmanuel VU 1(Vs 1, 2, 4, 6, 7)

* Call to Worship:

The thirsty are seeking,
the hungry are longing.

And we all are waiting.

Waiting for Christ to come.

That he may open us and the whole world to the joy of life, the joy of this season.

The joy only God can give.

We gather now waiting for Christ to arrive, for our joy to be fulfilled as we worship today.

Prayer of the Day

Family Hymn: You Shall Go Forth With Joy VU 884

Story Time for the Young and Young at Heart

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Anthem Dancing Into the Promise Beall & Carter

Today's Scripture: Isaiah 55:1-13 Ron Naugler
Herein is wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

Message Finding Joy

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*** Hymn:** Hark the Glad Sound VU 29

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music Organ/Piano Duet

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 man, 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:** Joy To The World VU 59

*** Commissioning & Benediction (Responsive):**

Christ's coming! The time draws near,
let us continue to wait in cheer,
sharing the joy that we have found in the Lord
we reach out to the world that life abounds.

Go now into your week, to be guided by the Holy Spirit as you share
the Good News that this season brings.
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: Presto from Variations sur un Noel Dupre

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: Florence Bartlett & Roger Miller
Upstairs: Hope, Andrew, Graham & Laura Steeves
Coffee: Dec. 17 The Pantry

*Please return your **White Gift Envelope** today.* These donations are divided equally between the Salvation Army Christmas appeal and St. Paul's Benevolent Fund. The Benevolent Fund helps cover the cost of brown bag items. bus tickets, food gift cards, medicationsthere 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. The envelopes may be placed in the plates during regular offering time.

Today in Sunday School: 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: A Baby is Born (Luke 2: 1-7): The time between the angel's announcement to Mary and Joseph till Jesus' birth was a difficult time. God could have come into our world in splendor but instead he came by a lowly birth. The story of Christmas is both an announcement of hope and a call to humility.

The **UCW** will meet at Pizza Delight on the Northside, St. Mary's Street, on Monday December 18th at 11:30 AM for a Christmas Luncheon. Please answer Roll Call with coffee or laundry soap for the Downtown Medical Clinic. We can always car pool. Donna Chauvin 458-5885

While many find this season of light to be one of joy, some feel deep sorrow as the nights lengthen. Whether you have lost a loved one, are dealing with personal trials, or maybe you are just lonely in this season, we invite you to join us for our shared **Longest Night** service with our brothers and sisters of Wilmot. The service takes place at Wilmot United Church on **Thursday December 21st at 7pm.** Come to this service of prayer and be embraced by the love of God.

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.



St. Paul's Brown Bag program in need of the following items:

protein (flip lids please) such as wieners, canned meat, canned fish, puddings, fruit cups, snacks, and juice. Many thanks for your continued support of this program.

