

St. Paul's United Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love - 10:30 a.m. Dec. 24th, 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.

Psalm 130:5-6 - I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Organ Prelude: Noel with Variations Balbastre

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: The Lamont Family

In the beginning we were created from a yearning for relationship,
created out of love.

In the course of history, God came among us to walk, to live, to laugh, and to love.

We've been waiting...

We've been hoping...

(light Hope Candle)

seeking the Holy on our way...

seeking a peace beyond compare...

(light Peace Candle)

and singing praise to the one who gave life its breath.

and jumping for joy as we bask in God's love light.

(light pink Joy Candle)

It is because of that love that we continue to gather; continue to wait.

And so we light this fourth candle for Love, a love that goes back farther than the beginning, and reaches beyond all our tomorrows.

(light Love Candle)

Love is a flame that burns in our heart,

Jesus has come and will never depart.

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.

St. Paul's Contact Information

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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

Welcome & Announcements

* **Gathering Hymn:** People Look East VU 9

* **Call to Worship:**

We have been looking for a sign. **Emmanuel—God with us.**
We have been waiting for a Saviour. **Emmanuel—God with us.**
The time is near—can it be? **Emmanuel—God with us.**
Come let us worship the God of sign, wonder, and promise.

Prayer of the Day

Special Music: A Child is Born Children’s Choir

Story Time for the Young and Young at Heart

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Anthem Arise, Arise and Shine McDonald

Today’s Scripture: John 1:1-18 Barbara Cull Wilby
Herein is wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

* **Hymn:** Hark the Herald Angels Sing VU 48

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music Mary’s Song arr. Page

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:** Go Tell It On The Mountain VU 43

* **Commissioning & Benediction (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.

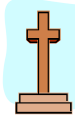
Choral Closing: Peace Be With You MV 215

**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: Hark The Herald Angels Sing Long

We invite you to stay and enjoy the Ministry of Music



Sympathy and prayers of the congregation are extended to Anna and Frank Goddard in the death of Anna’s brother, Walter Cosman of Sussex who passed away last week.

Greeters: Brad, Jennifer, Claire & Kate Green

Ushers: Left Side: Linda & Alastair Lamont

Center: Isabel Green

Right Side: Florence Bartlett & Roger Miller

Upstairs: Tammy Coughlan & Dean Jones

Christmas Eve Services

Dec. 24 @ 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

The Bulletin covers for the Christmas Eve services have been donated in loving memory of Shirley and Dr. E.H. Sutherland by their granddaughters Claire and Kate Green.

A donation has been made to the Memorial Chimes Fund in loving memory of the Blackmer family, Ed, Marion, Lily and John by Dolores Blackmer.

A donation has been made to the Music Fund in memory of Ron Fletcher by the Senior Choir.

A donation to the Operating Fund has been made in loving memory of Harold Forbes, James & Edith Cameron and Janice Cameron-Gionet by Barbara Forbes.

Donations to the Foundation have been made by Mary Dingee Jacobs in loving memory of Don McGuire & Ken Dauphinee.

A floral donation has been made in loving memory of Gerald Sutherland by his wife Catherine.

A donation has been made to St. Paul's Music Fund in loving memory of Hilda and Harry Sproul by daughter Betty Fitzpatrick.



Merry Christmas