

# St. Paul's United Church

December 24th - 11:00 PM  
Christmas Eve Communion

**St. Paul's Contact Information**  
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**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

## THE PEOPLE GATHER

**Gathering Music:**    Swiss Noel    D'Aquin

### Call to Worship:

The Lord of the Star be with you  
**and also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**we lift them up to the God who works miracles, and  
embraces the lowly.**

Let us give thanks to the One who is born anew this day.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

### Advent Candle Liturgy:

Wonder. Whisper. Wait. Waken. **Wonder. Whisper. Wait. Waken.**

*(Hope candle is lit) With the star gazers...    **we wonder.***

*(Peace candle is lit) With the shepherds...    **we whisper.***

*(Joy candle is lit) With Mary and Joseph...    **we wait.***

*(Love candle is lit) With the coming child...    **we waken!***

**Night closes in, and darkness abounds,  
yet just ahead waits a light to be found.**

**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.**

### Opening Prayer

**\*Hymn:**    It Came Upon a Midnight Clear    VU 44

### Prayer of Confession

## Office Hours

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

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

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.

## Last week of Advent/First week of Christmas Schedule

Dec. 31    @ 10:30 a.m.    Joint Worship @ St. Paul's

These are the gifts offered to us by Christ. Let us offer of ourselves to a world much in need. The offering will now be received.

**Offertory** Gloria arr. Payne  
**\*Sung Response** 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.

### **Dedication Prayer**

God of Life that cannot end and Love that has no limit,(...)In this hope and as your people we praise you saying:

**Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours,  
God most holy, now and forever.**

### **Distribution of Elements**

#### **Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer**

#### **SENDING FORTH**

**\*Lighting Candles:** O Little Town of Bethlehem VU 64 (vs 1, 4)

#### **\*Commissioning & Benediction:**

Go now in wonder. Go to bring light to those in darkness, joy to those who can find no joy, and comfort to a world that is greatly in need.

**We go with the songs of the angels in our ears, and the love of God in our hearts. We go to spread the word: the babe of Bethlehem is born for all.**

**\*Closing Hymn:** Silent Night VU 67

**Ministry of Music:** In dulci jubilo Bach

*We invite you to stay and enjoy the Ministry of Music*

#### **Greeters:**

**Ushers:** Left Side: Bob Miller & Lois Walker  
Center: Roger Miller  
Right Side: Hope Brewer & Darrell Bruce

### **Assurance of God's Love**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
God of vulnerable love;  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**\*Hymn:** Unto Us a Boy Is Born VU 54

### **LISTENING FOR TRUTH**

**Gospel:** Luke 2:1-15 Jane Blakely  
This is the Good news. **Thanks be to God.**

#### **Lighting the Christ Light:**

With all who come to the stable, no matter who we are, no matter where we come from, no matter where we're heading...

**we celebrate Christ's light, born again into the world!**

Glory to God in the Highest!

**Glory to God! Blessed is the Christ child! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! ALLELUIA!**

*(Christ candle is lit)*

**Christ is the light that shows us the way  
guiding us on from the night to the day.  
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.**

### **Meditation**

### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**\*Hymn:** Once in Royal David's City VU 62

#### **Invitation to The Table**

We come to the table late, but just in time for the feast that awaits (...)  
we shout with praise the mystery that is our faith:

**Christ has died;  
Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.**

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.