

St. Paul's United Church

1st Sunday of Lent
February 18th, 2018

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 104: 27-30 - These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Organ Prelude: What Wondrous Love Is This Hayes

* 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.

* Lighting the Christ Candle

* **Introit:** Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery VU 121 (lent vs 4)

**Give us eyes to see you clearly,
make us children of your light;
give us hearts to live more nearly
as your gospel shining bright,
as your gospel shining bright.**

Welcome & Announcements

* **Gathering Hymn:** Throughout These Lenten Days VU 108

* Call to Worship:

The journey of Lent has started.

Some of us like this reflective journey, some of us don't.

We know where we are going to Jerusalem, the cross and ultimately the empty tomb.

St. Paul's Contact Information

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

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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

Music Director: 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
Monday	7 pm	Spirit Sisters
Tuesday & Thursday	1-4 pm	Quilting - Quilter's Parlour
Tuesday & Saturday	7-9 pm	AA - Youth Lounge
Tuesday	10 am	Ladies Bible Study—Parlour
	6:30-8 pm	Beavers & Cubs - Gym
	7 pm	Fredericton Choral Society -Hall
	7 pm	River Valley Chorus-Sanctuary
Wednesday	9 am	Pantry
	10 am	Parlour Prayers
	7 pm	Men's Discussion Group
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

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday is next week! On Sunday, February 25th we invite you to bring a friend to share in the faith that we have explored in this place. Following the service there will be a potluck fellowship. All are invited to come to this lunch, and if you are able, we hope you can bring something to share. Either way, bring yourself, and share in the time we have together.

Loblaw's is providing **\$25 gift cards** to people who bought bread (see list at link below) between 2002 and 2015 at certain grocery stores. (ex. Superstore). If you are eligible to receive one, would you consider filling out the form at the link below and donating your card to our Brown Bag or Pantry programs when they mail it to you? It would be greatly appreciated and go a long way! Here is the link with eligibility criteria and the form: <https://www.loblawcard.ca/en/register>



The **All Saints' Women of Worship' Group** are looking for odds & ends of yarn, to knit muffs to donate to Nursing Homes for Dementia patients. If you have any yarn, you would like to donate, please call Lois 363-4229 or Sharon 363-4296

The Women's Inter-Church Council: The World Day of Prayer is being prepared by the Women of the Republic of Suriname. The Theme is "All God's Creation is Very Good!" Please come and join us on Friday, March 2 with Christians in more than 170 countries around the world and in 2,000 communities across Canada who will gather to learn about, pray, and celebrate in Solidarity with the people of The Republic of Suriname through the World Day of Prayer. Open to the Public.

Northside/ Maryville: All Saints Anglican Church, 172 Canada Street, on Friday, March 2 at 7PM. Storm Date: Sunday, March 4, at 2:30PM.

Forest Hill/Lincoln: St. Francis of Assisi, Lincoln Road, on Friday, March 2 at 7PM. Storm Date: Sunday, March 4 at 2PM.

Hanwell/New Maryland: Holy Family Parish Church, 1500 Hanwell Road, on Friday, March 2 at 7PM. No Storm Date.

Southside: Morning Gate Church, 74 Morning Gate Drive on Sunday, March 4 at 2PM. No Storm Date.

Contact name and phone number: Debbie Heustis 472-2916.

But there are many steps to get there; we need some stops along the way.

We come into this holy space to rest and gather strength for the journey.

We come to look for quiet and comfort, we come for wisdom and healing, we come to be with God.

Come now for it is time to worship. Come now and offer your praise.

Prayer of Approach

Family Hymn: O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing VU 326 (vs 3)

Story Time for the Young and Young at Heart

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Freeing God, too often we feel bound in our life; bound by our past, bound by our fear, bound by the expectations we have of ourselves and the expectations others have of us. Like the grave cloths that bind the dead, we experience death of joy, freedom and our connection with others and you as the bindings tighten around us. We do not want to be tied up and smothered, but we confess that sometimes the binding feels comfortable because we have lived in it so long. Sometimes it feels too risky to actually break free. God of life, call us to come out of the isolation and darkness of being bound. Call us into your light and into the community of faith that we may receive help in loosening and discarding the bindings we so need to leave behind, that we may walk boldly into the abundant life you have prepared for us. This we pray through Christ Jesus. Amen

Assurance of God's Love

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Anthem Think On These Things Patterson

Today's Scripture: John 11:1-44 Beth & Sydney Henderson
This is the Good News. **Thanks be to God.**

Message If only....

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

* Hymn: Like a Healing Stream MV 144

Invitation to offering

Offertory Music Sicilienne Paradis

Dedication Verse: For all your goodness God VU 549

**For all your goodness, God, we give you thanks.
Thanks for the food we eat, and for the friends we meet;
for each new day we greet, we give you thanks.**

* Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People & Sung Lord’s Prayer VU 959

Affirmation of Faith VU 918

SENDING FORTH

* Closing Hymn: I Danced In The Morning VU 352

* Commissioning & Benediction (Responsive):

Come out! Jesus commands,
**He calls us from the tombs of our existence into the
brightness of a new day.**

Come out! Jesus cries,
and He unbinds us from the chains of our past.

Come out! Jesus calls,
**and He entices us into a world filled with grace and
possibility.**

So: Go out! into a world that needs the Spirit of God.

We go into the world to live as God’s resurrected people!
People of the resurrection, go and through your words and actions
participate in the worlds unbinding, for you have been blessed
with new life and touched by the love of God, the grace of Christ
and the breath of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Adapted from prayer by Rev. Elizabeth Dilley

Choral Closing: Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery VU 121
(Lent general)

**Light of life beyond conceiving,
mighty Spirit of our Lord;
give new strength to our believing,
give us faith to live your word,
give us faith to live your word.**

Ministry of Music: Praise the Lord Karg-Elert

Greeters: Mary & Earl Staples
Ushers: Left Side: Linda & Alastair Lamont
Center: Isabel Green
Right Side: Tammy Coughlan & Dean Jones
Upstairs: Hope Brewer & Darrell Bruce
Coffee Hour: Trustees

**Annual Congregational Meeting
TODAY
following Worship Service
Fraser Memorial Hall**

Today in Sunday School: February unit: Who Then Is This?
Anchor Point: Jesus shows God’s Power. Bible Verse for the
month: “Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!
(Mark 4:41) Bible Story: Jesus Calms the Storm (Mark 4: 35-41)
The disciples wondered who Jesus was and how he could do
miracles. Their doubt and confusion continued through Jesus’
ministry, trial and crucifixion. When the Holy Spirit came on
Pentecost and indwelled them, only then did their faith become
unmovable.

Special stewardship event with Atlantic Stewardship and gifts
officer Roger Janes will take place at St. Paul’s on February 20
(specific focus on the needs at St. Paul’s) and February 22 (wider
stewardship practices open to all united churches in the area) both
start at 7pm. Committee members and those interested in
stewardship are invited to attend.