



St. Paul's United Church

December 9th, 2018 - Second Sunday of Advent
Peace

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.

Mission Statement: To glorify God through Worship, proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and serving others in Christ's name.

Matt 5:15-16 - No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude: Noel Variations 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:

Brad, Jennifer, Claire & Kate Green

Hope reminds us that a way is before us, even if we cannot see it.

[light HOPE candle]

And on this road we seek Peace, but it is unlike anything we have known.

Because Peace isn't winning. Peace is God's love shared, God's people united.

It's seeing the hurt of others and feeling it ourselves.

It's feeling empty when kindred and strangers alike aren't whole.

Peace is changing how we see the world,

so that we can be the change that the world needs.

[light PEACE candle]

We light this candle, a light that shines on all regardless of status or station, as a reminder that God's love is for all,

as a reminder that we are called to be disciples for such a time as this.

St. Paul's Contact Information

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

Tel. 458-1183 Fax: 458-1944

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

Ministers: Rev. Michelle Armstrong michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com

Rev. Richard Bowley rev.bowley@outlook.com

Pastor Sarah Magie sarah.magie@gmail.com

Music Director: Dr. Sharon Pond spond@bellaliant.net

Choir Director: Alexis Ervin aervin17@gmail.com

Custodian: Eric Hotte

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

New Office Hours

	Rev. Richard	Rev. Michelle	Pastor Sarah
Cell:	(506)262-2150	(306)858-7602	(613)329-6315
Sun.:	By Appointment	By Appointment	By Appointment
Mon.:	9am - noon	10 am - noon	8:30 am - noon
Tues.:	By Appointment	By Appointment	1-3 pm
Wed:	12-2 pm	10:30-12:30 pm	Day off
Thurs.:	12-2 pm	12-2 pm	8:30-12
Fri.:	Day off	Day off	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
		English Second Language
	11:30-1 pm	AA - Downstairs Lounge
Mon., Wed., Friday	12-1 pm	Exercise Group - Gym
Tuesday & Thursday	1-4 pm	Quilting - Quilter's Parlour
Mon., Tues. & Sat.	7-9 pm	AA - Downstairs Lounge
Mon-Thurs	6:30-8 pm	Taekwondo
Tuesday	6:30-8 pm	Beavers & Cubs - Gym
	7 pm	F'ton Choral Society
	7 pm	Barber Shopper Chorus
Wednesday	9 - 11am	Pantry
Thursday	7-8:15 pm	Senior Choir
Friday	7-9:30 pm	Youth Group (next on Dec. 14)
Saturday	10 am-noon	Taekwondo

OBSERVER: If you are interested in receiving the Observer for 2019 please let Cathy know (458-1183) by December 31. Cost is \$25 for the year (12 issues)

Do you find yourself at home here at St. Paul's? Have you been worshipping with us regularly? We invite you to become a full member of St. Paul's on Joy Sunday (December 16th). Speak with any member of our ministry team to determine what would be involved for you today!

The **Youth Christmas Party** will be Friday, December 14th @ 7:00 p.m. at the church.

Experience our Holy Scriptures! Lectio Divina, or Divine Reading, is a spiritual practice of experiencing the words, feelings, and call from God in our Holy Texts. Through Advent, Rev. Richard will be facilitating this unique form of Bible Study. No prep is required. No previous Bible study is needed. There will be two sessions running in parallel. One taking place **in the building on Sunday mornings (9:30 AM)** through Advent. The other session will be **online on Monday evenings (7:30 PM)**.

Online: 7:30 PM Monday, December 10th (Tomorrow)

Link for Session: <https://zoom.us/j/920506969>

No sign-in required!

In Person: 9:30 AM Sunday, Dec 16th (Church

Office)

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. PAUL'S

December 12th	FHS Jazz Ensemble	12:10-12:50 pm
December 14th	Youth Christmas Party	7 pm
December 15th	Richard & Natalie's Open House	2-5 pm
December 16th	'Twas the Night Before Christmas	7 pm
December 19th	Sharon Pond/Vocal Collective	12:10-12:50 pm
December 21st	Longest Night Service	7 pm
December 23rd	Festival of 9 Lessons & Carols	10:30 am
December 24th	Children's Christmas Eve Service	3 pm
	Traditional Christmas Eve Service	7 pm
	Carols & Communion	11 pm

* **Introit:** There Was a Child (vs 1 & 2) MV 134

Welcome & Announcements

* **Gathering Hymn:** Come, Let us Sing VU 222

* Call to Worship (Responsive):

We hear the cries. Cries from the wilderness, cries from the streets, cries from the broken and the beaten.

These cries are the voice of God spoken through our brothers and sisters, our kindred in Christ.

That same voice has called us here, to listen to the Word, to let it become a part of us,

So that when we go from here we will see more clearly the brokenness of the world and our part in the healing.

We have taken the first step in answering the call, coming to worship so that we will be ready to respond.

Let us worship God as we ready ourselves for the work of Peace and Justice that God is calling us to.

Prayer of Approach

Family Hymn: A Candle is Burning (vs 2) VU 6

Story Time for the Young and Young at Heart

Family Hymn: A Candle is Burning (vs 5) VU 6

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

How much are we like Esther, O God? "What can I do?" is often our response in the face of sorrow and tragedy, yet you encourage us to be a part of healing and help for a world that is broken and bruised. What can we do, O God, when we feel small, helpless, like the problems of the world seems too big for us to carry? We cry out to you. Move in us again, not just to encourage us, but also inspire in us the courage to risk in our faith, to serve out of love, to work for peace and justice. Remind us that as we follow your will not our own, even a small drop of water can have profound ripples, a spark can start a fire, that as small as we feel, You have called us to be a part of great things. Forgive us when we hesitate. Bless us when we participate. AMEN

Assurance of God's Love

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Today's Scripture: Esther 4:1-17 Bob Miller
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem Emmanuel Shall Come Hatch
Message

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* **Hymn:** Come Thou Long Expected Jesus VU 2

* **Invitation to Offering**

Offertory Music Basque Carol Tucker

* **Dedication Verse:** In the Bleak Winter (vs 4) VU 55

**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 (Unison):**

We hear Your call, O God, to serve this world. We offer our gifts in the forms of service in this place and your world, but also in the offering that we bring before you today along with those given through PAR. Bless all that we are, and all that we give. Remind us that we are giving from what abundance you have poured into our lives. Bless what we give that we might in turn be a blessing to the world. We offer this prayer, and our very selves in the strong name of our brother and Saviour Jesus Christ.

AMEN

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

SENDING FORTH

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

* **Commissioning (Responsive):**

Bringing Peace and Justice to the world is work that God can and will do through us.

We've taken that first step. We have opened ourselves to be God's hands and feet in the world.

We see the gaps and the cracks where people fall and become lost. Our task is to reach out. God has shaped us for such a time as this.

Because in God's Word we see a way, a path that starts at our hearts and ends in an embrace.

God cries out to you to go, to live, to love, to serve so that the cries of those in need will not be ignored.

And so we go to the wilderness, to the streets, to the broken, and the beaten to bring a love that knows no end.

* **Benediction**

* **Choral Closing:** Hope is a Star (vs 2) VU 7

**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.**

Ministry of Music: Fantaisie sur Picardy Bedard
Please feel free to stay and enjoy the postlude

Ushers: Left Side: Colleen Hanna & Bob Miller
Center: Isabel Green
Right Side: Tammy Coughlan & Dean Jones
Upstairs: Hope Brewer & Darrell Bruce

Coffee Hour: Worship

Announcements

Anyone wishing to donate Poinsettias or other floral arrangements for the Christmas season in memory of loved ones are asked to let Cathy Simpson know for inclusion in the weekly bulletin. 458-1183



Today in Sunday School...Advent with Your Family.

Bible Verse for December: "In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my saviour: (Luke 1:47) **Bible Story:** Mary: Mary had difficulty understanding the angel's announcement that she would be the mother of Jesus. She asked how she could conceive a child when she was a virgin. The angel stated a fact that nothing is impossible with God. She responded: I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said."

CHRISTMAS WISH TREE! Thank you for your continued support of this ministry outreach which helps bring joy this Christmas!

CHURCH OFFERINGS: PAR

We encourage our members to make their offerings by using the PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance) system. 71 members are now using PAR and find it very convenient and easy to manage. Your Bank Account is charged monthly (20th of the month) by the amount you choose. No more envelopes, writing cheques or having the right amount of cash. Once signed up, future changes can be made by contacting the Church office. The system also makes it easier for the Church, the Sunday collection counting is reduced and for preparing the church's budget. Please contact Cathy Simpson 458-1183 for more information.

Financial report to November 30, 2018

Our weekly offerings to the end of November are \$212,000 and our budget to December 31 is \$288,000 leaving us \$76,000 below budget. December is usually a good contribution month but we wanted to bring the matter to your attention and solicit your assistance so that we can continue to share Gods love in worship and in our outreach.

Providing a Warm Space: We got a few volunteers signed up last week, but we would require more people who are committed to be part of the overnight supervision team to ensure we have enough people to make this work. If you will serve overnight for this outreach please sign up on the sheets in the Narthex and the Hall today. If you feel called to this work but there are barriers to your participating in this way, please speak to your Ministry Team about how you can help.

Land Acknowledgement: Many have been asking, why doesn't St. Paul's United do a Land Acknowledgment like those done in some other churches and organizations? This year the Worship Committee brought a motion to the Board to include a Land Acknowledgement at the beginning of every service. After lengthy conversation, prayer, and transformative reflection the Board agreed that a Land Acknowledgement is about more than words written and/or spoken. Ultimately, the Board decided that words without action were empty, and that moving forward without education could be harmful. As the United Church information on Land Acknowledgement states "Open hearts are needed to make this process authentic and meaningful" The Board is looking for people with a passion and energy to organize and lead the church in this process. If this is something God is calling you to please contact any member of the Board.