



# St. Paul's United Church

December 16th, 2018 - Third Sunday of Advent

## Joy

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.*

*Luke 1:38 - Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.*

### THE PEOPLE GATHER

**Prelude:** O Jesu Sweet, O Jesu Mild arr. Smith  
A Babe Is Born in Bethlehem Bach

### \*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:** Jamie, Beth, Sydney & Abby Henderson  
When darkness grows, Hope reminds us that it only takes a spark to scatter shadows.

When darkness grows, Peace reminds us that we carry that spark and shine brightest together. *[light. HOPE & PEACE candles]*  
And when we share that light with one another, we experience the Joy at the core of our creation.

**Because we were created to be in community, in relationship. Joy is finding one another.**

It's hearing God's call to serve, giving of ourselves eagerly for the building up of the kingdom.

**It's serving our kindred in this world and knowing that each hand reaching out is Christ's own hand, that each smile is Christ's own smile.**

Joy is being a mirror to reflect God's love light on the world,  
**so that none are lost and alone in the dark.** *[light JOY candle]*

We light this candle because our Joy in the Lord is overflowing within us and we cannot help but share the news:

**Christ is alive in us. Christ is coming soon.**

### St. Paul's Contact Information

stpaulsunitedchurch@nb.aibn.ca    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.ca

### \*New\* Office Hours

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

**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. No prep is required. No previous Bible study is needed. There will be two sessions running in parallel. One taking place **in the church office 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 17th (Tomorrow)

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

No sign-in required!

This will be the last online session

**In Person:** 9:30 AM Sunday, Dec 23rd (Church Office)

The **Longest Night** service **December 21st @ 7pm** is a special service for those who are finding that this season is tinged with grief, struggle, or loss. It is an opportunity to worship and acknowledge that for some this can be a difficult time of year. A quiet service allows for the lighting of flames against the darkness and a reminder that though the night is long...from this night forward it gets a little lighter every day.

As final exam time comes closer, the Fredericton Council for Christian Ministry on Campus (FCCMC) is helping to feed students bodies and souls. Planned for exam week is a stress buster where our chaplain will be handing out with free food for students and offers a listening ear. Ensuring that students take a quick break and showing that the Christian community cares for their well-being is just one of the ways FCCMC reaches out to the campus. Your support of Campus Ministry makes this possible. Thank you for your ongoing support!

**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).

### **CHURCH OFFERINGS: PAR**

We encourage our members to try PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance). 71 members are now using PAR and find it very convenient and easy to manage. No more envelopes, writing cheques or having the right amount of cash. Once signed up, future changes can be made easily. The system also makes it easier for the Church for preparing the budget. Please contact Cathy Simpson 458-1183 for more information.

**\* Introit:**

There was a Child (vs 1-3)

MV 134

### **Welcome & Announcements**

**\* Gathering Hymn:** Let my Spirit always Sing (vs 1, 2)

MV 83

**\* Call to Worship (Responsive):** *(Based on Psalm 126)*

Let us begin this day by rejoicing!

**The Lord has done such wonderful things for us.**

Let us be glad!

**The way before us is uncertain.**

We know not what we will encounter on our way.

**Wherever we go, we journey together as people of the living God,**

and we go forth to touch the lives of all with His healing touch.

**Let us begin this day with rejoicing!**

### **Prayer of Approach**

**Family Hymn:** A Candle is Burning (vs 3)

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):**

**We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviours that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light.**

**We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

### **Assurance of God's Love (Responsive):**

Rejoice, dear friends, this is the Good News of our Lord:

**The love of God is always offered to us, freely, joyfully, for all eternity. Hallelujah! Amen!**

# LISTENING FOR TRUTH

**Today's Scripture:** Isaiah 42:1-9 Linda Lamont  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** Amen! Go Tell it on the Mountain arr. McDonald  
**Message**

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\***Hymn:** There's a Voice in the Wilderness VU 18

### \*Invitation to Offering

**Offertory Music** Sussex 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):** *(Based on Philippians 4:4-7)*  
**Lord of Light, you gave yourself to this world by the birth of  
your Son, Jesus Christ. We thankfully rejoice and praise  
you for your peace and light shared with all nations. Now,  
center us on the King of Glory during these prayerful  
moments of giving. We present these gifts as your humble  
and willing servants in the name of the One who comes to  
us anew, Jesus the Living Christ. Amen.**

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

## SENDING FORTH

\* **Closing Hymn:** Joy to the World VU 59

\* **Commissioning & Benediction (Responsive):**  
Go forth joyfully!

**God is with us.**

Bring peace and hope to all you meet.

**And may God's eternal love shine through us, this  
Christmas season and always. Amen!**

\* **Choral Closing:** Hope is a Star (vs 3) VU 7

**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.**

**Ministry of Music:** Swiss Noel D'Aquin  
**Please feel free to stay and enjoy the postlude**

**Greeters:** Katie & Eric Lake  
**Ushers:** Left Side: Linda & Alastair Lamont  
Center: Isabel Green  
Right Side: Tammy Coughlan & Dean Jones  
Upstairs: Hope, Andrew, Laura & Graham Steeves  
**Coffee Hour:** Senior Choir

## 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



Sympathy and prayers of the congregation are extended to Jean Brown in the death of her sister-in-law Shirley Malcolm of Rothesay.

**Good News!** St. Paul's United Church has been opening it's doors the last few nights to help get those without a warm place to sleep in out of the cold. We are working with the Out of the Cold Program running at Bishop's Court, but we still have volunteer needs as we make our way into the colder nights. There are still sign-up sheets in the narthex (the entryway of the church) and in Fraser Memorial Hall. If you feel called to this work, please add your name to the list.

**Advent with Your Family.** Bible Verse: "In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my saviour: (Luke 1:47) **Bible Story:** Mary and Elizabeth: God had touched both women's lives and their response was joy and happiness. God's ways were not traditional or culturally expected; but Zechariah, Elizabeth and Mary followed God's ways.

Today, **Rev. Michelle** is with the congregations of Stanley, Cardigan, and Kingsley Churches. Let us pray for her and for them as they discern an opportunity for shared ministry in their community

**Yarn Ministry** will meet Wednesday, December 19th, 7-9 in the Quilter's Parlour.



## Financial report to December 9, 2018

Our weekly offerings to date: \$222,240.37

Budget to December 31: \$288,000.00

Still in need of: \$ 65,759.63

December is normally 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.

### UPDATE FROM THE BOARD:

The Board of St. Paul's met this past week. In an effort to improve communication, here are some of the things we talked about as well as decisions we made:

**-Land Acknowledgement:** Education for the congregation will begin in the New Year. If you have a passion for this work, please connect with Alanna Palmer or call the church office.

**-Marriage Policy:** We have updated our policy to be more in line with the statement from The United Church of Canada.  
<https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/marriage>

**-Automatic Doors:** The Board has asked the Property committee to look at the possibility of making St. Paul's more accessible without changing the façade. More on this when Property gets back to us

The longest night service Dec 21 @ 7pm is a special service for those who are finding the season tinged with grief, struggle or loss. It is an opportunity to worship and acknowledge that this can be a difficult time of year. A quiet service allows for the lighting of flames against the darkness and a reminder that though the night is long...from this night forward it gets a little lighter every day.

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. PAUL'S

December 15th	Rev. Richard & Natalie Open-house	
	126 Willingdon,	2:00-5:00 pm
December 16th	'Twas the Night Before Christmas	7:00 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
December 30th	Joint Worship @ Wilmot	11:00 am