

St. Paul's United Church

December 1, 2019 – 1st Sunday of Advent

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

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.

*Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah."
-Mark 8:27-29*

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude: Wacht Auf Bach

Greeting (Responsive):

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Land Acknowledgment

Advent Candle Lighting

Something's coming.

We're waiting. We're eager.

It's more than presents.

It's more than lights.

We open the Book of Hope and read the promise.

God will be with us.

Our hearts are glad; we trust God's holy name.

God's never-ending love surrounds us.

Today we light the candle of Hope.

Our hope is in the Lord.

Sung Response: People Look East (Vs1) VU9

People, look east. The time is near

Of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,

Trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today:

Love the guest is on the way.

St. Paul's Contact Information

stpaulsoffice224@gmail.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

Church Manager Eric Hotte stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com

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

Choir Director: Alexis Ervin aervin17@gmail.com

Office Hours

Rev. Michelle

Cell: (506)259-7602

Sun.: By Appointment

Mon.: 10-12 pm

Tues.: By Appointment

Wed: 10:30-12:30 pm

Thurs.: 12-2 pm

Friday: Day off

Responsive

office Hours

Eric Hotte

11:30-1:30

10-1

10-1

10-1

10-1

Day off

Rev. Richard

On Sabbatical

until February

1st 2020

The Reverends 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
	8-5:30 p.m.	English Second Language
	11:30-1 pm	AA -Downstairs Lounge
Tuesday	7-9:30	Choral Society
	7-9:30	River Valley Choir
Tuesday & Thursday	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	Tae kwon do
Wednesday	9-11am	Pantry
Thursday	7-8:30	Choir Practice
Friday	7:30-9:30 pm	Youth Group (Contact Rev Michelle)
Saturday	10 am-noon	Tae kwon do
Sunday	9:15 am	Bible Study - Conference Room

THANK YOU
*for worshipping
with us*

faith

Dec. 11 at 7pm, Christmas with the FHS Jazz Band," A Jazz Christmas" directed by Craig Woodcock. Donation to support the FHS Jazz band and St. Paul's music program.

Dec. 18 at 7 pm Twas the Night Before Christmas: A Concert of Organ Music and Readings". Donations for CBC feed a family. This is geared to organ lovers although all are welcome looks like fun!

The Annual Advent Carol Festival held each year at St. Paul's United Church (corner of George and York) will take place on Wednesday, December 4 at 7:30 p.m. Local church and community choirs will present a program of new, as well as familiar, Christmas music. There will be a chance for audience members to join in the festive singing, too. A freewill offering to support 12 Fredericton area food banks will be received.

St Paul's Yarn Ministry meets on the third Wednesday of each month. no previous experience or affiliation with St. Paul's required. Please let Jen Petryshen know if you would like to attend so we can book a spot.

Money counters/Tellers needed. Training provided previous money handling experience is an asset, please let Eric in the office know thank you very much.

If you ordered pictures they are in the office please stop by and pick them up. If you would like your picture in the directory and didn't get a chance to get your picture taken here, you can send it to stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com Photo directories will not be available until the new year.

Other News

Do you hear what I hear? Enjoy an "Angels All Around Us" Christmas Tea on Friday, December 6, from 2-4pm at Nashwaaksis United Church, 46 Main Street. View varied collections of angels. Coffee and tea with light refreshments will be served. Admission by donation.

Rainbow Breakfast Potluck 9:30 - 12:00. Saturday, Dec. 7. Wilmot Church Parlour. The rainbow breakfast is an opportunity for LGBTQ2+ individuals, and our friends and allies, to share a meal in a safe and welcoming space. We will have coffee on for 9:30 and sit down for a meal together at 10:00. If you don't have the opportunity to prepare anything, please come along anyway - we look forward to your company. For more information, or to find out how you can contribute other than through food, or to request a drive, feel free to contact Maureen Toner (457-2954) or Deb Bradbury (206-2948).

Welcome & Announcements

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

*** Call to Worship (Responsive):**

We yearn and we hope. We wait for God to fully realize God's promises.

So, too, did the prophet Jeremiah yearn and hope for Messiah to come.

We are watching and waiting, staying awake for God's sign yet to come.

We gather in worship with hopes that we will see a glimpse of God's promise fulfilled.

Before God we come, in wonder as we watch and wait for Christ.

Opening Prayer

Childrens Choir A Home for Jesus

Story Time for the Young and Young at Heart

Story Time Verse: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (vs 2) VU 58

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.

Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,

praises voicing greet the morrow:

Christ the babe was born for you.

Christ the babe was born for you!

Prayer Confession (responsive)

God, the sights and sounds of the season surround us:

Carols ring, bright lights glow in the night, colourful packages under the tree and smells of Christmas baking fills the air.

We love this time of year! Yet we do not want to see all of the sights and sounds of the season, We would rather close our ears and shield our eyes. We do not want the realities of people crying out in hunger and thousands of refugees on the move seeking to escape the gunfire and violence, nor do we want to see the people freezing cold on the street. These harsh realities tarnish the glow of this season.

And yet, the manger story we are heading towards is about a family wandering, A baby crying, a Herod killing.

Are we looking for You in the wrong places again? Open our eyes and ears to Your presence. Guide us in our search for you Holy One. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Today's Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-18

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Roger Miller

Message

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***Hymn Love Divine**
*** Invitation to the Offering Responsive**

VU 333

For all that we are

Thank you, God of hope

For all that we have

Thank you, God of hope

For all that we are becoming-

Thank you, God of hope

Our offering we now make, from the blessings you have given us

Thank you, God of hope.

Offertory O Come, Little Children

Payne

*** Dedication Verse: All Poor Ones (vs 1)**

VU 68

**All poor ones and humble and all those who stumble,
come hastening, and feel not afraid;
for Jesus, our treasure, with love past all measure,
in lowly poor manger was laid.**

Though wise men who found him

laid rich gifts around him,

yet oxen they gave him their hay,

and Jesus in beauty accepted their duty;

contented in manger he lay.

Then haste we to show him the praises we owe him;

our service he ne'er can despise;

whose love still is able to show us that stable,

where softly in manger he lies.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Communion Liturgy insert

SENDING FORTH

***Closing Hymn: In the Bleak Midwinter**

VU 55

*** Commissioning (Responsive):**

We go from worship to waiting,

but not a passive waiting.

Let your words and actions testify to God's promise
for the hope of God is coming and is here.

We are bearers of God's hope.

Workers of the promise.

**So that peace and justice,
love and mercy may reign.**

Amen.

***Benediction**

*** Choral Closing: Peace be with you MV 215**

**Peace be with you, peace for ever, peace be with you, my
friends. till we meet again, may God be with you. Peace,
peace, peace.**

Postlude

Fantasie sur Picardy

Bedard

Announcements

Greeters: Linda & Alastair Lamont

Collectors Upstairs: Susan and Graeme Spencer

Downstairs: Left Side: John Gaskin and Roger Miller

Middle: Isabel Green

Right Side: Tammy Coughlan & Dean Jones

Coffee Hour (December 8th): Trustees

Services & Activities

St Paul's United Children's Handbell Choir has started Sunday's 10-10:30. This program is for children 6 years of age and older. Contact Tricia Berry tmberry@rogers.com .

Reflective Bible Study and Prayer Group Sundays at 9:15 am in the office. Tammy Landry is hosting. Come enjoy the scripture

Today in Sunday School: Church Communities Celebrate Jesus. Verse of the Month: "The angel said, 'Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people.'" (Luke 2:10) Bible Story: Luke 1:26-38 Mary's Story: Mary was confused by the angel's message that she would be the mother of a son named Jesus, but the angel told her, "Nothing is impossible for God". Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said."

The invitation to Communion.

Communion Hymn: We Gather Here

VU 469

May God be with us.

God is here among us.

Let us open our hearts to God.

We open them to God and to one another.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Christ is coming! Prepare the way!

Exalt the valleys!

Prepare for his coming.

Let us give God our thanks and praise!

Our hearts are full to overflowing!

We cannot contain our praises, O God,

for you are good, and your kindness touches all creation.

From the beginning of time, the earth has known your goodness:

every blade of grass, every tree that lifts its branches to heaven in praise,

every drop of rain that renews and refreshes,

every breeze that blows

tell of your might and power.

In the fullness of your time, with your coming foretold by prophets and faithful people

throughout the ages, you came to live our lives.

Your Spirit has touched the saints throughout time.

People east and west, north and south join in the everlasting chorus with our loved ones now with you,

from whom we are apart for a little while –

all these join us at the table as we sing the mystery of your unending greatness:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might;**

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!

The story of the last supper

Blessing of the elements

The Lords Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us,

and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Sharing of the elements.

Anthem Bring Us Hope

Schram

Kirsten Simpson-violin

Post Communion Prayer (unison)

For this bread, shaped and formed for our nourishment;

For this cup, filled that our thirst might be quenched,

**for these gifts, prepared for us that we might know love,
we give you thanks, O God.**

**We join our praise with the hosts of heaven, and of all your
people on earth in gratitude and wonder. Amen.**

The invitation to Communion.

Communion Hymn: We Gather Here

VU 469

May God be with us.

God is here among us.

Let us open our hearts to God.

We open them to God and to one another.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Christ is coming! Prepare the way!

Exalt the valleys!

Prepare for his coming.

Let us give God our thanks and praise!

Our hearts are full to overflowing!

We cannot contain our praises, O God,

for you are good, and your kindness touches all creation.

From the beginning of time, the earth has known your goodness:

every blade of grass, every tree that lifts its branches to heaven in praise,

every drop of rain that renews and refreshes,

every breeze that blows

tell of your might and power.

In the fullness of your time, with your coming foretold by prophets and faithful people

throughout the ages, you came to live our lives.

Your Spirit has touched the saints throughout time.

People east and west, north and south join in the everlasting chorus with our loved ones now with you,

from whom we are apart for a little while –

all these join us at the table as we sing the mystery of your unending greatness:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might;**

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!

The story of the last supper

Blessing of the elements

The Lords Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us,

and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Sharing of the elements.

Anthem Bring Us Hope

Schram

Kirsten Simpson-violin

Post Communion Prayer (unison)

For this bread, shaped and formed for our nourishment;

For this cup, filled that our thirst might be quenched,

**for these gifts, prepared for us that we might know love,
we give you thanks, O God.**

**We join our praise with the hosts of heaven, and of all your
people on earth in gratitude and wonder. Amen.**