

St. Paul's United Church

December 15th, 2019 – 3rd 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.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." – Luke 2:2-32

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude: Infant Holy Infant Lowly Tucker

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.

* Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

It's getting closer.

We feel it!

The days are shorter, but the lights burn brighter.

We're listening. We're eager to hear good news.

We've gathered together in the House of Joy.

Awaiting Joy's arrival.

The source of great Joy is coming, and will touch all people.

Then choirs of angels will sing, and joyful praise ring.

Today we light the candle of Joy

Our Joy is in the Lord.

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	Responsive	
	Rev. Michelle	office Hours	Rev. Richard
Cell:	(506)259-7602	Eric Hotte	On Sabbatical
Sun.:	By Appointment	11:30-1:30	until February
Mon.:	10:30-12 pm	10-1	1st 2020
Tues.:	By Appointment	10-1	
Wed:	10:30-12:30 pm	10-1	
Thurs.:	12-2 pm	10-1	
Friday:	Day off	Day off	

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
Saturday	10 am-noon	Tae kwon do
Sunday	9:15 am	Bible Study - Conference Room

The
JOY
OF THE
Lord
IS YOUR
STRENGTH


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 2:1-5 Jesus is Coming: Mary and Joseph made the difficult trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem, carrying supplies on a donkey. Mary rode on the donkey most of the way because she was expecting a baby. The trip took them at least four days.

Our Awesome Pantry Team has the current need for coffee, cheezwhiz, pasta sauce, house hold cleaner, large juice, tomatoes, and soda crackers. Thank you very much

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

Christmas Eve Services 3pm family service 7pm traditional with candle lighting 11pm communion service.

Lights for St. Paul’s candle lighting service 7pm Christmas eve, a beautiful time of remembrance, please have the form back in by Dec 17th in order to be included in the bulletin.

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

The UCW will have a Christmas Pot Luck on Monday, December 16th at 11 AM in the Lady’s Parlor. Come along and enjoy some good food, conversation, and fun. Please bring 3 small items, unwrapped, for our gift exchange. We will also have a short business meeting. Donna Chauvin 458-5885

Other News

Out Of The Cold As you may have heard, Fredericton’s Out of the Cold Shelter for 2019/20 is expected to open on Friday, December 6 at 332 Brunswick Street. Donations of various items are needed in order to provide a welcoming space for the guests who will use the shelter. The list of items that are currently needed can be found at <https://www.roadhomefredericton.com/out-of-the-cold.html>. Donations can be dropped off at Wilmot United Church, Carleton Street door, Monday thru Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm until Friday, December 20. Financial donations are also appreciated. Any support you can provide for the most vulnerable in our community will be greatly appreciated.

Mark your new 2020 calendar now! January 12th after church - Potluck and Annual Planning meeting for everyone! sustaining and growing St. Paul's together. More details to follow.

* Sung Response: People Look East (Vs 1-3)

VU 9

**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.**

**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the rose is on the way.**

**Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the bird is on the way.**

Welcome & Announcements

***Gathering Hymn: O Lord, How shall we meet you**

VU 31

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

When joy and hope seemed illusive, God made a way.

From distant lands and exile God brought His people home.

From near and far we come together as God’s people.

We bring our songs and stories, our struggles and sacrifices.

To build the church, not of bricks and mortar as of old, but with ourselves, the living stones.

In worship we shout with our ancestors, “God is good, for his steadfast love endures forever”

And experience the comfort and joy that comes from God’s presence. So come, for now is the time to worship!

Opening Prayer

Story Time Verse: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (vs 1)

VU 58

**Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is born for all.
Christ the babe is born for all!**

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 of Illumination (Unison):

Speak to us, Lord.
Speak to us in the waiting, the watching,
the hoping, the longing,
the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.
Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,
and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

Today's Scripture: Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13 Beth Henderson
This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: Heaven Sang For Joy Middlemas

Message What is your foundation?

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* **Hymn:** Oh, How Joyful VU 57

* **Invitation to the Offering**

For all that we are,
thank you, God of joy.
For all that we have,
thank you, God of joy.
For all that we are becoming,
thank you, God of joy.

Our offering we now make, from the blessings you have given us,
thank you, God of joy.

Offertory Arise Martin

* **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.

* **Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the people and Lord's Prayer

SENDING FORTH

* Closing Hymn: Angels we have heard on high VU 38

* **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 joy of God is coming and is here.

**We are bearers of God's joy,
workers of the promise,
so that hope and peace,
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 Postlude on "Gloria" Payne
Announcements

Greeters: Etta Davis and Barb Macbean
Collectors Upstairs: Hope Brewer and Darrell Bruce
Downstairs: Left Side: Linda and Alastair Lamont
Middle: Isabel Green
Right Side: Larry Buick and Roger Miller
Coffee Hour (December 22nd): Pantry

Services & Activities

Longest Night service is coming up on December 21st @7pm at Wilmot UC. This smaller, reflective and powerful service is shared between St. Paul's and Wilmot. The longest night is designed for people who are just not feeling the Christmas Spirit.

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!

St Paul's Yarn Ministry meets on the third Wednesday of each month. Please let Jen Petryshen know if you would like to attend.