

ST PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
FREDERICTON, N.B.

September 12, 2021 10:30 a.m. Sixteenth after Pentecost

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. John 1:1-3a

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

GREETING:

AFFIRMATION THAT CHRIST IS WITH US

WELCOME-ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP/OPENING PRAYER: (responsive)

In the name of God, the creator, and the son and the Holy Spirit, we gather, marveling at the beauty of creation as we breathe in the splendor of life.

**We are surrounded by all the signs of God's creation;
God's fingerprints are all around us. Praise be to God.**

Let us pray:

Loving God we know that you have crated this world and all who live in it.

**We are surrounded by life, and we are related and
connected to all the created world through you, O God.**

Loving and gracious God, let us dwell respectfully in this amazing creation, removing that in this wonderful world, we are not alone. We are all part of heavens and earth.

**We share life with the water and the land, the trees and
grass, with fish, birds and all of creation, and with our
human siblings, brothers and sisters, everywhere. Praise
be to God.**

In gratitude, we declare,

God is Good and everything God makes is Good. Amen.

HYMN: Morning Has Broken

VU 409

Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

TIME FOR ALL AGE

INVOCATION OF THE SPIRIT

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God for our Scriptures.

MESSAGE: God Said "It is Good"

LITANY OF CONFESSION: (responsive)

In the beginning God created everything from nothing.

**Everything that exists. Everything that grows. Everything
that lives.**

Including us. It's easy to think we are the most important part of creation.

That the world, that the universe revolves around us.

That we can just do whatever we want to our planet.

**This miracle God made—we can trash it with no
consequences.**

But there are consequences. We can destroy what God has so lovingly created.

And a lot of the time, that's exactly what we do.

There are earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes – all kinds of natural disasters.

All of these can do great damage.

But we are capable of far worse damage.

From huge things like nuclear war...

To little things like littering.

Every careless, destructive thing we do diminishes God's amazing creation.

Sometimes it's a wonder God ever trusted us to be stewards.

We've done enough wrong to be fired, a thousand times over.

Yet God still gives us chances to halt, even to reverse the damage before it's too late.

We can stop polluting; we can save endangered species.

We can use all our amazing technology for good.

Or not.

God gives us so many chances, but one day our time will run out.

And it will be too late.

The beginning was God's, but we can hasten the ending.

Or not.

We can cherish everything that grows, everything that lives.

Including each other.

May we honor the miracle of creation, and give humble thanks for our part in God's incredible plan.

And may we say, with our God, "It is good. It is very good."

HYMN: Called by Earth and Sky

MV 135

Called by earth and sky, Promise of hope held high,
This is our sacred living trust,
Treasure of life sanctified, Called by earth and sky.
Precious these waters, endless seas,
Deep ocean's dream,
Waters of healing, rivers of rain,
The wash of love again.

Called by earth and sky, Promise of hope held high,
This is our sacred living trust,
Treasure of life sanctified, Called by earth and sky.
Precious this gift, the air we breathe,
Wind born and free,
Breath of the Spirit, blown through this place,
Our gathering and our grace.

Called by earth and sky, Promise of hope held high,
This is our sacred living trust,
Treasure of life sanctified, Called by earth and sky.
Precious these mountains, ancient sands,
Vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,

Creation's faithful song

Called by earth and sky, Promise of hope held high,
This is our sacred living trust,
Treasure of life sanctified, Called by earth and sky.
Precious the fire that lights the way,
Bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone
Our faith and justice one.

Called by earth and sky, Promise of hope held high,
This is our sacred living trust,
Treasure of life sanctified, Called by earth and sky.

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING: (in unison)

God, our Creator, through you love have given us all good things. We return our offerings back to you. Take the works of our hands, the first fruits of our labours, and bless them to your purposes. In gratitude we offer our prayers, our time and our resources, through your Holy Spirit may they bring glory to Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF AND FOR THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: This is God's Wondrous World VU296

This is God's wondrous world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world:
God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world:

O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world:
why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!

COMMISSIONING: (responsive)

God has accomplished marvelous things!

We are part of creation's fulfillment.

Let us go in new appreciation for the works of God's hands.

We are part of creation's fulfillment.

Let us work to restore the earth's perfect balance and beauty.

We are part of creation's fulfillment.

Let us live as faithful disciples, telling all what God has done.

We are part of creation's fulfillment.

And remember that Jesus is always with us, to the end of the age.

We are part of creation's fulfillment.

PASTORAL BLESSING

POSTLUDE

MINISTER:	REV. MICHELLE ARMSTRONG
ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR:	SHARON POND
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:	MELISSA HOWARD
CUSTODIAN:	PERRY ANDERSON

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CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION:

Good morning and welcome to EVERYONE. May this worship service be a blessing in your day as we continue to worship together each week in-church or by Zoom.

Upcoming services & meetings & events:

Sept. 12	10:30 a.m.	Sunday Service
Sept. 19	10:30 a.m.	Welcome Back Service
Sept. 26	10:30 a.m.	Congregational Meeting

Sunday School: We are please to announce that Sunday School will begin on September 19, 2021. The full operational plan can be found on the website under 'Covid 19 Protocols' and it was also outlined in this weeks enews. As always, if you have any questions please feel free to contact Cathy Davis at 455-1129 jtdavis@hotmail.com

Brown Bag Lunch Program: We are still in need of donations for our brown bag lunch program. **We are currently in need of the following items:** drink boxes, protein (with a flip top), desserts (puddings, fruit cups, etc.), and plastic utensils. It doesn't need to be a big donation – a few cans of protein, package of juice boxes... Every little bit helps! Thank you in advance for your generosity.

FundScrip: FundScrip is Back and we're ready to take your gift card orders! It's so simple – you purchase gift cards through FundScrip and the retailer donates a percentage to St. Paul's. You receive the full-face value of every card – no cost to you for this donation. Order forms are available through the church office or you can download the form via our website under the "FundScrip" tab. September's deadline is **September 19th** – for more information call the office at 458-1183 or visit our website!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Vote on appointment of new trustee

SEPTEMBER 26TH

(After service in Sanctuary)