

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

December 12, 2021

10:30 AM

Advent 3

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*Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." John 4:13-14*

**THE PEOPLE GATHER**

**PRELUDE**

**GREETING**

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

**And also with you**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING:**

We started in hope (*Light purple candle*)

We paused for peace (*light purple candle*)

Today we find ourselves now so filled with joy that we want to leap

**Because God is near, we are animated. Feeling God's presence, we seek our maker's face.**

Listening closely to God's word, we learn that we are not the only ones in creation who cry out with joy

**The mountains sing God's praises, the trees clap in eagerness to worship God.**

Our hearts swell with even more with the joy of the Lord

**And so we light this candle for Joy, overflowing with anticipation as we move closer to the dawn.**

(*light the pink candle*)

**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.**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** (responsive)

Advent is a time of waiting, anticipation!

A practice to assist us in our preparation for...

**The coming of our Saviour!**

Like the generations before us,

There is much in our world to be anxious about.

**We come to hear a message of hope that gives us peace.**

**We find joy in a vision of the world**

**not as it is but as God would have it be.**

So we come, to anticipate Christ's coming

that inbreaking of God into the world

**That shows us the way.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**HYMN: *People, Look East***

VU 9

**THE WORD**

**TIME FOR ALL AGE**

**CHOIR ANTHEM: Let the Christ Child In**

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 55:1-13***

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God for our Scriptures.**

**MESSAGE:**

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**HYMN: *Of the Father's Love Begotten***

VU 61

**PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING:** (in unison)

**You have given us all we need in this life, O God, and so much more. Riches beyond our imagining, and blessings beyond what we could ever use. May our gifts offered in Christ's name be a sign of the gratitude that overflows us, and the peace that fills us as we turn to you. Bless all the gifts given in your name, that they may build up your kingdom here one earth, for help. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**SENDING FORTH**

**CLOSING HYMN: *You Shall Go Out with Joy***

VU 884

**COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL CLOSING**

MV 220

**Joy shines as the solitary star.**

**Faith is the inner light**

**You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,**

**And illumine the pathway home.**

## POSTLUDE

### SCRIPTURE READERS

Alanna Palmer

### GREETERS

Front Door - Tammy Coughlan

Front Door – Linda Burton

Top Stairs - Dean Jones

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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 December Services:**

December 19 - Advent 4: Worship at 10:30

December 21 – Longest Night Service at 7pm

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services at 3pm, 7pm, 11pm

December 26 – Downtown United Worship at Wilmot

Just a friendly reminder that the office hours are from 8am – 3pm Monday through Friday.

**Lectionary Bible Study:** Join Rev. Michelle **Wednesday at 11:11am in the Lady's Parlor** for bible study. No experience is necessary just an open heart and mind. Come and have your questions and insights inform Sunday worship. The reading for next week's study will be John 1:1-18

**Sunday School Thank You:** Last Sunday's handmade Christmas cards and craft sale was a huge success. The children set a goal of \$150 to purchase farm animals through World Vision. \$150 is sufficient to purchase a goat, 2 hens and a rooster, the most popular animals per the World Vision website. Thanks to the donations of sale items and purchases from the congregation, the sale netted three times that goal and a bit more. The children and their teachers are grateful for the overwhelming generosity and support from the people of St. Paul's. Thank you all.

**Brown Bag Lunch Program:** Our shelves are **extremely empty, Proteins including canned meats (with flip tops) are top of the list** as well as drink boxes, desserts (pudding, fruit cups), and granola bars for our brown bag lunch

program. Drop off anytime during the week or on Sunday before worship. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**FundScrip: Don't forget to bring your order this Sunday, December 12.** We will distribute cards on Sunday, December 19. There will be no orders in January and we are shifting the deadline date to the first Sunday of each month. This means the next deadline will be February 6, 2022. *Remember, shopping is fundraising for St. Paul's.*

**Upper Room Daily Devotional** for January-February 2022 has arrived. It can be purchased in the Church office Monday-Friday between 8am and 3pm

## Advent – The Season of Joy

### **St. Paul's Contact Information**

**Office Hours: Monday - Friday; 8:00 – 3p.m.**

**224 York St., Fredericton, N.B. E3; Tel: 458-1183.**

**Web-site: [www.stpaulsunited.ca](http://www.stpaulsunited.ca); email: [stpaulsunited224@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsunited224@gmail.com)**

**Minister**

**Rev. Michelle Armstrong**

**Organist**

**Dr. Sharon Pond**

**Church Administrator**

**Meghan Roebuck**

**Church Custodian**

**Rusty Blakely**

### ***Land Acknowledgement :***

*We remember that St. Paul's sanctuary and our worship here is on the unceded territory of the Wolastoqey peoples. Long before this building was here, the land was considered sacred and tended to with respect and care. May our faith drive us to seek to be in right relationship with the first peoples of this land.*

## HYMN WORDS

### HYMN: *People, Look East*

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.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the star is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the Lord is on the way.

### HYMN: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

VU 61

\*Of the Father's love begotten  
ere the worlds began to be,  
Christ is Alpha and Omega,  
Christ the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are and have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.

At his word the worlds were framed.  
He commanded, it was done:  
heaven and earth and depths of ocean  
in their threefold order one;  
all that grows beneath the shining  
of the moon and burning sun,  
evermore and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessed!  
When the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bore the Saviour of our race,  
and the babe, the world's redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.

This is he whom seers in old time  
chanted of with one accord,  
whom the voices of the prophets  
promised in their faithful word;  
now he shines, the long-expected;  
let creation praise its Lord,  
evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heaven, adore him,  
angel hosts, his praises sing;  
powers, dominions, bow before him,  
and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God most blessed,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
and unwearied praises be,  
honour, glory, and dominion  
and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore. Amen.

\* or 'Of God's very heart begotten'

**CLOSING HYMN: *You Shall Go Out with Joy***

**VU 884**

You shall go out with joy  
and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills  
will break forth before you;  
there'll be shouts of joy,  
and all the trees of the field  
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
(clap, clap)  
the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
(clap, clap)  
the trees of the field will clap their hands  
(clap, clap)  
while you go out with joy.