

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

December 5, 2021

10:30 AM

Advent 2

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26

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 with hope.

(light Hope candle)

We pause on our journey for peace, but not one that we can find in rest or in silence.

Nor any kind of peace that the world can give.

But a peace that comes from Holy breath

From Holy Spirit.

We are as dry bones awaiting prophecy.

We are a womb awaiting the miracle of birth.

We are in need of this peace that passes all else.

And so we light this candle for Peace, longing for Christ to be born anew in us.

(light Peace candle)

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,

giving a promise of safety and worth.

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)

From the valley of despair and death

From the isolation and loneliness of exile

We hear the call

In the planning and preparing to celebrate

In the joy that this season brings

We hear a call

Come and see, come and know

Christ is near, Christ is near

We come and worship now in his peace

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: *There's a voice in the wilderness*

VU 18

THE WORD

TIME FOR ALL AGE

CHOIR ANTHEM: *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*

Andrews

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God for our Scriptures.

MESSAGE : A dream while in Exile

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN: *O Breath of Life*

VU 202 (tune 437)

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING: (in unison)

Take these gifts that we offer. Gifts of our time. Gifts of our skill. Gifts of our wallets. Take these gifts and let them be animated through your Spirit that they may proclaim the new life you offer and uplift those who are in need. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING FORTH

CLOSING HYMN: *In the Bleak Midwinter*

VU 55

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

CHORAL CLOSING

MV 220

Peace 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

The Lord - Ann Krause
Ezekiel – Patty Trail

GREETERS

Front Door - Tammy Coughlan
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 12 – Advent 3: Worship at 10:30
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

This week we welcomed our new Church Administrator, Meghan Roebuck, her office hours will be from 8am – 3pm Monday thru Friday. Please feel free to stop in and introduce yourself!

Brown Bag Lunch Program: Our shelves are getting low again, and we need **drink boxes, canned meats (those with flip tops only), 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: Countdown for Christmas! FundScrip offers gift cards from over 200 retailers in various denominations. The cards are welcome gifts for family and friends and so easy to shop for. Many retailers have increased the value of their donations to St. Paul's during November and December; information sheets available in the Narthex. Deadline for the last order before Christmas will be **Sunday, December 12.** *Remember, shopping is fundraising for St. Paul's.*

The UCW will be selling trays of assorted sweets for \$20.00. Pick up is on Friday, December 10th at the Church. To order, telephone Donna Chauvin at 458-5885 or 458-1898.

Sunday School fundraiser: On Sunday, December 5th, the Sunday School will be selling handmade Christmas cards, ladies knit socks and other crafts to raise money for the purchase of farm animals through World Vision. We invite you to come to Fraser Memorial Hall after church to join us for Coffee/tea and shopping.

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 Isaiah 55:1-13

"The Christmas Story" (Narration & music) presented by Lintuhtine Harmonies, directed by Helen Mórág McKinnon and accompanied by Lynn Mills, takes place **Sunday, December 5th at 7:00 pm. at Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 512 Charlotte Street.** Special guests include Leslee Dell as the Narrator and David Berry, as Organist.

Advent – The Season of Peace

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; email: stpaulsunited224@gmail.com

MINISTER:
ORGANIST:
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR:
CHURCH CUSTODIAN:

REV. MICHELLE ARMSTRONG
DR SHARON POND
MEGHAN ROEBUCK
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: There's a voice in the wilderness

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places,
where the God, our God, may go!

O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.

Like the flowers of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay,
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away.

But the word of our God endureth,
the arm of the Lord is strong;
God stands in the midst of nations,
and soon will right the wrong.
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
the lambs so gently hold;
to pastures of peace will lead them,
and bring them safe to fold.

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places,
where the God, our, God may go!

HYMN: O Breath of Life

VU 202 (tune 437)

VU 18

O Breath of life, come sweeping through us,
revive your church with life and power;
O Breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us
and fit your church to meet this hour.

O Wind of God, come bend us, break us
till humbly we confess our need;
then, in your tenderness remake us,
revive, restore - for this we plead.

O Breath of love, come breathe within us,
renewing thought and will and heart;
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,
revive your church in every part.

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay.
Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.

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.