

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

Fredericton, N.B.

*Glorifying God through Worship, Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ
and Serving others in Christ's name*

January 23rd, 2022

10:30 AM

3rd Sunday After Epiphany

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you. Psalm 139: 13-18

GATHERING TOGETHER

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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Arise your light has come,
Stay not in the shadows of the night.
For God so loved the world,
God so loves you,
That Christ came and still comes
as we worship, as we pray, as we sing in his name!

TURNING TO GOD IN PRAYER: (Responsive)

Holy Spirit of God, invisible like the wind,
we do not see you moving among us,

but the effect we see —

come to our hearts:

that we may be renewed and reborn.

Open our minds:

that we may perceive your kingdom.

Lift up our eyes to where the cross of Christ stands for our healing:

**so may we believe,
and in believing not die
but have eternal life;
through him who
in your love for us
you sent into the world.
In his name, we pray. Amen.**

HYMN: *God of Grace and God of Glory*

VU 686 1-3

*God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.*

*Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn your Christ, assail your ways;
fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days.*

*Cure your children's warring madness,
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton selfish gladness,
rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

TIME FOR ALL AGES: The trouble with Light and Dark

PREPARING FOR SCRIPTURE: *Open Our Hearts* **MV 21**

*Open our hearts, open our minds.
Open our lives to you, O loving God
Open our hearts.*

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: *John 3:1-21*

Hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church
Let us respond in the Spirit.

MESSAGE:

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A NEW CREED:

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (Together)

**Loving God by your generosity we have received
all that we have and all that we are. Give us wisdom,
that we may so use the things which you have gifted us with in ways
that shape us as your children. That we may be bearers of your spirit
and truth. Grant that the love of Jesus Christ may shine in all we do.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Blow, wind of God,
Blow away the tight rules that hold me back from trusting, risking,
loving
Blow away my sin that stands in the way of encountering my
neighbors
Ready me for birth
Prepare me for risk
Equip me with courage and vision for the new thing that waits around
the corner
We cannot choose the stories we have inherited
But we can choose the stories that we become.
Amen

THE LORD'S 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,
forever and ever. Amen**

HYMN: *A light is Gleaming*

VU 82

*A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night, living in the light.
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love
is burning bright, living in the light.*

*When light comes pouring into the darkest place,
it hurts our eyes to see the glow.
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears,
our memories and tears. R*

*When night is round us and every shadow grows,
a star is there to light our way.
It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say:
'God's light will ever stay.' R*

*And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk.
He showed us things we hadn't seen.
Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine,
and this will be a sign: R*

*So let us live in the brightness God has giv'n,
and let us rise to see the dawn.
We trust that God is here asparkle and ablaze,
- warming all our days. R*

COMMISSIONING:

Just as God's Word was sent into the world
to heal and redeem,
so God sends you into the world this day

to be light and love, healing and hope.
Go now to be light for the world!

And may the grace and peace of God the Creator,
the Redeemer, and the Sustainer
come upon you this day
and remain with you always. Amen.

BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE:

SCRIPTURE READERS

Narrator – Donna Chauvin
Nicodemus – Gracelyn Godin
Jesus – Carole Peacock

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 by Zoom.

Just a friendly reminder that the **office hours are from 8am – 3pm Monday through Friday.** Please note that Thursday is a big day in the office, if you could shift your business to another day, it would be appreciated. Thanks!

Virtual bible study: Join Rev Michelle on Wednesdays at 11:15am for bible study. This was previously held in person but due to restrictions we have temporarily moved online. Generally, sessions are 45min-1hour. This week's Scripture will be John 4:1-42.

Zoom Link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86854718551> **Passcode: 165090**

New Building Safety & Security Measures: Starting Thursday January 13, each person **entering and exiting the building will complete the new Daily Building Security Record** in the binder at **both the York and Charlotte Street entrance.** This will allow for better safety and security of both the building and people in it should an emergency happen. Please remember to sign both in and out regardless of your nature in the building.

Brown Bag Lunch Program: Drink boxes continue to be a priority, as well as Proteins including canned meats (with flip tops), desserts (pudding, fruit cups), and granola bars for our brown bag lunch program. Drop off anytime during the week. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Pantry: The pantry needs some vital items including: cheez whiz, L size juice, dish & laundry detergent, instant coffee, sugar, pudding cups, fruit cups, pancake mix & syrup. Donations can be dropped off anytime during office hours or on Sunday. Thank you in advance for your amazing generosity

Annual Committee Reports: Thank you to Property, Trustees and the Board for getting your reports in. If you are a committee chair, please forward your year-end reports to Meghan in the church office at stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com by January 30th.

Nominations for Committees and Board: Beginning at the Annual Meeting we will identify and affirm those who have been called to leadership at St Paul's. Help discern the path forward for the congregation by offering to serve on the board, be part of the hands and feet response to needs of our church through a committee. God called Abraham and Sarah in their 90's, God called the boy Samuel as a child – you are neither too old or too young to serve! The big question is what are you passionate about? Talk with Rev. Michelle or Member of the board today!

Offering Envelopes: Your offering envelopes are available for pickup or delivery! Please contact Meghan to arrange a suitable process to get them to you in the near future.

2022 Budget: We are preparing our new budget! The **first step involves receiving your suggestions** to Increase Revenue! This is crucial so we can estimate our expenses. Please contact Ron at 454-4628 or by email at rnaugler@bellaliant.net so we may receive YOUR VALUABLE INPUT!

FundScrip: The deadline for the first order of the 2022 will be **February 6**. Deadlines for future orders will be the **first Sunday of each month**.
Remember, shopping is fundraising for St. Paul's.

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

Faith in Action: Emergency Warming Centre at Wilmot United Church starting Friday January 21st and Saturday January 22nd. This warming centre access is a community endeavour to keep people safe who are most at risk in harsh and harmful weather. We are continuing to recruit people who would be comfortable with this homeless population & also with COVID situation. (safety of volunteers will be priority as will the guests) We will provide N95 masks for volunteers & surgical for guests. Volunteers need to be fully vaccinated with at least 2 shots & if they have had booster that's better. Thank you for your interest & willingness to volunteer. Feel free to spread the word. Please contact Judy Coates at 454-5631 c- 429-6540 or email at judycoates@rogers.com

St. Paul's Contact Information

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

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

Web-site: www.stpaulsunited.ca; email: stpaulsoffice224@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.