

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
Fredericton, N.B.**

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

February 20th, 2022

10:30 AM

7th Sunday After Epiphany

I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

– Psalm 34:4-8

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: (Responsive)

Come, all who are thirsty –
admitting our need, we gather.

Come, all who are thirsty –
longing to be satisfied, longing for justice, we gather.

Come, all who are thirsty -
seeking the source of living water, we gather to tap in and become a spring that quenches the thirst of the world.

TURNING TO GOD IN PRAYER:

HYMN: *O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts*

VU 472

*O Jesus, joy of loving hearts,
the fount of life, the light of all
from every bliss that earth imparts
we turn, unfilled, to hear your call.*

*Your truth unchanged has ever stood;
you plead with all to call on you,
to those who seek you, you are good,
to those who find you, life is new.*

*We taste your everliving bread,
and long to feast upon you still;
we drink of you, the fountainhead,
our thirsting souls from you we fill.*

*O Jesus, ever with us stay;
make all our moments calm and bright;
chase the bleak night of sin away;
shed o'er the world your holy light.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

TIME FOR ALL AGES:

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 7:37-52*

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 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.**

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE:

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: *Like a Healing Stream*

MV 144

*Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,
Promising revival and rebirth...
Like a healing stream.*

*Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation,
Yearning for an end to want and need...
Like a gentle rain.*

*Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,
Calling for an end to hate and war...
Like a river strong.*

*Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a might sea,
Like a river strong,
Like a gentle rain,
Like a healing stream.*

COMMISSIONING: (Responsive)

Let the fountain of living water flow freely in you.

The water of life that flows from Christ sustain us.

Let the living waters flow from you be shared.

May mighty streams of grace and goodness flow from our lives.

In doing this you will live your calling as disciples of Christ, bearing Christ's love, justice and mercy in this hurting and divisive world.

BENEDICTION:

Scripture Readers: Narrator – Alanna Palmer, Pharisee – Rev. Michelle, Crowd, Some, Others – Jane Blakely, Jesus – Khris Grant, Police and Nicodemus – Jane Banks

Greeters: Front Door – Ann and Harold Raper, Top of Stairs – Tammy Coughlan

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 person and by Zoom.

Closed for Family Day Holiday: Just a quick reminder that the office will be closed this coming Monday February 21st for Family Day.

Upper Room Daily Devotional: Spend a few moments with God every day. The March-April 2022 Upper Room Daily Devotional has arrived! The Upper Room is a short inspirational reading, with a suggested bible reading. Available for purchase in the office for \$2.

Bible Study: Join Rev. Michelle on Wednesdays at 11:15am for bible study. We are back in person, meeting in the parlor. Generally, sessions run 45min-1hour. This coming week's scripture is John 9:1-41. Due to interest we will attempt a hybrid bible study to join online you can log on using:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86854718551> **Passcode: 165090**

Thank You UCW and Quilters: On behalf of the congregation, thank you for your generous contribution to the church finances of \$4,000.00 and \$1,700.00!

FundScrip – Deadline for next order is **Sunday, March 6**. Click [here](#) for current order form or pick one up in the Narthex. **New supporters always welcome!** Remember: ***Shopping is fundraising for St. Paul's.***

Nominations for Committees and Board: The Annual Meeting is only a week away! Are you or someone you know interested in sitting on the board or a committee? We are specifically seeking individuals interested in forming a **Finance Committee**, and filling the position of **Treasurer** and **Board Chair**. Talk with Rev. Michelle or Member of the board today!

Annual Meeting: Please mark your calendars for the **Annual Meeting** to be held next Sunday **February 27th, 2022 at 1pm in the sanctuary and via Zoom**. If you would like to join via Zoom, the link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89337802929> **Passcode: 094593**

2022 Offering Envelopes: There are still some 2022 envelopes in the Narthex and in the office. Please call 458-1183 or pick up in the church entrance on Sunday! Please ask Meghan if you wish your envelopes given to a friend for delivery to you.

After Hours Locked Mailbox: We have a new **locked mailbox** for after-hours drop off located at the York Street entrance. Please feel free to also use this box if you wish not to come in to the church or navigate the stairs. It is checked multiple times daily.



St. Paul's Contact Information:

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Minster: Rev. Michelle Armstrong; Organist: Dr. Sharon Pond
Church Administrator: Meghan Roebuck; 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.*