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

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

April 3rd, 2022 10:30 AM Lent 5

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long. Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish. Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

Psalm 146:1-7

GATHERING TOGETHER

PRELUDE: I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus - Bach

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.

INTROIT: Now Quit Your Care VU 109 Vs 1

Now quit your care and anxious fear and worry; for schemes are vain and fretting brings no gain.

Lent calls to prayer, to trust and dedication;

God brings new beauty nigh;

reply, reply, reply with love to love most high;

reply, reply, reply with love to love most high.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsive) **

The news is bleak.

The power of faith is strong.

The world is bleak and scary.

The love of Christ can drive out all fear.

Let us latch on to the wisdom and power of Christ's peace.

May it transform our living in this time of worship.

CENTERING PRAYER: *

HYMN: O God, How We Have Wandered VU 112

O God, how we have wandered and hidden from your face; in foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
But how, in exile dwelling, we turn with fear and shame, as distant but compelling, you call us each by name.

And now at length discerning the evil that we do, by faith we are returning with hope and trust in you. In haste you come to meet us, and home rejoicing bring, in gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.

O God of all the living,
both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving,
our peace and hope assured.
Grant now that our transgressing,
our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing,
in pardon, and in peace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (In Unison) *

God, so often we do not know what to do. We feel caught between the options, uncertain of where you are leading. In our anxiety, we turn on each other, relying on sarcasm and mocking to bolster our pride. In our frustration, we ask all the wrong questions while never listening for an answer. In our fear, we sacrifice you on the altar of our own security and desire. Forgive us, O God.

~silence~

We stand at the threshold of your kin-dom, Lord.

Open wide the door of life, and give us courage to walk through.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

HEARING GOD'S WORD

TIME FOR ALL AGES:

CHOIR ANTHEM: Save Me O God - Shephard

LISTENING FOR THE WORD IN OUR SACRED TEXTS:

Let us prepare ourselves to be touched by the witness of scripture.

Our hearts and minds are open, Holy Spirit work in us.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: John 19:1-16a

MESSAGE:

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (Responsive)

We try O God to look at our lives through your eyes, to see the gifts that you have given us and ponder the call you lay upon us to come and be like you. There is so much we have to offer for the building of your realm, our time and compassion, our skills and our labour, our experience and the financial resources to make your dreams possible.

Collectively we have all that we need. So, we respond to your call, committing our offerings and our tithes, our hearts and our actions that you may bless them all in your name, service and love. 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: O Love, How Deep VU 348

O love, how deep, how broad, how high! It fills the heart with ecstasy, that God, in Jesus Christ, should take our mortal form for mortals' sake.

God sent no angel to our race of higher or of lower place, but wore the robe of human frame, and freely to this lost world came.

For us he was baptized, and bore a holy fast, and hungered sore; for us temptations sharply knew; for us the tempter overthrew.

For us he prayed, for us he taught, for us great daily works were wrought, by words and signs, and actions, thus still seeking not himself, but us.

For us to wicked foes betrayed, scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed, he bore the shameful cross and death; for us at length gave up his breath.

For us he rose from death again, for us he went on high to reign, for us he sent his Spirit here to guide, to strengthen and to cheer. To God whose boundless love has won salvation for us through the Son, to God all praise and glory be both now and through eternity.

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION: *

CHORAL CLOSING: Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

General Lent

VU 121 vs

Light of life beyond conceiving, mighty Spirit of our Lord; give new strength to our believing, give us faith to live your word, give us faith to live your word.

POSTLUDE: Prelude & Fugue in G Minor – Willan

*from our adapted from Rev. Teri Paterson bible worm collective. ** Gathering L/E 2022 pg 30

Scripture Readers: Narrator – Deborah West, Pilate – Carole Peacock, Jesus – Jane Blakely, Jews – Chris Grant Greeter: 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.

Memory Sharing Event: Join us after church on April 3rd in the hall to share your memories and experiences of your time at St' Paul's. Collectively this will help ground our celebration of our 190 years of history.

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 Sunday, John 19:16b-22. Due to interest we will attempt a hybrid bible study to join online you can log on using this new link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88619319967 and Passcode: 259190

Brown Bag Lunch Program: The program needs **cans of proteins with flip top lids such as soups, meats, fish.** Thanks for everything you wish to donate.

Pantry: The pantry needs peanut butter, pudding cups, flour, sugar and cookies. Thanks for everything you wish to donate.

FundScrip: Deadline for our next gift card order is today, **Sunday, April 3rd.** If you are expecting the Easter Bunny to stop at your house, maybe he should have a few gift cards in his basket! Now is the time to order them. **Remember: Shopping is fundraising for St. Paul's!**

Volunteer Registry: We are starting a list of folks whom are available to volunteer for specific things both weekday and weekends. From folding bulletins on Fridays, helping out in the office, security/supervising the door for our renters or community events; during the day, after hours and weekends. If interested please the email the office or speak with Meghan.

Website Updates: Updates to www.stpaulsunited.ca were made on the Resources page to include pages for **Publications & Reports:** CLICK HERE for more information, **Scholarships & Bursaries:** CLICK HERE for information on eligibility & application guidelines **and Newsletters:** CLICK HERE to view the latest newsletter.

Database Update - Personal Contact Information: Please forward your contact information (names of family members, mailing addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, envelope # [if known] and whether or not you would like to be included in mailouts or email updates. You can forward this information either by completing a Family Information Form for each member of your household while at the church or by email to Meghan at stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com

Bulletin & E-News Announcements Deadline: Please note that going forward, the deadline for all announcements is **Wednesday at 3pm.**

Upper Room Daily Devotional: The Upper Room Daily Devotional for May-June has arrived! Both the May-June and March-April booklets are available for purchase in the office for \$2.

Dates to Remember:

- Lent 6: Palm Sunday & Sunday School Begins April 10th at 10:30am
- Maundy Thursday @ Wilmot April 14th
- Good Friday April 15th at 10:30am

Hybrid Sunday School: On Palm Sunday in-person Sunday School will start. We know that for many families the high case counts in the schools and the potential exposures may lead to uncertainty about wanting to join in person at this time. In response, Erin Hayes will be offering Sunday School via Zoom at the same time allowing all children to engage with each other. An email with the information will be sent out to families next week with all information needed to participate virtually, this is a good time to update your contact information so you do not miss out!

Ukrainian Humanitarian Relief: Residents of Fredericton are invited to attend a Fundraising Fair in support of Ukrainian humanitarian relief. This will take place in the gym at Journey Church, 131 Duncan Ln. The event, coordinated by Fredericton's Ukrainian community, will take place on Sunday, April 10 from 12 to 5 pm. Stop by to try authentic Ukrainian cuisine and to check out Ukrainian and Canadian crafts. If you are running a local business and would like to join our vendor team, please give us a shout at sergiy.polyachenko@gmail.com and we will direct you to the proper people. This is a great way to make a difference in lives in war torn Ukraine.

Candlelight Concert for Palm Sunday: This concert will take place on Sunday, April 10, 6:30 pm at Brunswick Street Baptist Church and will feature hymns, choral/instrumental music to help reflect on Jesus' sacrifice. All are welcome. An offering will be received for humanitarian aid in Ukraine. Masks are welcome but not required. Distanced seating is available.

An Easter Celebration with the East Coast Brass: Pease join the East Coast Brass for a 'blast' of celebration that will be enjoyed by all ages. A variety of musical styles – these musicians engage with the audience for an interactive concert. This "Easter Celebration" will take place on Easter Saturday, April 16, 6:30 pm at Brunswick Street Baptist Church. An offering will be received to cover expenses with any additional funds going to humanitarian aid in Ukraine. Masks are welcome but not required. Distanced seating is available.

Meeting, following in the steps of Jane Blakely, I became the new Chair of the Board! To Everyone - young and old, here and there - I say Thank You! May God guide me to Serve you well! Spiritual Practices as Chair: I intend to Practice putting God First! 1 Corinthians 10:31: "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." And I intend to Practice "the will of God in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18: Be joyful always. Pray continually. Give thanks in all circumstances. Hallelujah! Barbara Lynn Cull-Wilby 506-455-0877 barbaracullwilby@gmail.com



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.