

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

Fredericton, N.B.

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

November 27th, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.' - Matthew 26:36-38

GATHERING TOGETHER

PRELUDE: Sleepers Wake! – A Voice is Calling - Bach

SCRIPTURAL GREETING:

I wait for God with longing;

I put my hope in God's Word.

**My soul waits for God more eagerly than
watchers for the morning.**

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

And also with you.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY: (Responsive)

~ Wilby Family

Hope isn't about knowing what's coming

It's about not knowing and trusting anyway.

It's about watching the leaves fall, and trusting in the cycle of the season.

It's about waiting through the long nights for the coming dawn.

Hope is rejoicing in the Lord even when we are burdened,

because we know that life is a blessing.

Light HOPE candle

We light this candle to symbolize our Hope in the Lord,

our trust in the one who never fails to bring us from what is into what might yet be.

Silent Reflection

SUNG RESPONSE : A Candle Is Burning

VU 6 v1

*A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
A candle of HOPE in November's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh*

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsive)

We start another advent journey today,

We come together so we do not have to walk alone.

The journey will take us through the joys and sorrows,

We come to be led to the place where God touches the brokenness of the world, with healing and grace. We come to be moved to jump for joy and gratitude in God mercy and blessing.

Together here, we find hope for the future, hope for now.

As we worship together, in our joy and sorrow, lifting our praise for the one who has come and is coming.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

OPENING HYMN: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VU 1 vs 1-4, 7

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.*

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go. R*

*O come, O come, great God of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. R*

*O come, thou Rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. R*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us the Prince of Peace. R*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

TIME FOR ALL AGES:

SUNG PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: *Kindle a Flame to Lighten the Dark*

VU 19 x2

Kindle a flame to lighten the dark and take all fear away.

SCRIPTURE: Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3: 3-6, 17-19

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE:

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CHOIR ANTHEM: Let the Christ Child In – Althouse & Albrecht

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING:

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (In Unison)

Having searched for your presence in our lives O God, we offer these gifts with praise for all the times we have seen your guiding hand, received your strength in adversity and experienced your faithfulness revealed. Bless these gifts and those given through PAR, that they may be used to demonstrate your love and foster hope in our hurting world. Bless us as we continue to stand at the wall and watch for your coming, and as we take the vision you hold out to us, and write it pain for the world to see in all we say and do. Through Christ we pray. AMEN

COMMUNION HYMN: *As We Gather at Your Table*

VU 457 vs 1&2

*As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's victory known.*

*Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.*

COMMUNION LITURGY: *

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

In the rich dark of winter, God makes an astounding promise:

"I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up." (Jeremiah 33:15)

In the wilderness, a voice cries out, longing for
the Refiner's fire, repair, and renewal,
the promised birth (and rebirth) of hope.

Called to bear the weight and fruit of promise,
Mary sings ancient trust—the song of generations—
that God comes to fill the hungry and lift the humble.
She sings that love and truth will meet, that justice and peace will kiss.

In the midst of uncertainty, Jesus assures his disciples:
Just as the tree blooms, so the signs are clear
that the kingdom of God is near.
In the deep of our own winter, we look for them:
bud of hope, branch of peace, sprig of joy, blossom of love.

While around us the snares of fear and conflict lie in wait of infant hope,
you, O Wisdom, O Endless Love, O Radiant Dawn, are there,
keeping vigil with us, in this season of expectation.

We gather at this table, praying that crooked ways be made straight,
that valley's peace be lifted up and mountain's might brought low
so that all God's people might rejoice together, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one that comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

We give thanks for the mystery and wonder revealed that first night,
as humble people led by hope gathered in a quiet stable
and were witness to your promise reborn.

We give thanks for the blessing and love Jesus shared
with all whom he met, in food and story.

We remember that, on the night before he was handed over to die,
Jesus broke bread with his friends, blessed it, gave thanks, and said,
"Take, eat. This is my body, which I give for you. When you share it, remember me."

We remember that he took the cup and, giving thanks, said,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood. When you drink it, remember me."

Revealed in stable, cross, and empty tomb, we give thanks, O God, for your limitless love for all.
With your people of all times and places, we await with hope the fulfillment of your vision for
all creation.

**Bless us, O God, and these your gifts.
Encourage us to share your life and love,
which make us, and the gifts we share, truly holy.**

Transform us, God, and your world, and bless your children:
those who feel alone or afraid...
those whose souls and homes are broken by violence...
those who will go hungry, thirsty, and cold tonight...
those who long only to hear that they are loved...

God made known in Jesus Christ,
hear our prayer.

We pray these things, trusting in God's faithfulness revealed:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Sharing the Bread & Cup
The body of Christ, **Bread for the journey**
The blood of Christ, **The cup of life**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

At this table, Christ is the host, welcoming all who hunger.
At our tables, may Christ be our guest this day and always,
that we might welcome hope, peace, joy, and love into our lives,
and become hosts to God's presence and people.

God of Love, guide us to the stables of our world,
where the lonely and longing gather.
Lead us to the mangers of our time,
where hope and renewal are born again.
Make us heralds of your love and joy. Amen.

HYMN: *Bless Now, O God, the Journey*

VU 633

*Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.*

*Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way,
whose hope burns through the terrors,
whose love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound.
Together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.*

*Divine Eternal Lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise
where milk and honey flow.
But waiting not for places,
you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.*

SENDING FORTH

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING: (Responsive)

We go from here in hope

Hope born not from wide eyed dreams and ungrounded optimism, but in the hope born as a child in Bethlehem

We go to face the world with hope,

Even though the world seems crazy and the challenges of life seem overwhelming, we go with hope because of Emanuel, God is with us!

Greet the week all that comes rejoicing in the Lord, and as you take this advent journey know deeply the love of God is with you, the light of Christ will guide you and the Holy Spirit will sustain you, each step of the way. AMEN

CHORAL CLOSING: *Hope Is a Star*

VU 7 v1

*Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.*

*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.*

POSTLUDE: Allegro from Concerto II - Bach

**Communion Liturgy In the Rich Dark Winter written by Rev. Andrew O'Neil*

Scripture Readers: Narrator – Ann Krause, Habakkuk – Jane Blakely, Lord – Carole Peacock

Greeter: Ann & Herold Raper

Audio Visual: John Davis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27TH

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.

ADVENT NEWSLETTERS

Advent Newsletters were mailed out yesterday, keep an eye out for yours. Stay up-to date with what is happening in the church. Thank you to everyone who contributed, to our volunteer editors, and the team that stapled, folded, and stuffed envelopes. It isn't perfect – but we celebrate another informative and fun newsletter. If you would like to help with the next newsletter, which will come out for Lent, (February) please let Meghan or Rev. Michelle know.



CANDLELIGHT CLASSIX CONCERT

Concert by Sarah Harrigan, Sharon Pond and Natalia Lubimova featuring music of Bach and Handel. Sunday **December 4th** at 3pm. Presale tickets: \$20, tickets at the door \$25, Students and children FREE.

Tickets are available in the Church Office. Please contact Meghan at 458-1183 or stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com to reserve yours for pick up.

For ticket reservations go to candlelight-classix.com or more information, please email candlelightclassix@gmail.com

ANNUAL REPORT SEASON IS COMING!

If you are a chair of a committee or group, it is time to start thinking about your annual report. This is the official record of what has happened in the life of our congregation during 2022. We will be asking for all reports to be in by mid- January, now is a great time to reflect on what you have done.

CAMPUS MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

One of our outreach partners is the Fredericton Council for Christian Ministry on Campus, AKA campus ministry. We have church representatives on their board, have recently provided space for their meetings and contribute financially. On **December 4th** we will be collecting a special offering in support of this ministry, special envelopes will be available for pick-up this week and next. This year is also an opportunity to connect with students directly during Exam week. From December 12-16, the campus ministry is looking for churches to help staff and supply Pause Tables. These will be set up at various locations across the campus, running from 9am-1pm. Volunteers would help set up the space, staff tables, bring/hand out snacks and be a friendly face for students who are facing end of term stress. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Rev. Michelle.

LAST FUNDSCRIP ORDER OF 2022!!



Our next order will be on **Sunday, December 4 . . .** a good chance to get those last-minute Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers! Also an opportunity to raise more money for St. Paul's as several retailers have increased the value of their donations for December. Whether ordering cards for your everyday needs or as gifts, you can show your appreciation of this gesture by purchasing cards from Boston Pizza, Giant Tiger, Home Sense/Winners/Marshalls, Shell and the Ultimate Dining Card (good for Swiss Chalet, Harvey's East Side Mario's, Montana's). Order forms are available in the church office and Narthex or click

here for the link [December-4th-FundScrip-Order-Form.pdf](#). If you are a regular FundScrip supporter you may want to buy extra cards this month as **there will not be an order in January**. Deadline for our first order in the new year will be February 5.

PANTRY PROGRAM

The pantry needs the following items: peanut butter, apple sauce, coffee whitener, ketchup, mayonnaise, juice boxes, pudding cups and Shake n' Bake. Thank you for your continued support!

BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

The Brown Bag Lunch program is in need of juice boxes, proteins with flip top lids and pudding. Thank you for your generosity!

UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL

The November-December and September-October Upper Room Daily Devotionals have arrived! Please stop by the office to purchase your copy for \$2 before they are gone!

190TH TREE DEDICATION

On **December 4th** at 1pm, you are invited to gather at the upper parking lot of the Botanic Gardens for a blessing of the tree planted in honour and celebration of our 190th anniversary. From the parking lot it is about a 3 minute walk to the tree. We hope to see you there.

MINCEMEAT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!

The UCW has a few 500ml bottles of mincemeat still available to purchase for \$15.00 Please contact Donna Chauvin 458-5885 for yours!

DOWNTOWN UNITED CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

December 17th at 2pm St. Paul's is hosting a hymn sing for downtown United. We are hoping to spread out the leadership and engage as many people as possible in sharing their gifts. If you are able to help lead songs in voice or music for the event let us know. This opportunity is open to all ages to share and foster the Spirit of the season.



BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will be resuming this week! Join Rev. Michelle Wednesday at 11:15 as we dive into Easter 4:1-17. Join in person or via zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88619319967> Passcode is 259190.



GIFTS WITH VISION

Gifts With Vision – Looking for a gift that won't just be discarded after the holiday season? Have someone on your list who has everything already? Wanting to make a difference in the lives of others this season? The Mission and Service Gift with Vision allow you to give gifts that directly impact the lives of people here in Canada and around the world. Pick up a catalogue in the office or stop by <https://giftswithvision.ca/>

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 27th** – Advent 1 ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Christian Education
- December 4th** – Advent 2 ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Property
- December 11th** – Advent 3 ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Trustees
- December 18th** – Advent 4 ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by M&P
- December 24th** – Christmas Eve Family Service at 3 pm – Everyone Welcome
- December 24th** – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7pm
- December 31st** – New Year's Eve Service at 4pm

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

Between **Nov 18th** and **25th**, St. Matthew will be hosting a silent on-line auction in support of their refugee sponsorship. The link when live, will be posted on their Facebook page: facebook.com/StMattLuth/

NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH ON-LINE AUCTION

New Maryland United Church is hosting its first On-Line Auction from **Nov. 19 to Nov. 26th**. You have all week to browse, look at the items (there are 100!!!) and enter bids. Bidding closes next Saturday, November 26th at 8:00pm. The link to the site is follows: <https://www.32auctions.com/nmuc> Please feel free to share it with family and friends. You do need to set up an account with Auction 32, which is the online auction website. Please contact New Maryland United Church at 459-3313 (leave a message)

and someone will be in touch if you have any questions. Pick up for items will begin on Sunday, November 27th after church.



BREAKFAST & CHRISTMAS MARKET

Gibson Memorial United Church, 183 Gibson St. will be hosting a Breakfast & Christmas Market on Saturday, **December 3rd**, 2022.

8 a.m. - 11 a.m. The breakfast will be from 8 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at \$10/person. The market tables will feature Christmas cards by Lori Donovan, a church table with baking, pickles & knitting and a Book & Puzzle table. Everyone is welcome!

MEMORIAL TREE LIGHTING

McAdam's & Oromocto Funeral Homes are hosting an evening of comfort and remembrance, in each of their chapels, as we pause to reflect on the season and those who have shared seasons past. The annual Memorial Tree Lighting Service will be held at: Oromocto Funeral Home, **December 6th** at 7pm and at McAdam's Funeral Home **December 7th** at 7pm. Please call 357-5100 or 458-9170 for further information.



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Contact Information

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Minister: Rev. Michelle Armstrong | **Organist:** Dr. Sharon Pond
Church Administrator: Meghan Roebuck | **Custodian:** Rusty Blakely