

# 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*

December 11th, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM

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*When Jesus became aware of this, he departed. Many followed him, and he cured all of them, and he ordered them not to make him known. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "Here is my servant, whom I have chosen, my beloved, with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the gentiles. He will not wrangle or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick until he brings justice to victory. And in his name the gentiles will hope." ~ Matthew 12:15-21*

## GATHERING TOGETHER

**PRELUDE:** Basque Carol - Tucker

### **SCRIPTURAL GREETING:**

You make known to me the path of life;  
In your presence there is joy

**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.**

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY:** (Responsive)

~ Webb Family

When we feel lost, and the pressures of this world feel overwhelming Hope holds out to us a vision of a different way. We find peace on our journey when we rest and trust in the faithfulness of God.

**When the darkness grows we are not overwhelmed, for God is with us, shining the light that leads us on.**

*Light Purple Hope and Peace Candles*

When we let God's light shine in our lives, we experience a joy that makes us feel at home and complete.

**And when we join together with others in community, that joy is multiplied, because we created to be in relationship with each other.**

This blessing of Joy is not meant to be held tightly, but instead it is to be released so that it explodes out into the world.

**There is power and purpose as we reach out, in giving we find ourselves not diminished but possessing even greater joy!**

This is part of the divine plan, that when we reflect Christ's light into the world, we discover the more we give, the more we receive.

**In our hands reaching out are Christ's own hand and in each smile is Christ's own smile. Joy is being a mirror to reflect God's love light on the world, so that none are lost and alone in the dark.**

*Light Pink Joy Candle*

We light this candle because our Joy in the Lord is overflowing and we cannot help but share the news:  
**Christ is alive in us. Christ is coming soon.**

*Silent Reflection*

**SUNG RESPONSE: A Candle Is Burning**

**VU 6 v3**

*A candle is burning, a candle of joy,  
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.  
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow  
As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsive) \***

Let us begin this day by rejoicing!

**The Lord has done such wonderful things for us.**

Let us be glad!

**Though the way before us be uncertain.**

We join to journey together, to be touched again by our living God, and feel the spark and power as Christ stands in our midst and touches our lives.

**We begin this day with rejoicing – for the Lord is near!**

Come let us worship, raising our hands in praise.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**OPENING HYMN: People, Look East**

**VU 9**

*People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the guest is on the way.*

*Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there:  
give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the rose is on the way.*

*Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
guard the nest that must be filled;  
even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the bird is on the way.*

*Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the star is on the way.*

*Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the Lord is on the way.*

**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:** Isaiah 42:1-9

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE:** Covenant as our guidepost for uncertain times

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**HYMN: *Angels We Have Heard on High***

**VU 38**

*Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song? R*

*Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. R*

*See him in a manger laid,  
whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while our hearts in love we raise. R*

**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 spread the joy and peace of this season. Through Christ we pray. AMEN

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** Away in A Manger - Schweizer

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

**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:** *Joy to the World*

**VU 59**

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:  
let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground:  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the earth with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.*

#### **SENDING FORTH**

#### **COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION: (Responsive) \***

Go forth faithfully!

**God is with us!**

Go forth boldly!

**Christ is with us!**

Go forth joyfully!

**The Holy Spirit is with us!**

Go to spread the joy you found in the Lord and may God's eternal love shine through you as you spread peace and hope this season and beyond.

**Amen.**

#### **CHORAL CLOSING: *Hope Is a Star***

**VU 7 v3**

*Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
telling the world that the Saviour is born*

#### ***Refrain:***

*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: Postlude on "Gloria" - Payne**

*\*Adapted from a prayer written by Rev. Richard Bowley*

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**Scripture Readers:** Narrator 1 – Ann Krause, Narrator 2 – Jane Blakely,  
**Greeter:** Donna Chauvin **Audio Visual:** John Davis

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WORSHIP SUNDAY DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>

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.



### LIGHT UP THE SEASON WITH A MEMORIAL CANDLE

Love never dies! Scripture tells us this, you have an opportunity to make this reality a visual experience on **December 18<sup>th</sup>** during our Advent 4 – Love Sunday. How? For \$5.00 Candle we will place a candle in the sanctuary with your loved one's name attached to it, during the service (and during the longest night service and Christmas Eve) these candles will be light. You can then take the candle home with you after the Christmas Eve service, so you have it at home to light during the rest of

the Christmas Season, as a reminder of the love that lives on. [Click here](#) to complete the form online. [Click here](#) to download the form to print and return to St. Paul's.

### AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

St. Paul's needs volunteers to help with operation of the audio/visual system for Sunday morning services. Four volunteers would allow for a rotation of one Sunday per month. Experience is not necessary and training will be provided. If you are interested or know anyone who might be interested, please contact the Church Office at 458-1183 ([stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com)) or John Davis at 455-1129 ([johntdavis@hotmail.com](mailto:johntdavis@hotmail.com)).

### ADVENT NEWSLETTERS

You should have received your Advent Newsletter in the mail. If you didn't, please contact the office to update your address. 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.

### ADVENT CALENDAR

Advent is here. If you are still looking for an advent calendar, check out the one on our website, under our new tab in Resources - Spiritual Practices. The calendar is suitable for people of any age or family structure. Click this link to get started! [Advent-Calendar-2022.pdf](#)

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### SALVATION ARMY KETTLE DRIVE SCHEDULE

St. Paul's volunteers Man the Kettle on **Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup>**. The following have agreed to man the kettle for the Salvation Army this day:

#### Regent Mall Food Court:

**10am- 12pm** - Roger Miller, Greg Morton, Cathy Davis [stand-by]

**12pm-2pm** - Barbara McGuigan, Elaine Hart

**2pm-4pm** - Patty Trail, Lois Walker

**4pm-6pm** - Chris Grant, Mary Stickles

**6pm-8pm** - Ann & Harold Raper

[Extras if needed - Donna Chauvin, Debbie Allison]



## SUPPORTING CAMPUS MINISTRY

One of our outreach partners is the Fredericton Council for Christian Ministry on Campus, AKA Campus Ministry. On December 4<sup>th</sup>, we collected a special offering in support of this ministry. If you missed this service and would still like to contribute, you can use the special envelopes in the narthex this week, or contact the office directly. There is also an opportunity to connect with students directly. 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 to 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.

## 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.

## PANTRY PROGRAM

The pantry needs the following items: peanut butter, ketchup, syrup, coffee, coffee mate, crackers, cookies, mayonnaise, mustard, honey, tuna, juice, chicken noodle soup, white sugar, flour, apple sauce, pudding, stove top stuffing, dish detergent, laundry detergent, paper towel, Mr. Clean, wax paper, tooth brushes. Thank you for your continued support!

## BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

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

## FROZEN APPLE PIES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!

The UCW has a few frozen apple pies still available to purchase. Small - \$4 and Large - \$8. Please contact Donna Chauvin 458-5885 to reserve yours!

## COME RAISE YOUR VOICE!

Downtown United invites you to get into the season with a Christmas Carol sing. We are all set for accompanists and hymn leaders, now all we need is you! Join us here at St. Paul's **December 17<sup>th</sup>** at 2pm.



## LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

If the darkness of the season is getting to you, or you are struggling with grief, loss or feelings of sadness, join Downtown United here at St. Paul's at 7pm on **December 21<sup>st</sup>** for a reflective service that holds space for these feelings while offering words of hope and encouragement. This reflective service is open to all.

## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE

The church office will be **closed December 23<sup>rd</sup> and reopen on January 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Should you require pastoral care during this timeframe, please call Rev. Michelle at 259-7602. Please note that the office will not be opening this year to receive end of year contributions. If you have contributions or other mail for the church, you can drop it off in the secure mailbox at the York Street doors. The mailbox will be checked during the closure. Alternatively, you can bring you end of year contributions to the New Year's Eve service on December 31<sup>st</sup> at 4pm.

## 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!



### BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will be resuming this week! Join Rev. Michelle Wednesday at 11:15 as we dive into Matthew 1:18-25. Join in person or via zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88619319967> Passcode is 259190

### NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

The worship committee decided to cancel New Year's Day service and replace it with a New Year's Eve service instead. Putting the service early enough that it will now impact any plans people have that night. We hope to see you at 4pm on **December 31<sup>st</sup>**.

### LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Many congregations across the country have members of the congregation who develop and plan services for when the Minister is on Study Leave or vacation, or help offer parts of the service in conjunction with the Minister. Historically St. Paul's didn't have to worry about this, but we all know that things change. If you have ever been asked to lead worship and thought: I have no idea how to do this, or if you have thought that would be neat to do but you don't know where to start, then check out this 5 part workshop offered by Region 15 (Nova Scotia/Bermuda) for occasional lay worship leaders. Not only does this help us highlight and use the skills and gifts in our congregation, but also provides security as the number of people available for pulpit supply decreases. To find out more or to register, click [ucceast.ca/67357-worship-101-for-occasional-lay-worship-leaders](https://ucceast.ca/67357-worship-101-for-occasional-lay-worship-leaders)

### JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> WORSHIP

**January 8<sup>th</sup>** will be our first Sunday worship of 2023. This is also the date that the Downtown United Project Survey gets released. We are hoping to see you for worship and that you will take the time to fill out the survey online or on hard copy. More details on the survey to be released closer to its release date.

### 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

**December 11<sup>th</sup>** – Advent 3 ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Trustees

**December 18<sup>th</sup>** – Advent 4 ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by M&P

**December 21<sup>st</sup>** – Longest Night Service at 7pm at St. Paul's

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Eve Family Service at 3 pm – Everyone Welcome

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7pm

**December 31<sup>st</sup>** – New Year's Eve Service at 4pm





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## St. Paul's United Church

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

### Contact Information

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