

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 4th, 2022

Second Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

~ Matt 5:13-16

GATHERING TOGETHER

PRELUDE: Polish Carol - Tucker

SCRIPTURAL GREETING:

The Lord gives strength to his people;
The Lord blesses his people with peace.

**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)

~ Steeves Family

Hope reminds us that there is a way before us, even if we cannot see it.

Light Purple Hope Candle

On this advent journey and as we travel through life, we seek peace, but not just any peace, A peace beyond what we hear the world proclaiming.

**A Peace that isn't just about the absence of fighting or the right people winning. We long for
peace beyond this, peace described as God's love shared, God's people united.**

A Peace that sees the hurt of others; brokenness, loneliness and fear and doesn't turning away pretending that there is nothing to see.

**We long for the peace born out of the realization that it takes the liberation and healing of us all,
kindred and stranger alike, before we are truly whole and find true rest.**

Peace changes how we see ourselves and the world,

So that we can be the change that the world needs.

Light Purple Peace Candle

We light this candle, in a world so far from this kind of peace, that it may shine even still, a reminder that the one we are waiting for said "my peace I give you"

Embodying this peace, we are called to be disciples for such a time as this.
Silent Reflection

SUNG RESPONSE : *A Candle Is Burning*

VU 6 v2

*A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.*

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsive) *

We hear the cries. Cries from the wilderness, cries from the streets, cries from the broken and the beaten.

These cries are the voice of God rising from our siblings, calling us to attention.

The Holy Spirit calls to our souls, inviting us here

**So, we come, to hear our sacred stories, to listen to the Word, until His way is our way
and his peace resides deep inside.**

Come for now is the time to worship God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

OPENING HYMN: *There's a Voice in the Wilderness*

VU 18

*There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go!*

*O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay;
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass, like a dream, away.*

*But the word of our God endureth,
whose arm is ever strong;
God stands in the midst of nations,
and soon will right the wrong.
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
the lambs so gently hold;
to pastures of peace will lead them,
and bring them safe to fold.*

*There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go! 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: Esther 4:1-17

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE: What can you do in such a time as this?

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN: *God of Grace and God of Glory*

VU 686

*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.*

*Set our feet on lofty places,
gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christlike graces,
pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
that we fail not them nor thee.*

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

CHOIR ANTHEM: Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree – Andrew’s

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: *In the Bleak Midwinter*

VU 55

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay.
Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,*

*the ox and ass and camel which adore.
What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.*

SENDING FORTH

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING: (Responsive)

Christ's way has always been a way of justice and peace. Breaking down walls and joining people in a community of love.

Grounded in God's story, we learn we are a vital part of God's plan, in the here and now

Even when things are not easy, when the risks are real and the way is hard

**We will not shy away, instead we will open ourselves to be God's hands and feet in the world
proclaiming, God's way of love, justice, and mercy.**

We see the gaps and the cracks where people fall and become lost. Our task is to reach out.

**God has shaped us for such a time as this and God has gifted us with a message and a hope that
will yield peace, we all long for.**

Go now with the love of God in your heart, the peace of Christ in your hand and the power of the Holy Spirit at your back to share the Good News you have found this day. Amen.

CHORAL CLOSING: *Hope Is a Star*

VU 7 v2

*Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.*

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: Fantasies sur "Picardy" - Bedard

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

Scripture Readers: Narrator 1 – Jane Banks, Narrator 2 – Andrew Steeves, Esther – Chris Grant,
Mordecai – Derrick Grant

Greeter: Chris Grant

Audio Visual: John Davis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SUNDAY DECEMBER 4TH

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.

AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

St. Paul's is in need of volunteers willing to help with operation of the audio/visual system for Sunday morning services in the Sanctuary. 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) or John Davis at 455-1129 (johntdavis@hotmail.com).

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 18th** 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.

FUNDSCRIP ORDERS DUE SUNDAY!



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.

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.

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 starts today and is suitable for people of any age or family structure. Click this link to get started! [Advent-Calendar-2022.pdf](#)

SALVATION ARMY KETTLE DRIVE SCHEDULE

St. Paul's volunteers Man the Kettle on **Wednesday December 14th**. 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]

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will be resuming this week! Join Rev. Michelle Wednesday at 11:15 as we dive into Isaiah 42:1-9. Join in person or via zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88619319967> Passcode is [259190](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88619319967)



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.

PANTRY PROGRAM

The pantry needs the following items: Ketchup, pancake mix, syrup, Miracle Whip, canned fruit, canned peas & green beans, white sugar, applesauce, soda crackers, Ritz crackers, coffee whitener, crunchy peanut butter, small apple juice (1 Litre), corn niblets, tin foil, and dish detergent. 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!

CANDLELIGHT CLASSIX CONCERT THIS SUNDAY!

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.

190TH TREE DEDICATION THIS SUNDAY!

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.

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!



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!

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.

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 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 21st – Longest Night Service at 7pm

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

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.





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

224 York St., Fredericton, NB E3B 3P1

Web: www.stpaulsunityed.ca | Tel: 506-458-1183 | Email: stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com

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