

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 18th, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ~ Psalm 23:1-4

GATHERING TOGETHER

PRELUDE: Lullay, bye bye, lullay - Martin

SCRIPTURAL GREETING:

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love.

**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) *

We have been traveling this advent road, preparing, looking, seeking for God and listening for God's call for us in this time.

And we have found God in our midst of our lives, offering us gifts needed for this time,

Hope that keeps us moving forward even when all we catch but a pin prick of light.

Peace that grounds us and shows us the way to do things we never thought possible as we come together in community.

Joy that flows from the depths of our heart, stirring our inner fires for living a kingdom life.

Light Purple Hope Candle,

Light Purple Peace Candle,

Light Pink Joy Candle

On this advent road, we stop once more

and what we find is nothing short of God's eternal love. Love without conditions, without limits, that began before creation and has no end.

Love that sees the brokenness of the world and reaches out in a healing embrace.

Love that is meant for sharing, bouncing and reflection from one to another, until all are bathed in Christ's love light.

Light Purple Love Candle

We light this candle, to represent God's love light that bathes us this day and that wishes to fill the entire world.

Silent Reflection

SUNG RESPONSE: *A Candle Is Burning*

VU 6 v4

*A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.*

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsive) **

In this season of expectations

We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, the Messiah.

Into the bustle of our lives and the hard moments of solitude

We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, the Messiah.

Into our homes and situations along with friends and families

We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, the Messiah.

For beneath the surface of this story in an inescapable fact:

God entered the world as vulnerable as any one of us

in order to nail that vulnerability to the cross.

our fears, our insecurities and our sins -

all that separates us from God,

exchanged through God's Love!

We cannot comprehend the reasoning,

so we come, to marvel at salvation that comes to us

through a baby born in a stable, reaching out to the world.

In this season of anticipation

we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, the Messiah.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

OPENING HYMN: *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

VU 31

*O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, then, most holy,
a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.*

*Love caused your incarnation,
love brought you here to me;
your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love all loves excelling
our lost and fallen race.*

*A glorious crown you give me,
a treasure safe on high,
that will not fail nor leave me
as earthly riches fly.
My heart shall bloom forever
for you with praises new,
and from your name shall never
withhold the honour due.*

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: Matthew 1:18-25

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE: Love in such a time as this

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

VU 64

*O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.*

*O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.*

*How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessed gift of heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.*

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

LITURGY OF LOVE'S LIGHT:

CHOIR ANTHEM: Gabriel's Voice - Higginson

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

*See amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see, the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.*

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn;
hail, redemption's happy dawn;
sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

*Lo, within a manger lies
God who built the starry skies,
who enthroned in height sublime
sits amid the cherubim. R*

*Say, ye holy shepherds, say
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep? R*

*'As we watched at dead of night,
lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels singing 'Peace on earth'
told us of the Saviour's birth.' R*

*Sacred infant, all divine,
what a mighty love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this! R*

SENDING FORTH

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING: (Responsive) ***

We have lit the candles of our Advent wreath

Our Advent journey continues.

We have gathered with friends in faith

Our service in Christ's name continues

We have received the good news of God's great love for each of us

We go into the world to make a difference.

As we move into the last days of our watching and longing as we wait, may God's love, joy, peace and hope surround you and sustain you, until we meet together at the manger.

Amen.

*Love is a flame that burns in our heart,
Jesus has come and will never depart.*

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: Swiss Noel – D'Aquin

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

*** Adapted by prayer written by John Birch*

**** Adaption of prayers written by Laura Thunbull and Susan Ivany, Gathering ACE 2022/2023 pg 32*

Scripture Readers: Narrator – Lois Walker, Angel – Chris Grant, Prophet – Brad Webb

Greeter: Mary Stickles **Audio Visual:** John Davis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SUNDAY DECEMBER 18TH

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.

UCW MEETING NOTICE

There will be a very short meeting of the UCW in the Lady's Parlor after Church Service on Sunday **Dec 18th** to discuss finances. Thank you. Donna Chauvin - 458-5885

DON'T MISS THE TAX DONATION DEADLINE!

Donations deadline for the 2022 tax year is December 31st. While our office will not be open from December 23-January 3rd you can still get your donations in by visiting the office before December 23st 8am-3pm, using the secure drop box which will be checked while office is closed or attending the 4pm New Year's Eve Service.

DOWNTOWN UNITED PROJECT

Our co-chair Ralph Simpson provided everyone an update on this groups progress in the Advent Newsletter. Credence & Co has provided us with an introduction letter to share with everyone. For more information about what we will be doing, how you will be able to participate and to learn more about our consultants, read the full letter found [Here](#)

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 21st** for a reflective service that holds space for these feelings while offering words of hope and encouragement. This reflective service is open to all.

RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH GOD

As we prepare to say goodbye and hello to another year, let us worship. Join us **New Year's Eve at 4pm** for this joint service of Downtown United here at St. Paul's. Please note that there will be NO service on Sunday January 1st.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE

The church office will be closed **December 23rd** and **reopen on January 3rd**. 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 31st at 4pm.

UKRAINIAN FAMILY IN NEED OF A DRESSER

A recently arrived Ukrainian family is being hosted in the community. They could benefit from a dresser if anyone has one to donate. Please contact Dan Roberts at the Multicultural Association of Fredericton for more information. Tel: (506) 471-1868



PANTRY PROGRAM

The pantry needs the following items: peanut butter, pancake mix & syrup, coffee mate, honey, molasses, Rice Krispies and instant oatmeal. Thank you for your continued support!

BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

The Brown Bag Lunch program is in very low supply of proteins with flip top lids and juice boxes. Thank you for your generosity in support of this important program throughout 2022!

ANNUAL REPORT SEASON IS COMING!

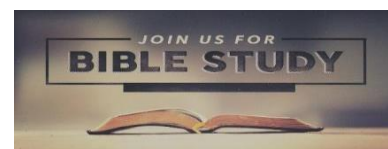
If you are a chair of a committee or group, it is time to start thinking about your annual report. This is the official record of what has happened in the life of our congregation during 2022. We will be asking for all reports to be in by mid- January, now is a great time to reflect on what you have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

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 <https://ucceast.ca/67357-worship-101-for-occasional-lay-worship-leaders>

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is taking a break for the holidays and will resume Wednesday January 11th at 11:15am. Hope to see you then!



JANUARY 8TH WORSHIP

January 8th 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.

2023 FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

Coffee [or should we call it Fellowship] Hour schedule for Jan-June 2023 is as follows below.
Serving Juice, Coffee, Tea and a Treat. * Don't forget the milk for the tea & coffee

Jan 8 - Choir - Jane Blakely	Mar 13 - Worship - Ann Raper	May 7 - M & P - Ann Krause
Jan 15 - Outreach - Lois Walker	Mar 19 - Choir - Jane Blakely	May 14 - Worship - Ann Raper
Jan 22 - UCW - Donna Chauvin	Mar 26 - Outreach - Lois Walker	May 21 - Choir - Jane Blakely
Jan 29 - Worship - Chris Grant	Apr 2 - UCW - Donna Chauvin	May 28 - Outreach - Lois Walker
Feb 5 - Board - Debbie Allison	Apr 9 - Board - Debbie Allison	June 4 - UCW - Donna Chauvin
Feb 12 - Christian Ed - Mary Staples	Apr 16 - Christian Ed - Mary Staples	June 11 - Board - Debbie Allison
Feb 26 - Trustees - Andrew Steeves	Apr 30 - Trustees - Andrew Steeves	June 25 - Property - Patty Trail
Mar. 5 - M & P - Ann Krause		

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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!

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).

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 18th – Advent 4 ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by M&P

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

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**

December 23rd to January 2nd - **Church Office Closed**

January 8th – First Service of 2023 ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by the Choir



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.stpaulsunitied.ca | Tel: 506-458-1183 | Email: stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com

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

