

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

January 15th, 2023

Second Sunday After Epiphany

10:30 AM

Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

~ Psalm 91:9-12

GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE:

GREETING:

O magnify the Lord with me,

let us exalt God's name together!

Christ is with us

Christ is in our midst.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE: (Responsive) ¹

The actions of light we describe in a variety of ways:

Light that clarifies;

Light that warns us of danger;

Light that guides our footsteps;

Light that reveals our future;

Light that calms our fears;

Light that offers insights.

As we gather in worship, we light this Christ candle. A reminder that Jesus Christ is with us as the light of the world.

INTROIT: *Arise, Your Light Is Come*

VU 79 v1

***Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.***

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsive) ²

Come, all you whose cups overflow and you who are feeling parched:

God's love carries us through.

Come, all you who aren't sure about anything and you who stand secure:

God's Word incarnate will be our guide.

Come, all you who have big dreams and you who can barely see through today:

God's Spirit gives us the vision.

Come, worship the One whose light has dawned and whose kingdom has come near.

*Jesus, tempted in the desert,
lonely, hungry, filled with dread:
'Use your power,' the tempter tells him;
'turn these barren rocks to bread!'
'Not alone by bread,' he answers,
'can the human heart be filled.
Only by the Word that calls us
is our deepest hunger stilled!'*

*Jesus, tempted at the temple,
high above its ancient wall:
'Throw yourself from lofty turret;
angels wait to break your fall!'
Jesus shuns such empty marvels,
feats that fickle crowds request:
'God, whose grace protects, preserves us,
we must never vainly test.'*

*Jesus, tempted on the mountain
by the lure of vast domain:
'Fall before me! Be my servant!
Glory, fame, you're sure to gain!'
Jesus sees the dazzling vision,
turns his eyes another way:
'God alone deserves our homage!
God alone will I obey!'*

*When we face temptation's power,
lonely, struggling, filled with dread,
Christ, who knew the tempter's hour,
come and be our living bread.
By your grace, protect, preserve us
lest we fall, your trust betray.
Yours, above all other voices,
be the Word we hear, obey.*

CENTERING PRAYER: ²

SHARING THE WORD

TIME FOR ALL WHO ARE YOUNG AT HEART:

SUNG PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: *Open Our Hearts*

MV 21

*Open our hearts, open our minds.
Open our lives to you, O loving God.
Open our hearts, Open our minds.
Open our lives to you, O loving God.*

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 4:1-17

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION:

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

VU 120

*O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.*

*O let me feel you near me: the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.*

*O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.*

*O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING:

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS: *Grant Us, God, the Grace*

VU 540

*Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(Responsive)*

You provide us with resources, generous God, that we might better serve you and our neighbors.

Gifts of talent and treasure and the gift of our time we offer to you now in service of your Way.

A sign of our trust in you and commitment to you.

Take what we offer, and add your presence and blessing, for the sake of your love made known in this world. In Jesus name, we give and we pray. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM:

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

SENDING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

HYMN: *Seek Ye First the Kingdom*

VU 356

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and God's righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.*

*Ask and it shall be given unto you;
seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.*

*We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, hallelujah.*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

As we return to the temptation and challenges, hard places and difficult choices of this world, we will turn to Christ

We listen to His voice, for he faced the challenges of this world and in doing so showed us the wisdom of God.

Following the Spirits lead, we leave this place now

We do not know where the Spirit will lead us but we will trust in God's presence and seek to live in Christ's way.

Wherever you go

May God enfold you in tender and everlasting love

May Christ abide with you as your vision and joy.

And may the Holy Spirit guard you from the tempters' way and guide you back if ever you stray. Amen

*Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.*

POSTLUDE:

¹ Perry, *Gathering A/C/E 2018-2019*, pg 45

² Terri Peterson -*Bibleworm liturgy January 15, 2023*

Scripture Readers: Narrator – Alanna Palmer , Devil – Jane Banks, Jesus – Carole Peacock, Prophet – Debbie Allison

Greeters: Ann & Harold Raper **Audio Visual:** John Davis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SUNDAY JANUARY 15TH, 2023

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.



DOWNTOWN UNITED SURVEY CLOSES JANUARY 23RD!

Credence and Co. is our consultant group, and as part of phase 1, helped us create a survey for all members and adherents of St. Paul's and Wilmot. The responses will be vital for our work to continue. The survey goes live this Sunday and can be filled out online [here](#). Online responses are encouraged, however, if you are unable to complete online hard copies are available. To submit these responses there are a few options:

a) ask a trusted friend to enter their survey responses online: b) submit your paper survey (name included) to a member of the planning team or Office Admin to enter online; c) read responses to a Credence Assistant in a phone call. The Survey is only open from January 8-January 23rd. Looking for more info on Credence and Co., check out the letter circulated last year: [Downtown United Intro Letter](#)

KINDRED WORKS/UPRC AND ST. PAUL'S ~ BE INFORMED!

Over the last year, the Trustees, Property and the Board have been learning more about what this organization of the United Church can do for our congregation. Kindred Works helps congregations redevelop their property to make a greater impact in our community, while providing sustaining revenue for congregations. A representative from Kindred Works will be here at St. Paul's for two meetings on January 25th, at 1pm and at 7pm. Your attendance at one of the meetings is requested to ensure the maximum knowledge of Kindred Works (their process and opportunities) and where our congregation is in their engagement process. If possible please let the office know in advance which session you will be attending. Thank you!

LOST & FOUND

Found - one Fisherman knit sweater! Contact Donna Chauvin 458-5885.

Found – 3 pairs of reading glasses – Collect them at the Church Office.

HOSPITALIZATIONS & VISITS

Just a reminder that with the ongoing stress in hospitals, that services previously available to discover if someone was in hospital are no longer available. If you or a loved one is in hospital, please contact Rev. Michelle or the office and provide the room number and floor so that a visit can be arranged. Without this information, Rev. Michelle will be unable to find you!

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS DUE!

If you are a committee Chair or are involved in organizing a group in the congregation, your Annual report is **Due by January 27th**. Don't delay! Get it in to Meghan in the office today via email to stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com or in paper format!



WHERE TO START IN BECOMING AFFIRMING?

Are you interested in knowing more about the process for a congregation to be affirming? Then this Zoom Webinar is for you! **Where to Start in Becoming Affirming, Tuesday, Jan 17th at 2 pm**. In this webinar, Kim Curlett, Coordinator of Affirming Ministries in Atlantic Canada and Quebec (English) along with members of the FSLDW Affirm Ministry Committee will share a few steps in getting started. For registration please click here <https://ucceast.ca/76043-where-to-start-in-becoming-affirming-zoom-webinar-hosted-by-fsldw-affirm>

FUNDSCRIP



Welcome back, FundScrip shoppers! Did you use up all your gift cards over the holidays? You can place your order anytime now for our next deadline **Sunday, February 5**. Family birthdays or other celebrations coming up soon? Why not consider a gift card for a favourite store or restaurant? And don't forget Valentine's Day, February 14 . . . order a card now to treat your sweetie! Order forms are available at the church office, in the Narthex on Sunday or you can print a copy by clicking here: [February 5th FundScrip Order Form](#) If you haven't taken part in this program before, give it a try. The process is simple and your shopping is fundraising for St. Paul's! You can purchase gift cards to cover all your shopping needs . . . groceries, gas, hardware, restaurants, etc. Cards from over 200 stores and services are available in different denominations from \$5 at Starbucks to \$500 at Staples, Home Hardware, Home Depot and Best Buy. Each purchase automatically includes a donation from the retailer to St. Paul's calculated as a percentage of the card's value. There is no cost to you for this donation. You receive the full face value of every card you purchase. Just fill out an order form, take it to the office during the week or bring it to church on Sunday. Payment by cash, cheque or e-transfer must accompany your order. Please speak with Carole Peacock if you would like to know more.

BIBLE STUDY IS FOR EVERYONE

Wednesday morning lectionary study. This year we will be reading through the Gospel of Matthew, with a focus for this week on Matthew 5:1-20. Join us in the conference room at 11:15am or online via Zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88619319967> and Passcode: 259190. Interested

in an evening bible study? If daytime doesn't work for you, there is a couple looking to start a bible study for evenings. Let Rev. Michelle or the office know and help guide the time of meetings.



SOUND & PROJECTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Sound and projection are vital parts of our service and right now these tasks are being shouldered by one person. We need to expand the team. Training provided! We are hoping to develop a rotating team. Please contact Meghan to express your interest at 458-1183 or stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com



PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry program needs the following items: dish detergent, laundry detergent, coffee, sugar, molasses, tooth brushes, Miracle Whip, granola bars, pancake mix and syrup. Thank you for your continued support!

BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

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

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

January 15th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Outreach

January 22nd ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by the UCW

January 29th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by the Worship Committee

February 5th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by The Board

February 12th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Christian Ed



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 | **Organists:** Dr. Sharon Pond & Alexis Ervin

Church Administrator: Meghan Roebuck | **Custodian:** Rusty Blakely