

# 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Third Sunday After Epiphany

10:30 AM

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*Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers, but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. ~ Psalm 1:1-3*

## **GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE**

**PRELUDE:** Tell Me The Story of Jesus ~ McDonald

### **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) <sup>1</sup>**

We describe the action of light 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) <sup>2</sup>**

What is a blessing?

1: More than just a good thing that makes us happy,

2: Not exactly a sign that we're God's favorite,

**All: a blessing reveals God's priorities and God's presence.**

Who is blessed?

1: Not only people with plenty, and more than enough,

2: not just people who have it all together, photo-ready,

**All: blessed are those this world looks down upon, overlooks, and tramples over.**

What does it mean to be blessed?

1: To see the kingdom of heaven,

2: to choose to live in it, risks and all,

**All: and to know God is with us, come what may.**

Blessed are we when we recognize God's presence and live for God's glory.

God is here, let us worship God together.

**CENTERING PRAYER: <sup>2</sup>**

**HYMN: *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry***

**VU 644**

*I was there to hear your borne cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.*

*I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;  
in a blaze of light you wandered off  
to find where demons dwell.*

*When you heard the wonder of the word,  
I was there to cheer you on;  
you were raised to praise the living Lord,  
to whom you now belong.*

*If you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk till rising sun.*

*In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young.  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I've begun.*

*When the evening gently closes in  
and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been  
with just one more surprise.*

*I was there to hear your borne cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.*

**TIME FOR ALL WHO ARE YOUNG AT HEART:**

**BAPTISM & RECEPTION OF MEMBERS: *See Insert***

## SHARING THE WORD

**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 5:1-20**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**Thanks be to God.**

**MEDITATION:**

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

**HYMN OF RESPONSE: *Come Touch Our Hearts***

**MV 12**

*Come touch our hearts  
that we may know compassion,  
From failing embers build a blazing fire;  
Love strong enough to overturn injustice,  
To seek a world more gracious,  
come touch and bless our hearts.*

*Come touch our souls  
That we may know and love you  
Your quiet presence all our fears dispel;  
Create a space for Spirit to grow in us,  
Let life and beauty fill us.  
Come, touch and bless our souls.*

*Come touch our minds  
And teach us how to reason,  
Set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;  
Help us to open doors of understanding  
To welcome truth and wisdom,  
Come, touch and bless our minds.*

*Come touch us in  
The moments we are fragile  
And in our weakness your great strength reveal;  
That we may rise to follow and to serve,  
Steady now our nerve,  
Come, touch and bless our wills.*

*Come touch us now,  
This people who are gathered  
To break the bread and share the cup of peace;*

*That we may love you with our heart, our soul  
Our mind, our strength, our all,  
Come, touch us with your grace.*

**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)*

Blessed are we, for your love and mercy fall on us. Blessed are we, as fortune shines on us. Blessed are we, that we have been given the ability to serve you.

**So accept the gifts we give; the labour of our hands, the hours of our lives, treasure of our wallets. That these gifts may be used to shine your love and light into the world. To proclaim your blessing and bring joy to your heart. Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** Allegro Energico ~ Cappelen

**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:** *Jesus Bids Us Shine*

**VU 585**

*Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light,  
like a little candle burning in the night.  
In this world is darkness, so let us shine,  
you in your small corner, and I in mine.*

*Jesus bids us shine first of all for him;  
well he sees and knows it if our light grows dim:  
Jesus walks beside us to help us shine,  
you in your small corner, and I in mine.*

*Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around;  
many kinds of darkness in the world are found:  
sin, and want and sorrow; so we must shine,  
you in your small corner, and I in mine.*

**COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

**CHORAL CLOSING: *Arise, Your Light Is Come!***

VU 79 v4

*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:** Fairest Lord Jesus ~ Landon

<sup>1</sup> Bill Perry, *Gathering A/C/E 2018-2019*, pg 45

<sup>2</sup> Teri Peterson *BibleWorm liturgy January 22, 2023*

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**Scripture Readers:** Narrator – Patty Trail , Jesus 1 – Alanna Palmer, Jesus 2 – Ron Naugler

**Greeters:** Ann & Harold Raper

**Audio Visual:** John Davis

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WORSHIP SUNDAY JANUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>, 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 23<sup>RD</sup>!**

**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 can be filled out online [The survey can be completed online HERE](#). Hard copies are available in the office. 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 until January 23rd.**

### **KINDRED WORKS 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!

### **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 27<sup>th</sup>**. Don't delay! Get it in to Meghan in the office today via email to [stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com) or in paper format!



## A NEWSLETTER FOR LENT

Lent is fast approaching and, in a month, we hope to have the next addition of St. Paul's newsletter in the mail. We have had great feedback about them over this past year. Your help is needed to make it happen. Looking for people to help edit, to connect with committees around updates and gather articles. If you are able to help out with this ministry of communication and connection, please contact Rev. Michelle

## EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Michelle Will be away at a regional training event Tuesday-Thursday. For emergency pastoral care, please connect with Rev. Ellen Beirstro. Her number is 506-206-1943.

## 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.

## CAMP WEGESEGUM ~ 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

There are plans to celebrate so save the date: July 15, 2023. There will be music, food, children's activities and everything that makes camp good. Many of our congregation have had great camp experiences, more info on how you can be involved coming soon.

## PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry program needs the following items: Coffee Mate, juice boxes, Cheez Whiz, mustard, ketchup, relish, mayo, instant coffee, canned mushrooms, white sugar, flour, large juice, cookies, crackers, granola bars, dish soap, and tin foil. 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!



## 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!



## 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](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com)

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## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- January 22<sup>nd</sup>** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by the UCW
- January 29<sup>th</sup>** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by the Worship Committee
- February 5<sup>th</sup>** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by The Board
- February 12<sup>th</sup>** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Christian Ed



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### CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Minister:** Rev. Michelle Armstrong | **Organists:** Dr. Sharon Pond & Alexis Ervin  
**Church Administrator:** Meghan Roebuck | **Custodian:** Rusty Blakely