

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 8th, 2023

Baptism of Jesus

10:30 AM

I will tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to me, 'You are my son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. ~ Psalm 2:7-8

GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE: Air ~ JS Bach

GREETING:

O magnify the Lord with me,

let us exalt God's name together!

Christ is with us

Christ is in our midst.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: ¹

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE: (Responsive) ²

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) ³

John turned the world of the people of his time upside down;

He called for a dramatic change and the people responded.

Is his call coming to us and to our time?

To seek calm within the rush and the struggle,

To seek the spirit-life amongst the getting and spending,

To seek the downtrodden and support them,

To seek compassion where there is hurting.

Are we ready to go down into the waters of renewal?

John is beckoning. Let us worship.

*Will you come and see the light from the stable door?
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.
It will be your guiding star,
it will show you who you are;
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?*

*Will you step into the light that can free the slave?
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.
By the pyramids of greed
there's a longing to be freed;
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?*

*Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.
When the truth is cut and bruised,
and the innocent abused,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?*

*Will you join the hope, alight in the young girl's eyes,
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?
When the lowest and the least
are the foremost at the feast,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?*

*Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,
and the darkness all about
is too dim to put it out:
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?*

CENTERING PRAYER: ⁴

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 3:1-17

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION:

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*

VU 99

*Christ, when for us you were baptized,
God's Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove and yet
as urgent as a flame.*

*God called you, 'My beloved Son,'
called you, 'My servant true,'
sent you God's kingdom to proclaim,
God's holy will to do.*

*Straightway and steadfast until death
you then obeyed the call
freely as Son of Man to serve
and give your life for all.*

*Baptize us with your Spirit now,
your cross on us be signed,
that likewise in God's service we
may perfect freedom find.*

RENEWAL OF BAPTISM:

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)*

Though we do not bear gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh

We offer ourselves and what we have

We remember our baptismal vows to worship and serve the living Christ

And in this find our calling to be your beloved in the world,

Sharing your love and spreading your light.

Accept our offerings freely given this day and bless them for use in living the kingdom way. This we pray in Christ's name. 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: *I am the Light of the World*

VU 87

***'I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!'
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.***

***When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun: R***

***To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above! R***

***To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see God's children everywhere! R***

***To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth! R***

SENDING FORTH

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION: ⁵

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: Bouree ~ Handel

¹ Lori Van Santvoort-Jansekovice, *Gathering A/C/E 2021-2022*, pg 43

² Bill Perry, *Gathering A/C/E 2018-2019*, pg 45

³ David Sparks, *Gathering A/C/E pg 43*

⁴ Rev. Teri Peterson, *Bibleworm Liturgy for January 8th, 2023*

⁵ Adapted from Allan Warren, *gathering A/C/E 2018/2019*

Scripture Readers: Narrator – Jane Blakely , John – Andrew Steeves, Prophet – Brad Webb, Jesus – Jane Banks, Voice – Patty Trail

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SUNDAY JANUARY 8TH, 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

Downtown United Survey goes live today! 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](https://credenceandco.com/downtown-united-survey/)

<https://credenceandco.com/downtown-united-survey/> 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](#)

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!



ZOOM WEBINAR OF INTEREST

Are you interested in knowing more about the process for a congregation to be affirming? Ever thought: Why is St. Paul's not an affirming congregation, or wished we were? 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>

BIBLE STUDY IS BACK!



Bible Study will resume **This coming Wednesday January 11th**. This year we will be reading through the Gospel of Matthew, with a focus for Wednesday on Matthew 4:1-17. Join us in the conference room at 11:15am or online via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88619319967> and Passcode: 259190.

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: smooth peanut butter, tea, coffee whitener, soda crackers, Kraft Dinner, cookies, white sugar, pudding cups and dish detergent. 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!



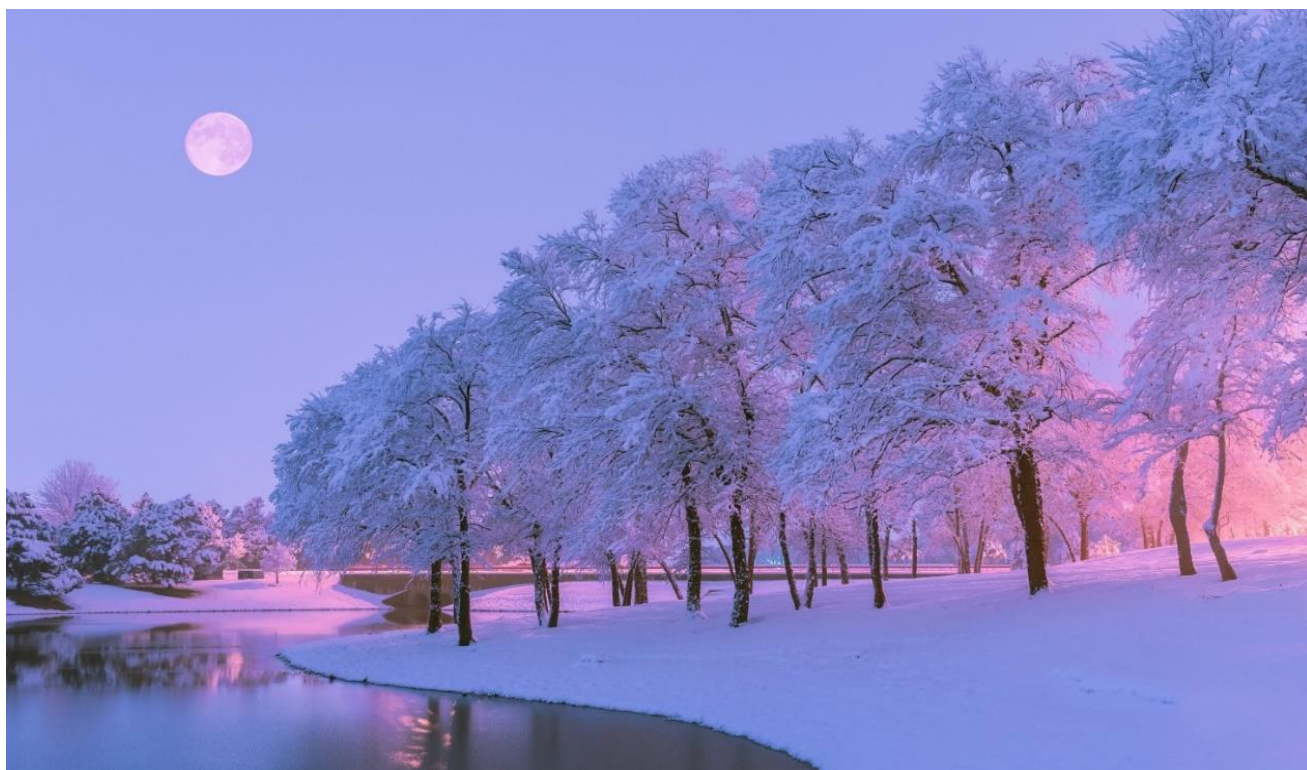
UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

January 8th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by the Choir

January 15th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Outreach

January 22nd ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by the UCW

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



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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