

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

February 12th, 2023

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

10:30 AM

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. ~ Psalm 84:1-4

GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE: Meditation – Priere ~ Guilmant

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

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)* ²

The kingdom of heaven is a like a story —

a story with characters we recognize and identify with, and some we are surprised by;

a story that could happen in the midst of anyone's day;

a story that opens and closes, twists and turns, as we look from different angles.

The kingdom of heaven is like a story —
not just a straightforward statement of fact,
not a closed question with only one right answer,
not something you can memorize to pass the test.
The kingdom of heaven is like a story —
inviting us to join in.

OPENING HYMN: *I Love to Tell the Story*

VU 343

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.*

*I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

*I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. R*

*I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. R*

CENTERING PRAYER: ²

SHARING THE WORD

TIME FOR ALL WHO ARE YOUNG AT HEART: Gold Parable Box from Godly Play

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 13:24-43

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION:

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *This is God's Wonderful World*

VU 296

*This is God's wondrous world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.*

*This is God's wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world:
God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.*

*This is God's wondrous world:
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world:
why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!*

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: *(In Unison)*

You are a master gardener God. Using the soil you have before you, to sow and reap a great harvest. We ask that you take what we can offer, seeds of our faith, mustard or avocado sized, and bless them with your tender care. Bring them into flower for your kingdom and fit us to be workers in your earthly field every day. 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: *To Show By Touch and Word*

VU 427

*To show by touch and word devotion to the earth,
to hold in full regard all life that comes to birth,
we need, O God, the will to find
the good you had of old in mind.*

*Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most,
our hearts to long for truth till pride of self is lost.
For every challenge that we face
we need your guidance and your grace.*

*Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule, and norm,
and let our lives portray your word in human form.
Now come with us that we may have
your wits about us where we live.*

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING: *(Responsive)*

Go out into the world, to be a ray of God's sunshine,
Go and illumine the kingdom of God in how you live,

We will go to be like the mustard seed growing to great heights and providing beyond what is expected

We will go to be like the leaven, enlivening and expanding what we touch

As workers in God's field we go to share the Good news of God's great love.

Go now to the work in which you are called knowing that
the Love of God surrounds you,
the Grace of Christ attends you and
the Holy Spirit will guide you,
Today and always. 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: Toccata in D Minor ~ Nevin

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

² Adapted from Terri Peterson *BibleWorm Liturgy February 12th, 2023*

Scripture Readers: Narrator - Ann Krause, Jesus – Alanna Palmer, Prophet – Chris Grant,
Disciple – Donna Chauvin

Greeter: Donna Chauvin **Audio Visual:** John Davis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12TH, 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.

2022 TAX RECEIPTS AVAILABLE NOW!

2022 Tax Receipts are now available!! They can be picked up in the office Monday through Friday 8am – 3pm or in the Narthex on Sunday. Those remaining after this Sunday, February 12th will be mailed out. Please feel free to take a neighbour or friends' receipt and deliver it to them personally!



SHROVE TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

St. Paul's will be hosting a Shrove Tuesday Fellowship Dinner on Tuesday **February 21th at 5pm**. Menu is pancakes, sausage, beans, apple or lemon pie and tea and coffee. Freewill offering kindly accepted. There will be a sign-up list this Sunday in the Narthex or call Cathy Davis 455-1129 if you are planning to attend. All are welcome.

DONATIONS OF SECURITIES

Did you know that you can donate securities (stocks/bonds/shares) to St. Paul's? Did you know that donating securities is easy and eliminates capital gains you would have to pay when sold? These donations are included on your annual tax receipt for the fair market value on the day donated. If you would like to donate a security, please contact the office for further direction. Meghan will provide our BMO Investment advisor's contact information and all you have to do is inform her to which fund you would like your donation directed. Contact info: stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com or 506.458.1183

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE NOW!

2023 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up at the church office Monday through Friday 8am - 3 pm or in the Narthex on Sunday. Please feel free to take a neighbour or friends' envelopes and deliver them personally! Contact Meghan at stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com or 506.458.1183 to arrange pick up.



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



PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry program needs the following items: toilet paper, dish detergent, ketchup, and large apple & orange juice. Thank you for your continued support!

BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

This week, the program needs **proteins with flip top lids**. Thank you for your continued support and generosity of this program.

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 16:24-17:8. 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.



RESPONDING TO DEVASTATION IN TURKEY & SYRIA

When crises happen in the world The United Church responds, we engage with our global partners on the ground to understand what it truly needed and to get support to the people who need it most. With the devastating earthquakes that hit Turkey and Syria, beyond offering our prayers for those effected, we can help directly on the ground through donations to the emergency relief fund <https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/global-emergency-response>

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE NATIONAL CHURCH

We are seeking lay and ministry personnel leaders for roles on the General Council Executive, the General Council Planning Committee, a special task group, and a new interfaith opportunity. Please visit the [United Church website](https://united-church.ca) for more information. Deadline for nominations is Thursday, March 23, 2023.

KINDRED WORKS RECORDING

A recording of the presentation from January 25th at 7pm is available for congregants of St. Paul's to view. To gain access to the recording, please contact Meghan via email at stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com

GETTING STARTED IN STEWARDSHIP

Getting Started in Stewardship: Tuesday, **February 21** – 2pm AST - Presented on Zoom.

Join United Church people from across the country to learn some stewardship first principles.

Start with an online 2-hour course that answers questions like: What is stewardship all about anyway? Isn't stewardship just a churchy word for fundraising? Why do people give, and why would they give to our church? What can we do to encourage greater generosity?

The practical assignments that follow will help you reflect on giving and generosity as part of your faith, gather and interpret some of the giving data from your community of faith, and build a stewardship team in order to start making stewardship a priority in your community of faith.

Any questions, please contact Roger Janes at rjanes@united-church.ca. [Click HERE to Register.](#)

SOUND & PROJECTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We welcome Murray Simpson to the sound booth today, thank you for your service. Sound and projection are vital parts of our service and right now we are looking for at least one more person to step forward and join 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

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

February 12th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Christian Ed

February 19th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Property

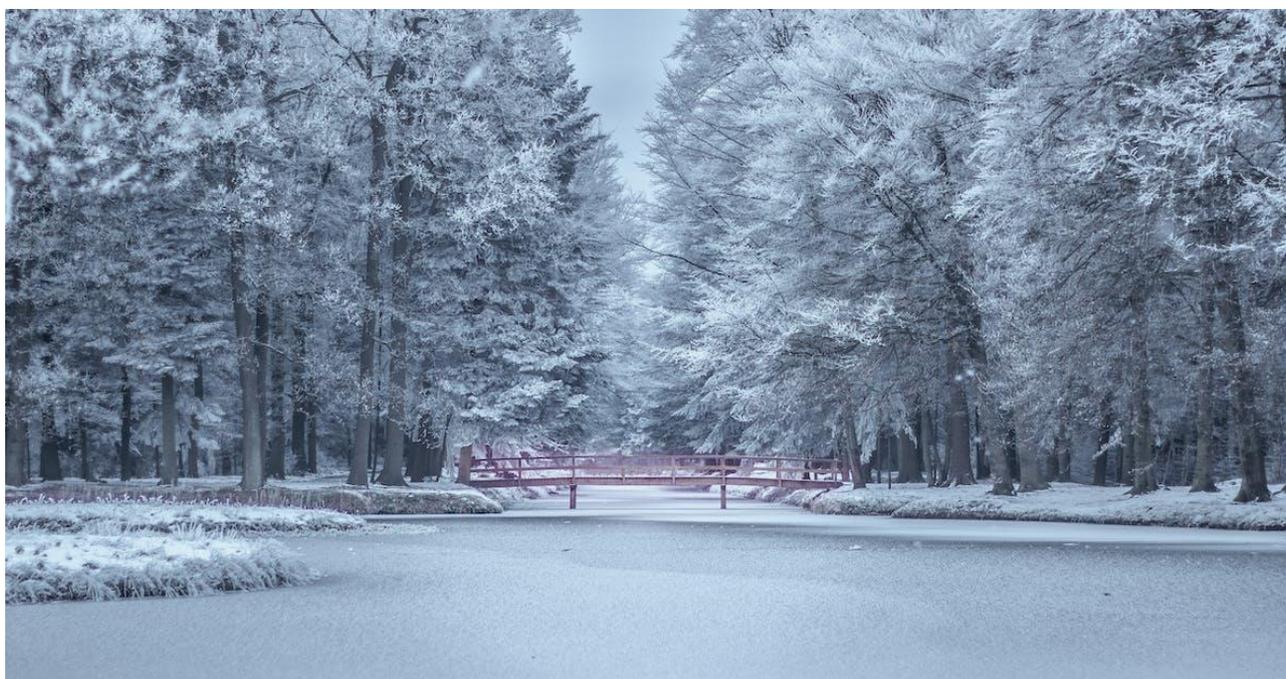
February 26th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Trustees

March 5th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by M&P



BEEF STEW TAKE-OUT SUPPER

Beef Stew Take-Out Supper, Friday, **February 17**, pick-up from 4:00-5:30pm, Nashwaaksis United Church, 46 Main Street - please use front door. Enjoy delicious beef stew, roll and carrot cake for \$15. Phone Rindy or Tom Austin at 506-450-7151 by noon on February 14 to reserve your take-out meals.



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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
