

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 19th, 2023

Transfiguration Sunday

10:30 AM

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. ~ Psalm 27:1, 4

GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE: Open My Eyes That I May See ~ arr. Johnson

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.

Once there was someone who said such amazing things and did such wonderful things that people began to follow him, but they didn't know who he was. So one day, they simply had to ask him. And he said, "I am the Light". Now Watch as I light the Christ Candle.

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

To climb a mountain,

Is no easy task.

It takes work of heart, hand and mind.

To meet God, face to face,

Is no easy task.

It takes work of heart, hand and mind.

In the climbing, in the meeting,
 We are changed.
In the speaking, in the listening,
 We are changed.
In the worship, in the prayer,
 The world is changed.
 So we climb, we meet, we speak and we listen-
And, most of all,
 We worship God!

OPENING HYMN: *This Is the Day*

MV 122 x2

*This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad!
Repeat*

*Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu!
We will rejoice and be glad!
Repeat*

CENTERING PRAYER: ³

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 16:24-17:8

This is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ
 Praise be you, O Christ.

HYMN: *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*

VU 104

*We have come at Christ's own bidding
to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples
for a sign both clear and plain.*

*Light breaks in upon our darkness;
splendour bathes the flesh-joined Word;
Moses and Elijah marvel
as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
how the Law and Prophets meet:
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,
stands transfigured and complete.*

*Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
fearful lest our faith decline,
we like Peter find it tempting
to remain and build a shrine.
But true worship gives us courage
to proclaim what we profess,
that our daily lives may prove us
people of the God we bless.*

MEDITATION:

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

CALL TO RECONCILIATION:

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS: *(In Unison)* ⁴

Our judgment often becomes clouded by our foolishness, Sheltering God, and so we make wrong choices. We let fancy philosophies draw us away from your grace. The flowery words of politicians lead us into valleys of worry and despair. Our fears convince us that those around us are conspiring against us. Take all our foolishness, Creative God, and make us wise enough to see you among us. Take the shards of our broken lives and recast us into a whole and faithful people. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: *(Responsive)* ⁴

On mountaintops and in valleys, in moments when our lives are shrouded and as well as when we reflect Christ's light, God is with us, declaring we are the beloved!

In this moment, in every moment, may we glimpse the grace of God which comes and transfigures our lives. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *Be Thou My Vision*

VU 642

*Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.*

*Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.*

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)*

God of transfiguration, we bring our gifts to you, ordinary gifts that you use to build the church in this time, in this world. Take the gifts we offer you, those that are shiny and new and those that are weathered by the storm and bless them that with them we may proclaim your greatness, awe and wonder. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: This Is the Hour ~ Shepherd

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: ⁴

May the God of each dawn be with you.

And also with you.

Let us open our hearts to God who gathers us at this Table.

We delight in the grace which fills our lives.

May we offer our praise to the One who calls us the beloved.

We give thanks to our God of holiness.

You took the shards of chaos,
Repairer of all brokenness
and transfigured them into
mountains where we could draw closer to you,
valleys where we could serve your people,
bright stars of each morning.
These gifts, and so many more, were offered
to the children of dust you call Beloved,
but we joined death and sin
in their conspiracy to make themselves
more important than you in our lives.

You waited for us to return to you,
sending invitation after invitation
through men and women of every age,
but we continued to plot,
listening only to sin's foolish words.
When you could no longer wait,
you sent Jesus to us,
so we might take shelter in you.

With those who have seen your glory,
with those who hunger for your grace,
we join in praising your name:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God who offers shelter.
We join all creation in glorifying you.
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the Morning Star of salvation.
Hosanna in the highest!**

You alone are holy, God who laughs
at our foolish posturing,
and blessed is Jesus Christ,
who came to tell everyone of your love.
He could have remained seated in glory,
but chose to walk with us
down this path called life.
He could have remained on the mountaintop,
but came down to minister
to all in despair's empty valley.
He could have simply told us
how we should live,
but demonstrated genuine love
by dying on the cross, so
death's power might be broken
by the grace of the resurrection.

As we rejoice in your heart's Beloved,
as we would listen to him with our souls,
we speak of that transfiguring mystery called faith:

**Christ died, breaking sin's power forever;
Christ was raised, as love conquered death;
Christ will return, to gather all the beloved to God.**

Overshadow us with your grace, we pray,
as the Holy Spirit is poured out on us
and the gifts of this holy table.
As you give us the broken bread
to strengthen our service to others,
may we offer hope to all
surrounded by injustice.

As your cup of life nourishes us,
may we see each person,
not as a stranger or outsider,
but part of your beloved family.

And when the waiting is ended,
when the stars of mornings and evenings
shine the way to your holy feast,
we will join our sisters and brothers
in forever singing your praises,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD:

POURING OF THE CUP:

SHARING OF THE FEAST:

SENDING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

CHOIR ANTHEM: This Is the Hour ~ Shepherd

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

HYMN OF DISMISSAL: *We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection*

VU 586

*We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of new life in Christ.*

*We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping,
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story,
including all in circles of our love.*

POSTLUDE: Praise Him! Praise Him! ~ McDonald

¹ Adapted from Bill Perry, *Gathering A/C/E 2018-2019*, pg 45 and *Godly Play*

² Richard Bott, *Gatherings ACE 2020-2021* pg 53

³ Adapted from Susan Ivany, *Gatherings ACE 2016-2017* pg50

⁴ Prayers written by and adapted from Thom M. Shuman February 2017

*Scripture Readers: Narrator – Alanna Palmer, Jesus – Ann Krause, Peter – Deborah West,
Voice – Patty Trail*

Greeter: Mary Stickles Audio Visual: John Davis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19TH, 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 ARE IN THE MAIL

2022 Tax Receipts have been mailed out. Please contact Meghan in the office if you do not receive it in the next few weeks.



PURDY'S EASTER CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER HAS LAUNCHED!

Calling ALL chocolate-lovers! Want to know that most DELICIOUS way to support us? Order Purdy's chocolates from our fundraiser! St. Paul's has begun a fundraising campaign with Purdy's Chocolatier in support of our outreach programs. This year, our fundraising sales goal is \$4000 and we need YOUR help! We receive 25% back from our total sales order.

From now until the **order deadline of March 14th**, you can order Purdy's treats from our fundraiser by joining our campaign and browsing the tastiest selection of Easter chocolates online. Shop gifts for family, friends, neighbours and

yourself in one convenient place. After all orders are submitted, we will sort, distribute, and let you know when you can collect your goodies from St. Paul's.

Ordering is as easy as eating chocolate! To view and download Easter Chocolate Sales Brochure and Order Form, available on our website, [click HERE](#).

Ordering Options:

1) Orders Place Offline through the Office:

If you would like to **place an Order Offline**, bring your completed order form and cash or cheque payable to St. Paul's United Church to the Meghan in the Church Office. Please contact Meghan with any questions at 506-458-1183 or stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com

2) Online Orders:

What you will need to **Order Online:**

1. Our campaign number: **67403**
2. Go to our fundraising website: <https://fundraising.purdys.com/1719957-105534>
3. Click: **"Join Campaign"**
4. Shop, shop, shop away! Payment is by Visa & Mastercard

Thank you everyone for your support. Even if you can't buy chocolates from us, it would mean the world if you could share this fundraiser link to everyone you know!

SHROVE TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

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



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

This is the official start to Lent. Worship on Wednesday **February 22nd** starts at 7pm in the sanctuary. It is a time for prayer and reflection as we start the Lenten Journey. Service will include an opportunity for the traditional imposition of ashes.

REDUCED OFFICE HOURS

The office will have reduced hours while Meghan is on vacation. Volunteers will be available from **8:30am to 1:30pm from Monday February 27th through March 7th**. I look forward to seeing everyone upon my return!

LENTEN REFLECTIVE PRACTICE

You are invited to join us in a small group circle during Lent for individual reflection and spiritual practice. Rose-Hannah will facilitate a 3-week group meeting from noon to 2pm on Saturday **March 11th, 18th, and 25th**. No previous experience is required, just bring your open heart and curiosity. The gatherings are held in the Parlour at Wilmot United Church. We begin by sharing a potluck lunch. To register, please contact Rose-Hannah Gaskin at rosehannah.gaskin@gmail.com

BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

This week, the program is in desperate need of **proteins with flip top lids and juice boxes**. Thank you for your continued support and generosity of this program.

PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry program needs the following items: pancake mix, syrup, frosting, brown sugar, coffee whitener, cookies, coffee, ketchup and Mr. Clean. Thank you for your continued support!



CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER TO ST. PAUL'S & WILMOT

This is an opportunity for both congregations to gather together and discuss how Downtown United might develop a collaborative project and process that will sustain and enhance both congregations' missions of service within the greater Fredericton community. Cathy Stewart and Marijke Strong from Credence will be with us in person to facilitate both days of discussions.

Dates (Please choose one): Saturday, **March 18, 9-12 am** at St Paul's OR Sunday, **March 19, 1-4 pm** at Wilmot. Lunch will be provided on both days. Please sign up so that we have enough food! Call the church office (458-1183) by Wednesday March 15th to register which sessions you will be attending.

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>

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

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 20:1-16. 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?



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](#) 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

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](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com) or 506.458.1183 to arrange pick up.

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 19th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Property

February 26th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Trustees

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

March 13th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Worship

WARMING CENTRE

Did you know there is a warming centre at 435 King St. open to guests from 8:30am - 11:15am and from 12:15 - 4:45pm Monday-Friday? These hours have been established to coordinate with access to meals at the Community Kitchen. Coffee, hot chocolate and light snacks will be available at the warming centre. The centre will have both regular staff and volunteers. At least one of our members is already volunteering with this program. If you would like to help or to find out more information please call Joan Kingston at (506) 999-5626.

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](#).



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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