

# 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

10:30 AM

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*Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me. You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me, take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge. ~ Psalm 31:2-4*

## GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE

**PRELUDE:** Highland Cathedral ~ Callahan

### **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>**

The Living Word speaks:

**Offering nourishment for growing life**

**Pointing towards the narrow gate**

**Firming up our foundation**

The Living Word calls:

**Do unto others...without making it about you**

**Use your energy where it matters, for good**

**Be doers of the word, not only hearers.**

The Living Word promises:

**Seek God's kingdom and you will find,  
God is the giver of every good gift  
Building up in love creates a new world.**

Come to hear and follow the Living Word.

**OPENING HYMN: *Like a Rock***

**MV 92 x3**

*Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.  
Like the starry night sky God is over our head.  
Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before.  
Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God evermore.*

**CENTERING PRAYER:**

### **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 7:1-14, 24-29

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**Thanks be to God.**

**MEDITATION:**

### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE: *Let us Build a House***

**MV 1**

*Let us build a house where love can dwell  
And all can safely live, a place where saints and  
children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, Rock of faith and vault of  
grace; Here the love of Christ shall end divisions;*

**Refrain**

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
And words are strong and true, Where all God's children  
dare to seek To dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness and a symbol of God's  
grace; Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:*

**Refrain**

***Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat: a banquet hall on  
holy ground, where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and  
space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:***

**Refrain**

***Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen,  
serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's  
face; let us bring an end to fear and danger.***

**Refrain**

***Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,  
taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of  
grace; let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:***

**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)***

**In our offering we seek to build on your strong foundation. In service of your kingdom we give our skills and talents. We offer the minutes and hours of our life for your way. We present the riches of our wallets to ensure your church in the world. Bless all these gifts, given in your name, that through them we might see your kingdom come. 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: *(Responsive)***<sup>2</sup>

Go from this place to take your part in creating the world anew,

**We will seek the sure foundation.**

Since God is Good,

**We will reflect that goodness into the world**

Since God is generous,

**We will open our hearts and hands sharing freely**

Since God is love,

**We will put love into action, weaving care in all we do.**

Into the world we go, but we are not alone...

**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: Toccata and Fugue in D Minor ~ Bach**

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

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Terri Peterson *BibleWorm Liturgy February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

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**Scripture Readers:** *Jesus 1 – Jane Banks, Jesus 2 – Jane Blakely, Narrator – Donna Chauvin*

**Greeters:** *Erin & Brad Webb* **Audio Visual:** *Murray Simpson*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WORSHIP SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</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.

### 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 February 12<sup>th</sup> will be mailed out. Please feel free to take a neighbour or friends' receipt and deliver it to them personally! Contact Meghan at [stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com) or 506.458.1183 if you prefer your receipt to be mailed to you.

### 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](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com) or 506.458.1183 if you prefer your receipt to be mailed to you.



### 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

### FUNDSCRIP DUE SUNDAY!

The deadline for our first order in 2023 is coming soon . . . **Sunday, February 5.** Order forms are available at the office, in the Narthex on Sunday or you can print a copy by clicking here: [February 5th FundScrip Order Form](#) You can take your order and payment to the office during the week or bring it to church on Sunday. Thank you for your continued support of this fundraising program. New shoppers are always welcome. Speak with Carole Peacock if you would like to know more.



### PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry program needs the following items: toilet paper, dish detergent, decaf coffee, canned salmon, ketchup, mushroom soup, cooking oil, tea bags, orange juice, large juice, and mustard. Thank you for your continued support!

### BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

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



### 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 13:24-43.

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.



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

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

**February 5<sup>th</sup>** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by The Board

**February 12<sup>th</sup>** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Christian Ed

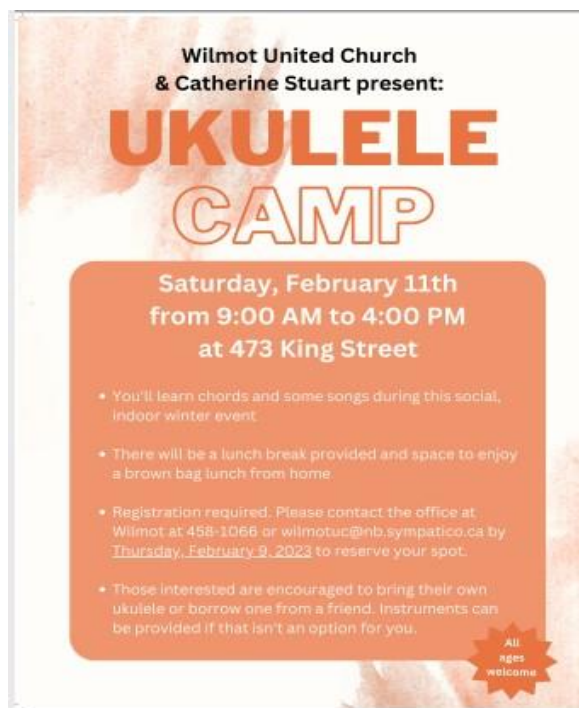
**February 19<sup>th</sup>** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Property

**February 26<sup>th</sup>** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Trustees

## UKULELE CAMP AT WILMOT!

With the help of Catherine Stuart, Wilmot United Church is hosting a ukulele camp! This all ages event will take place on **Saturday, February 11 from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM** at Wilmot United Church. You'll learn chords and some songs during this social, indoor winter event. There will be a lunch break during which brown bag lunches from home can be enjoyed. Registration is required. Please contact Wilmot's office at 458-1066

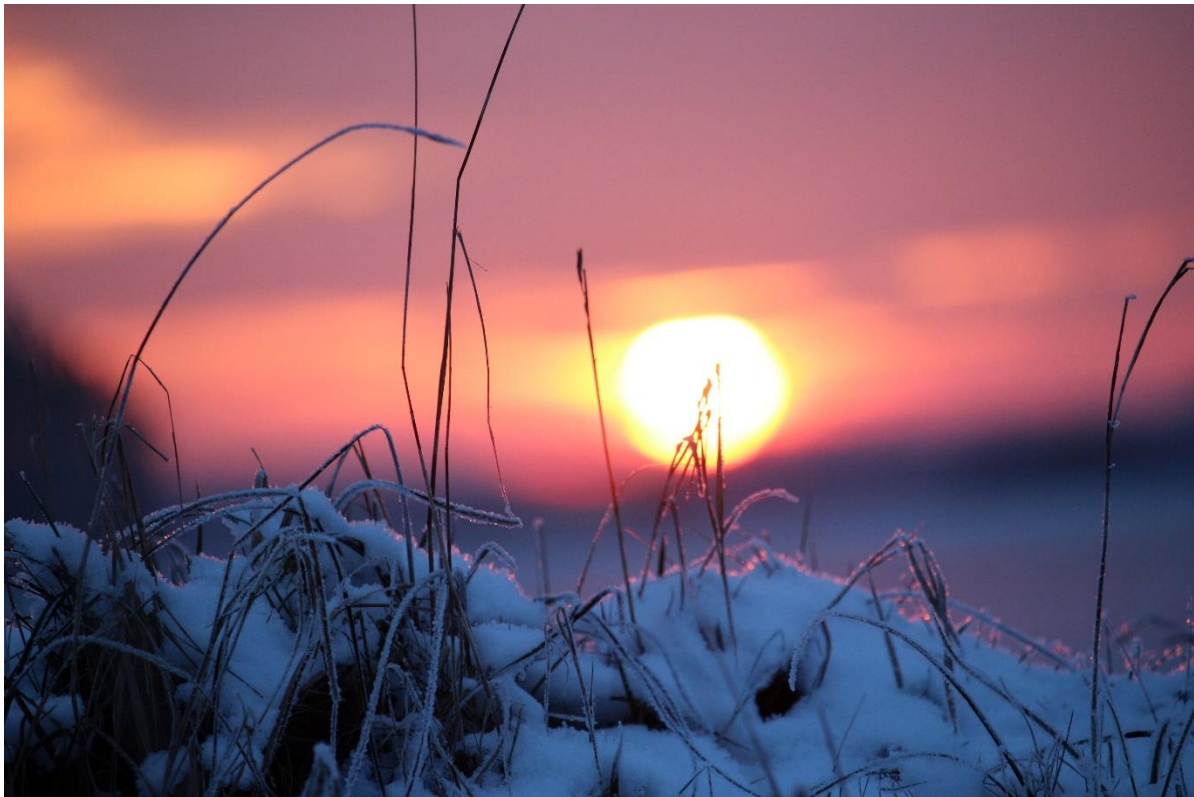
or [wilmotuc@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:wilmotuc@nb.sympatico.ca) by **Thursday, February 9** to reserve your spot. Those interested are encouraged to bring their own ukulele or borrow one from a friend. Instruments can be provided if this isn't an option for you.





## 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