

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

March 5th, 2023

Lent 2

10:30 AM

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage. I bless the Lord, who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I keep the Lord always before me because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. ~ Psalm 16:5-8

GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE:

GREETING:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all,

And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE: ¹

INTROIT: *Spirit, Open My Heart*

MV 79 (Refrain)

*Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit open my heart*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsive)

Whether you arrived here first this morning or came in as the service was beginning

You are welcome here

If you have laboured in God's field for years or just arrived today

You are welcome here

Here we are all God's children

Here we learn and seek to live God's way.

This means we gather, we pray and we wrestle with God's word and we serve in God's name and find blessings along the way.

Come, join in, for now, is the time to worship!

CENTERING PRAYER:

OPENING HYMN: *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

VU 371

*Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: ²

God of Fruitful labour, we come before you acknowledging that often the work we do, in our homes, in our jobs, and in service to you, does not bring us joy. Too often we watch as blessings are poured out on others and instead of celebrating your abundance, we get caught up in thinking about ourselves and what we think we should be getting. Forgive us when we stray from your ways and wander into paths of self-pity, jealousy, and indignation. Lift us from these self-destructive detours and put us back on track. Give us confidence in your presence and provision of our needs, that this knowledge will colour all we do with gratitude and joy. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen
(silent reflection and confession)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

SHARING THE WORD

TIME FOR ALL WHO ARE YOUNG AT HEART:

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:1-16

This is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ

Praise be you, O Christ.

MEDITATION:

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

HYMN: *God Will Take Care of You*

Songs of the Gospel #96

*Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you;
Beneath his wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.*

*Refrain:
God will take care of you,
Through ev'ry day,
O'er all the way;
He will take care of you,
God will take care of you.*

*Through days of toil when heart does fail,
God will take care of you;
When dangers fierce your path assail,
God will take care of you. [Refrain]*

*All you may need he will provide,
God will take care of you;
Nothing you ask will be denied,
God will take care of you. [Refrain]*

*No matter what may be the test,
God will take care of you;
Lean, weary one, upon his breast,
God will take care of you. [Refrain]*

A NEW CREED:

VU 918

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING:

*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)*³

O God, do not let us think we can decide what others deserve to have. Give us hearts as generous as yours, that we might offer our gifts in service to your children with no strings attached. Help us to see your abundant provision in our lives, so that we may respond in kind with gratitude. Bless what we bring before you today, for your work of compassion and justice in the world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: *(Call & Response)*³

Merciful God,
Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER:

SENDING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

HYMN: *Wonderful Words of Life*

*Sing them over again to me,
Wonderful words of life;
Let me more of their beauty see,
Wonderful words of life;
Words of life and beauty
Teach me faith and duty.*

Refrain:

*Beautiful words, wonderful words,
Wonderful words of life;
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
Wonderful words of life.*

*Christ, the blessed one, gives to all
Wonderful words of life;
Sinner, list to the loving call,
Wonderful words of life;
All so freely given,
Wooing us to heaven. [Refrain]*

*Sweetly echo the gospel call,
Wonderful words of life;
Offer pardon and peace to all,
Wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Savior,
Sanctify forever. [Refrain]*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

CHORAL CLOSING: *Take Up His Song*

MV 213

*Take up his song of love, and go into the world.
Take up his song of love in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives,
Lay them down in love, lay them down, and take up his song.*

POSTLUDE:

¹ Fern Gibbard, *Lent-Easter 2017 Gathering* pg 27

² Adapted from Nancy Townley, *Worship Connection: September 20, 2020*

³ Adapted from *Clergy Stuff* March 5, 2023

Scripture Readers: Jesus – Carole Peacock, Landowner – Ron Naugler, Worker #1 & #2 – Deborah West,
Greeter: Carole Peacock **Audio Visual:** Murray Simpson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SUNDAY MARCH 5TH, 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.

FUNDSCRIP ORDERS DUE!

FundScrip Deadline for our next order is this **Sunday, March 5**. Click here [March 5th FundScrip Order Form](#) for current order form. Forms are also available at the office or pick one up in the Narthex. **New supporters always welcome!** Remember: *Shopping is fundraising for St. Paul's.*



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!

PURDY'S EASTER CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER!



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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer Service will be held at St. Paul's United Church, 224 York Street, on Sunday, **March 12th** at 10.30am. The theme for this year is "I HAVE HEARD ABOUT YOUR FAITH" and was prepared by the women of Taiwan. We welcome one and all to join us for this very special service. A fellowship time will be held after the service. Covid protocols still in place are: hand sanitizing, sitting in marked pews, and social distancing and masking while moving around the church and while singing.

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

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.

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!

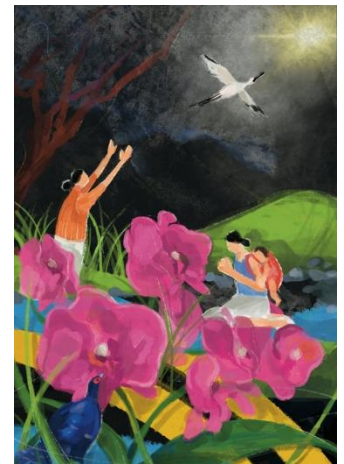
OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE NATIONAL CHURCH

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.

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 22:1-14. 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!

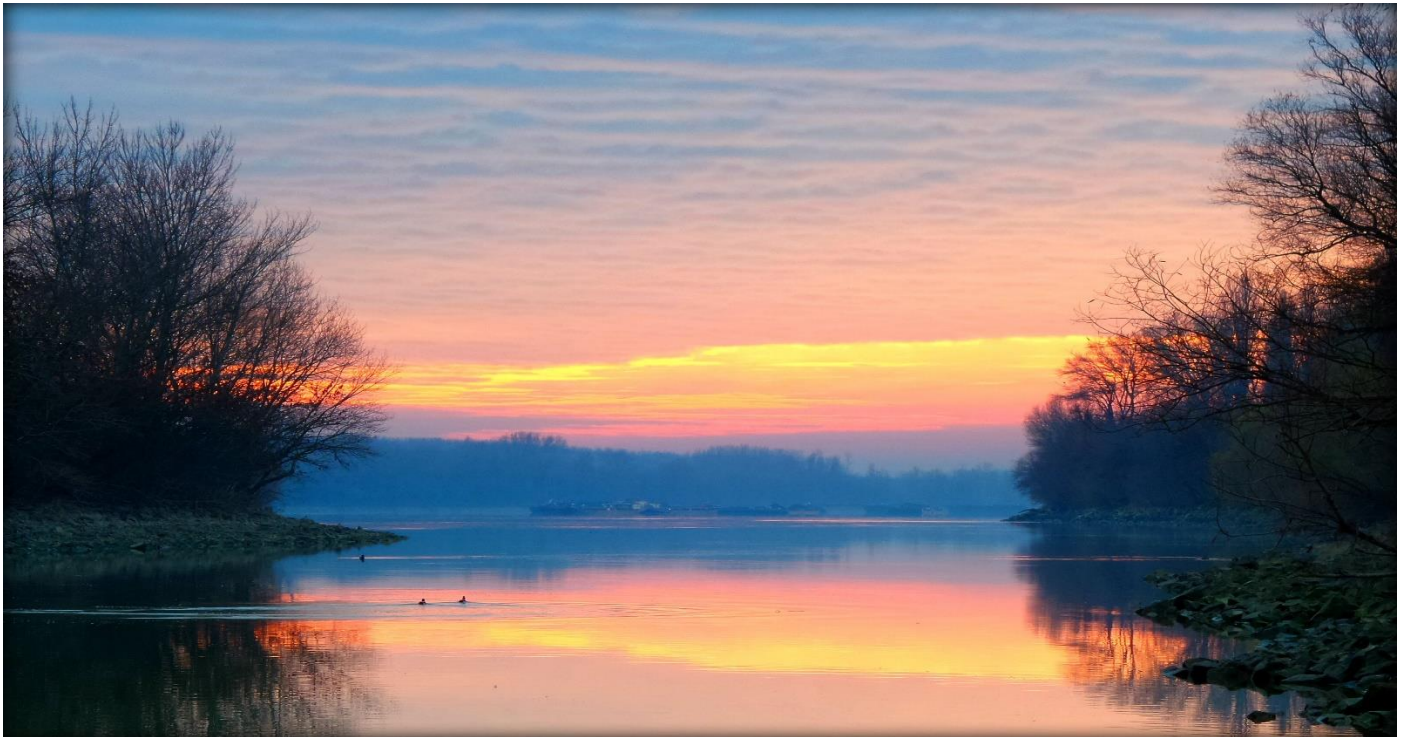
We welcome Murray Simpson to the sound booth today, thank you for your service. Sound and projection are vital parts of our service and right now we are looking for at least one more person to step forward and join the team. Training provided! We are hoping to develop a rotating team. Please contact Meghan to express your interest at 458-1183 or stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 5th** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by M&P
 - March 12th** ~ World Day of Prayer ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Worship
 - March 18th** ~ Conversations That Matter ~ at St. Paul's ~ 9am-12pm
 - March 19th** ~ Downtown United Service at Wilmot
 - March 19th** ~ Conversations That Matter ~ at Wilmot ~ 12:30-3:30pm
 - March 26th** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Outreach
 - March 26th** ~ Annual General Meeting following the service
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WARMING CENTRE

There is a warming centre at 435 King St. open to guests from 8:30am-11:15am & 12:15 - 4:45pm Monday-Friday. These hours coordinate with access to meals at the Community Kitchen. Coffee, hot chocolate and light snacks are be available. The centre will have both regular staff and volunteers. If you would like to help or to find out more information, please call Joan Kingston at (506) 999-5626.



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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