

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 26th, 2023

Lent 5

10:30 AM

Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy and let the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness and the people with equity. ~ Psalm 98-7-9

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:

INTROIT: *Spirit, Open My Heart*

MV 79 x2 (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) ¹

We come, for God gathers us here,
with that community called faith:

**where the hungry are served first,
where the thirsty drink life's water.**

We come, for God welcomes us here
into that home called grace:

**where the naked are clothed in robes of hope;
where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.**

We come, for God reunites us here,
sisters and brothers in that family called love:

**where the imprisoned model justice,
where the sick are cradled in God's peace.**

CENTERING PRAYER: ²

OPENING HYMN: *Teach Me, God, to Wonder*

VU 299

***Teach me, God, to wonder, teach me, God, to see;
let your world of beauty capture me.***

*Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,
life be celebrated, joy you give.*

*Let me, God, be open, let me loving be;
let your world of people speak to me. R*

*Let me, God, be ready, let me be awake,
in your world of loving my place take. R*

*Teach me, God, to know you, hear you when you speak,
see you in my neighbour when we meet. R*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:³

Merciful God, we get so caught up in our own lives and needs that we fail to see others for whom we might provide some help and relief. Yet, you challenge us to do ordinary everyday things, simple things, basic things, as a service to you. Food and water given, strangers welcomed, shelter provided and companionship offered, these simple everyday things you call us to do. Yet – we ignore the opportunities and claim that we are too busy to help, too busy to care. You lavish your gifts upon us that we might use them for the betterment of your realm, and we treat opportunities to invest in your kingdom as an inconvenience. Forgive us, O God. Forgive us and heal our wounds of greed and selfishness. Let us greet this day when the hope of the Reign of Christ can be made manifest and we can be part of this glorious kingdom of peace and compassion. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

SHARING THE WORD

TIME FOR ALL WHO ARE YOUNG AT HEART:

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:31-46

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

MEDITATION:

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

HYMN: *When I Needed a Neighbour*

VU 600

*When I needed a neighbour, were you there,
were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?*

*I was hungry and thirsty, were you there,
were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?*

*I was cold, I was naked, were you there,
were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?*

*When I needed a healer, were you there,
were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?*

*Wherever you travel I'll be there,
I'll be there,
wherever you travel I'll be there.
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
I'll be there.*

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)* ⁴

God of justice, so many are hungry, naked, sick, and imprisoned. Give us hearts to respond generously to the needs of others, and make us aware that in so doing, we are caring for you. We offer these gifts presented today and the gifts given through PAR, to your work of justice and equity in the world. Accept them, we pray, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

Merciful God,
Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER:

SENDING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

HYMN: *Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold*

VU 605

*Jesus, teacher, brave and bold,
let us serve you, young and old.
Let us faith-filled workers be,
all around, your wisdom see.
Let us play and dance and sing,
your goodness find in everything.*

*Jesus, friend, so strong and true,
show us good, brave work to do.
Show us those who need a friend,
all things broken help us mend.
Free our minds and stretch our care,
teach us to serve you everywhere.*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION: ⁵

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 Prayer written by Thom Shuman posted on Lectionary Liturgys website

² Prayer written by Nancy Townley Worship Connection: November 22, 2020

³ Adapted from Prayer written by Nancy Townley Worship Connection: November 22, 2020

⁴ Clergy Stuff Sunday March 25, 2023

⁵ Written by Rev. Richard J Fairchild

Scripture Readers: Jesus – Alanna Palmer, Righteous – Kelly Simpson, Accursed – Andrew Steeves,
King – Ron Naugler

Greeters: Brad & Erin Webb **Audio Visual:** John Davis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SUNDAY MARCH 26TH, 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 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS NOW AVAILABLE

St. Paul's 2022 Financial Statements and Annual Report are now available on our website under the Reports & Publications tab or click the following: <https://www.stpaulsunited.ca/annual-reports/> For those wanting a hard copy of these documents, they are available in the office or at the Annual Meeting following the Service and Fellowship Hour this Sunday.

HOMAGE À BACH

Please join the very talented Natalia Delacroix on Viola for noon hour concert "Homage À Bach" on March 31st at St. Paul's. Entry is free and donations are kindly welcome.

BEWARE OF SCAMS!

We have been notified that emails and texts are being sent to folks with requests for donations, gift cards and assistance from Church staff. We remind everyone that Rev. Michelle and the staff at St. Paul's would not email or text you personally to ask for money or help. Many have fallen prey to these scams that sound very real. Should you ever get a call or email of this nature, report it to the police and please don't respond.

Some tips to avoid scams:

- Double check the email address of the sender,
- If a request for money or gift cards seems odd, check directly with the organization or individual,
- Plan your donations and be the one to initiate giving,
- Never give out personal details to people you are not 100% sure of,
- Plan your donations and be the one to initiate giving,
- Don't fall into "urgent" requests. Reputable organizations will not pressure you.



THROUGH THE ROOF WORSHIP

Campus Ministry is offering a worship event - tonight March 23rd at 7pm in Memorial Hall at UNB. This event will be an evening of contemporary Christian worship music. While this is a free event, people are asked, if possible, to bring food donations for the Food Bank. St. Paul's is a financial supporter of Campus Ministry!

YOUTH GROUP

Meeting at Wilmot United this Sunday March 26th at 6:30pm. What is the best way to learn about being part of a faith community? Engaging with the Church. Youth group is a time to be, and learn that you are valued just as you are. It is a time to make connections with other youth in a safe and welcoming space. Fun, friendship, and experiences of God seen through others. Hope to see you there. For more information, contact Amy at amyefoster123@gmail.com

BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

This week, the program is in desperate need of **juice boxes, granola bars and fruit cups**. Thank you for your continued support and generosity of this program.

PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry program needs the following items: soda crackers, baked beans, tuna, smooth peanut butter, ketchup, sardines, flour, sugar, salt, coffee and Coffee Mate. Thank you for your continued support!

BIBLE STUDY IS FOR EVERYONE

Wednesday morning lectionary study. This week we will be focusing on Matthew 21:1-17. Join us in the board room at 11:15am or online via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88619319967> and Passcode: 259190.



FAITH PUT INTO ACTION

A Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI - also known as a universal or basic income, although "livable" is more specific, which is why The United Church of Canada uses it) is a regular payment to individuals or families by government that is not conditional and allows everyone to live with dignity and security. Since the 1970s, The United Church of Canada has called for a universal GLI that is non-discriminatory and accessible, with the cost of living skyrocketing, a Guaranteed Livable Income is urgently needed. The United Church of Canada's national GLI network invites us to take action this weekend, March 24th-26th, to call for a Guaranteed Livable Income. By engaging our local politicians, MPs, municipalities, or provincial representatives (MLAs, MHAs), by writing letters, attending rallies in support of GLI, or starting a petition. Locally here in Fredericton, we can send letters of support for the decisions made by our municipality to support GLI and encourage further action. [Here is a short introduction video from our Moderator](#)

FUNDSCRIP

Spring is almost here! Time to check out those potential purchases you have been dreaming about all winter. Do you need a new barbeque? Has your patio furniture seen better days? Let FundScrip gift cards help you with your shopping. Every time you purchase a FundScrip gift card, the retailer donates to St. Paul's! **Deadline for our next order is Sunday, April 2.** Get an order form at the office, in the Narthex or click here: [April 2nd FundScrip Order Form](#) Remember: Shopping is fundraising for St. Paul's!

SOUND & PROJECTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

DINNER AT GIBSON MEMORIAL

Gibson Memorial United Church, 183 Gibson St. will be hosting a **Stuffed Pork Loin Dinner** (with all the trimmings) on March 29th, 4 - 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15/adult. Please call 506-457-1951 to reserve your tickets.



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

March 26th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Outreach

March 26th ~ Annual General Meeting following the service

April 2nd ~ Palm Sunday ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by the UCW

April 6th ~ Downtown United ~ Potluck Dinner at 5:30 & Maundy Thursday Service at St. Paul's ~ 6pm

April 7th ~ Downtown United ~ Good Friday Service at Wilmot ~ 11am

April 9th ~ Downtown United ~ Sunrise Service by the Library at 7am followed by breakfast at Wilmot

April 9th ~ Easter Sunday ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by the Board

MULTI-MEDIA MESSIAH CONCERT

MULTI-MEDIA-MESSIAH – You are invited to enjoy selections from Handel's MESSIAH Easter Section on Sunday, April 2, 2023, 6:30 pm at Brunswick Street Baptist Church. Soloists Pascale Butt, Beth Snow and David Steeves will be accompanied by organist Alice Boyd. In between we'll be playing recordings of the coordinating choral selections with everyone present invited to join in on singing the "Hallelujah Chorus". Offering will be in support of the church's ongoing ministry to Fredericton's unhoused population. A reception will follow. We offer a section for those who wish to remain masked at all times with distanced seating.



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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