

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

April 2nd, 2023

Palm Sunday

10:30 AM

Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD. The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. ~ Psalm 118:25-29

GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE: Cantabile ~ Fey

GREETING:

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the Highest!
The grace, love and communion of God be with you all,
And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OPENING HYMN: *He Came Riding on a Donkey*

VU 124

*He came riding on a donkey,
he came riding into town;
slow and easy kind of lowly
he came riding with the dawn.
His disciples walked beside him,
staying close, a little shy;
not too sure where he would guide them,
on to live or on to die.
But all the morning sang his praises;
waking birds and dancing wind;
here he is, the Son of David;
riding on to take his throne.*

*Then the children gathered, singing
shouts of laughter, bursting cheer;
in the streets their song was ringing,
'Hosannas' filled the morning air.
Timid adults strained to see him,
caught the Spirit, joined the song;
spread their cloaks along before him,
branches flashing in the sun.*

*So all the city sang his praises;
waking streets and dancing crowd;
here he is, the Son of David;
our Messiah, Son of God.*

*In our fasting, and our feasting,
called to follow in his way;
called to walk his road to Easter,
called to live his cross today.
Hosanna to the Son of David,
hosanna in the heavens above;
blessed is he who comes to save us,
blessed is he who brings his love.
Let us join to sing his praises;
open hearts and souls to God;
he is with us, Son of David;
God's Messiah, Christ the Lord.*

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Responsive)* ¹

Come, let us follow Jesus, for Jerusalem is near.

Jesus and his friends are ready to enter the city.

In the air, there is a sense of wonder and mystery,
the Word being fulfilled.

Jesus enters the city riding a colt as the crowds cry out,

“Hosanna, blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord”

A king is welcomed into Jerusalem,

We come to welcome him again, for he is near.

CENTERING PRAYER: ²

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: ³

How we love a winner, Pain Bearer.

How we love to bask in the glow of the successful.

We shout louder than the stones for them, and strip branches to line the path of another's daring love.

We cheer ourselves hoarse when someone else takes the risk.

We go all out when the sun is shining on your dream and peace and justice.

When times are good,

We proudly wear the team jersey.

But when the good times end,

When daring love meets stubborn fear, we cower.

Let us settle into the silence of our hearts; the silence of the solitary cell, the empty street,

The windy hill where crosses stand.

(time for silent confession)

May the Spirit that spoke so well in Jesus of Nazareth

Find a home in us,

Loosen our tongues,

And set free our hearts to live in Christ's Way. Amen

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: ⁴

CHILDREN'S HYMN: *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

VU 123

*Hosanna, loud hosanna
the happy children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the joyful anthem rang;
to Jesus, who had blessed them
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.*

*From Olivet they followed
'mid an exultant crowd,
the victory palm branch waving,
and singing clear and loud;
the Lord of earth and heaven
rode on in lowly state,
content that little children
should on his bidding wait.*

*'Hosanna in the highest!'
That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer;
earth, let your anthems ring.
O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his humble presence
eternally rejoice!*

SHARING THE WORD

TIME FOR ALL WHO ARE YOUNG AT HEART:

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 21:1-17

This is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ

Praise be you, O Christ.

MEDITATION:

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

HYMN: *Don't be Afraid*

MV 90 x3

*Don't be afraid. My love is stronger.
My love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger.
And I have promised, promised to be always near.*

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.

CHOIR ANTHEM: The Simplest and the Best ~ Fedak

INVITATION TO OFFERING: ⁵

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)* ⁶

Receive our gifts as you received our hosannas and praise. Bless both what is given and those who gave it. Bless most deeply of all those whose lives will be touched by what we offer here. Amen.

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

Merciful God,
Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER:

SENDING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

HYMN: *All Glory, Laud and Honour*

VU 122

*All glory, laud and honour
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

*You are the King of Israel,
and David's royal son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and blessed one. R*

*The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present. R*

*To you, before your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. R*

*Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious king. R*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

CHORAL CLOSING: *Ride On! Ride On in Majesty*

VU 127 vs 1-2

*Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry:
O Saviour meek, pursue thy road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.*

*Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.*

POSTLUDE: All Glory, Laud, and Honor ~ Miller

¹ Adapted from Sandy Ferguson, *Gatherings L/E 2017 pg 33*

² Cathy Gradante, *Gatherings L/E 2018 pg 35*

³ Prayer by Robin Warlaw, *Gathering L/E 2019 pg 37*

⁴ Adapted from Elaine Bidgood Sweet L/E 2020, pg 40

⁵ Wanda Winfield, *Gatherings L/E 2018 pg 36*

⁶ Kate Crawford, *Gathering L/E 2016, 35*

Scripture Readers: Narrator – Ron Naugler, Jesus – Cathy Davis, Prophet – Chris Grant,
Crowd – Carole Peacock, City Folk – Ann Krause, Chief Priest – Alanna Palmer
Greeter: Chris Grant **Audio Visual:** Murray Simpson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SUNDAY APRIL 2ND, 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 orders for April are due this **Sunday, April 2nd**. Cards should be available for distribution on Easter Sunday, April 9. (Perhaps I should carry a basket like the Easter Bunny!) Increased donations to St. Paul's are being offered on April orders by Walmart and Ultimate Dining Card (can be used at Swiss Chalet, East Side Mario's, Harvey's, Montana's, New York Fries). Order forms are available at the church office, in the Narthex or click here [April 2nd FundScrip Order Form](#) Remember: Shopping is fundraising for St. Paul's. We can definitely handle more subscribers!

PURDY'S EASTER CHOCOLATE ORDERS HAVE ARRIVED!

Easter Chocolate orders have arrived and are available for pick up from the church office Monday-Friday from 8am – 3pm or on Sunday following the service. A huge thank you to everyone who ordered Easter chocolate in support of St. Paul's. Thanks to your participation, we raised \$450.66 for St. Paul's!

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.

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.



BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

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

PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry program needs the following items: coffee, frosting, cake mix, Hamburger Helper, mustard, white sugar, regular Miracle Whip, tin foil and Mr. Clean. Thank you for your continued support!

BIBLE STUDY IS FOR EVERYONE

Wednesday morning lectionary study. This week we will be focusing on Matthew 28:1-10. Join us in the board room at 11:15am or online via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88619319967> and Passcode: 259190.



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 stpauloffice224@gmail.com

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

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 7th-10th ~ Office Closed

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

April 16th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Christian Ed

April 23rd ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Property

April 30th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Trustees

MULTI-MEDIA MESSIAH CONCERT

MULTI-MEDIA-MESSIAH – You are invited to enjoy selections from Handel's MESSIAH Easter Section on **April 2nd at 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.

EAST COAST BRASS CONCERT AT BRUNSWICK STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

On Saturday, **April 8th at 3 pm** Brunswick Street Baptist Church is thrilled to present The East Coast Brass in a concert of music perfect for Easter weekend. You'll hear music you know and music you'll want to remember, presented by their versatile musicians who take the "boring" out of "concert". With a lively commentary to increase enjoyment you'll have a "blast" as the afternoon unfolds. There is no admission charge but a retiring offering will be taken in gratitude for our musicians – anything above that will go to address ongoing work with Fredericton's unhoused citizens. Brunswick Street Baptist Church is located on the corner of Brunswick and York Streets in downtown Fredericton. For more information please visit our website at www.thestreetonline.ca

TAKE-OUT HAM SUPPER

TAKE-OUT BAKED HAM SUPPER – Friday, **April 28th**, pick-up 4:00-5:30pm at Nashwaaksis United Church, 46 Main Street. The delicious take-out supper includes carved baked ham, potato salad, macaroni salad, baked beans, roll, and raspberry cheesecake dessert for \$15. Please call Rindy or Tom Austin, 506-450-7151 by noon on Monday, April 24 to reserve your take-outs.



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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