

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 30th, 2023

Easter 4

10:30 AM

*When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
~ Matthew 9:36-37*

GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE: Prelude in Classic Style ~ Young

GREETING/WELCOMING:

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:

INTROIT: *Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks*

VU 179 ~ Refrain

*Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ.
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.*

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Responsive)* ¹

Who knows what you might hear in worship today?
God knows.

It could be the beauty of a favorite hymn, or a passage of scripture.

It could be the sound of friends gathering for worship.

Or even the silence between all the sounds. As we worship, let's listen for the moment of the Spirit inviting us to hear, and see, and feel God's presence in our midst.

Let's worship!

OPENING PRAYER:

HYMN: *Come and Find the Quiet Center*

VU 374

*Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.*

*Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.*

*In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!*

SHARING THE WORD

TIME FOR ALL AGES:

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR SCRIPTURE: *Listen, God Is Calling*

MV 97

*Listen God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.*

SCRIPTURE: Acts 13:1-3, 14:8-18

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION:

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

HYMN: *Called by Earth and Sky*

MV 135

Refrain:

*Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified
Called by earth and sky*

*Precious these waters, endless seas, deep ocean's dream,
Waters of healing, rivers of rain, the wash of love again. R*

*Precious this gift the air we breath, wind born and free,
Breath of Spirit blow through this place our gathering and our grace. R*

*Precious these mountains ancient sands, vast fragile lands,
Seed of our wakening rooted and strong, creations faithful song. R*

*Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning day,
Fire of passions, sorrows undone, our faith and justice one. R*

INVITATION TO GIVE FROM THE HEART:

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS: *In Gratitude and Humble Trust*

VU 544

*In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.*

*O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (In Unison)

God of life, all around us we see your fingerprints. Creation calls to us showing us your nature, reminding us of your faithfulness, and inspiring us to deeper faith. We are inspired by your love and vision of what life could be. Accept our offerings of time, skill, and financial resources as a sign of our gratitude and desire to live in your way. Bless them and us for the spreading of your Good News. Amen

CHOIR ANTHEM: May the Road Rise to Meet You ~ Schweizer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

LORD'S PRAYER:

SENDING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

HYMN: *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

VU 288

*Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.*

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!*

*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. R*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. R*

COMMISSIONING: (Responsive)

Go into this week, open to possibilities beyond human expectations

May God touch our imaginations

Go into this week, seeing with the eyes of faith

May we get caught up in God's vision

Go into this week, ready to experience God's power of resurrection

May we see God transform death into new life!

BLESSING:

CHORAL CLOSING: *May the God of Hope Go with Us*

VU 424 ~ v1

*May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

POSTLUDE: Toccata ~ Dubois

¹ Susan Ivany, *Gathering LE 2016*, pg 39

Scripture Readers: Narrator – Chris Grant, Holy Spirit – Carole Peacock, Paul – Brad Webb,
Crowd – Deborah West

Greeter: Chris Grant **Audio Visual:** Murray Simpson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SUNDAY APRIL 30TH, 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.

UPDATED COVID PROTOCOLS

Updated COVID Protocols for In-Person Worship Services:

- Masks are highly recommended, but no longer required.
- Congregational singing is permitted.
- You are encouraged to spread out to maintain social distancing. Anyone wanting extra space is invited to sit in the balcony.
- Sanitize or wash hands on entry into the building or the sanctuary.
- Offering plates are located at the door.

As always, if you are unable to join us in person we hope to see you on Zoom - link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86854718551> Passcode: 165090

FUNDSCRIP ~ MAY PROMOTIONS

If you are still putting together your next FundScrip order (deadline **Sunday, May 7th**), please note that several retailers have increased the value of their donations to St. Paul's for the month of May. They include Boston Pizza, Chapters, Hello Fresh, Chef's Plate, Winners/Home Sense/Marshalls and American Eagle. Gift cards will arrive for distribution on Sunday, May 14th (Mother's Day . . . *hint, hint*). Order forms are available in the church office, in the Narthex or click here [May 7th FundScrip Order Form](#). **New supporters always welcome!** Remember: *Shopping is fundraising for St. Paul's.*



BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

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

PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry program needs the following items: coffee, pancake mix, syrup, pudding cups, chicken & rice soup, cookies, salt, vegetable oil, juice, Mr. Clean and dish detergent. Thank you for your continued support!



BROADVIEW MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION

Broadview magazine features award-winning coverage of spirituality, justice and ethical living stories and images, inspiring readers to live a purpose filled life. If you would like to subscribe or renew your subscription, St. Paul's group subscription rate is \$25 per year, for 8 editions, mailed directly to your home. You can pay for your subscription in the office via cheque (payable to St. Paul's) or cash or by e-transfer. Deadline is June 1st. For more information on Broadview click [HERE](#). Reach out to Meghan with any questions or to register or renew at stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com or 458-1183.



KINDRED WORKS PROJECT UPDATE



Our exploration into a housing project with Kindred Works has taken another step forward. The first 3 members have been appointed to the Development Committee to represent St Paul's interests in coming up with a plan to present to the congregation. Our thanks and congratulations are due to **Carole Peacock, Cathy Davis and Jane Blakely.** <https://www.kindredworks.ca>

BIBLE STUDY

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



YOUTH @ REGION! (FORMERLY I@C AND YF!)

Registration for Youth @ Region is now live! To register follow this [link](https://ucecast.ca/77646-fsldw-weekly-announcements-april-19-2023) (<https://ucecast.ca/77646-fsldw-weekly-announcements-april-19-2023>). This program is for all youth, grades 6-12 in your community of faith and beyond. Have questions? Email Catherine Stuart, Regional Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults, cstuart@united-church.ca.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

April 30th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Trustees

May 7th ~ Downtown United Service ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by M&P followed by a presentation from
Creedence Consultants

May 14th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Worship

May 21st ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by the Choir

May 28th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Outreach



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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