

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 9th, 2023

Easter Sunday

10:30 AM

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. ~ Psalm 118: 21-24

GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE: Thine is the Glory ~ Gaspard

WELCOMING:

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

INTROIT: *Halle, Halle, Halle*

VU 958

*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Responsive)*

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed.

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:

The Risen Christ lives today!

We are witnesses to these things.

We sing praise to God incarnate.

May his love burn within us!

SUNG RESPONSE: *Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give thanks*

VU 179 - Refrain

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

OPENING PRAYER:

*Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!*

*Hymns of praise then let us sing hallelujah!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!
sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!*

*But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!
our salvation have procured; hallelujah!
now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!
where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!*

*Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!
praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!
praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

God of grace,
disparage, pain, and fear are part of life;
Sometimes we let them guide us.
Sometimes we let them hold us back from living your way,
And we lose sight of your strong love.
Help us be brave and holy people,
living beyond fear.
Teach us to trust in your steadfast love. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

CHOIR ANTHEM: Easter Carol ~ Fedak

SHARING THE WORD

TIME FOR ALL AGES: Making an Easter Tree

1. The day Jesus died was very sad. It was a Friday. A man in the crowd helped Jesus to carry his cross to a place called Golgotha. When Jesus died on the cross, it was so sad that people say the sun refused to shine.

**We sing of Jesus.
He suffered abandonment and betrayal,
State-sanctioned torture and execution.**

2. When Jesus died, Joseph of Arimathea wrapped Jesus' body in linen and placed him in a tomb sealed with a large stone so that no one would trouble Jesus' body.
He was crucified.

3. Three days later, on a Sunday, very early in the morning, while it was still dark with tints of purple and pink in the sky, some women went to the tomb. They were too unhappy to notice the beautiful sky. In fact, they were so distracted and sad they even forgot about the big rock sealing Jesus' tomb. How would they roll it away? All they wanted was to care for Jesus' body.
But death was not the last word.

4. When the women arrived they found that the stone had been rolled away! They looked inside the tomb; it was dark, cold, and empty. The women were scared. Where is Jesus? What has happened to his body?
**God raised Jesus from death,
turning sorrow into joy,
despair into hope.**

5. And then a warm, bright light shone all around them. The woman froze with fear at the sight of two angels. One said to them, "Don't be afraid. Why do you look for Jesus here? This is a place for the dead, and Jesus is alive!" The woman ran back to tell the other disciples all that had happened.
**We sing of Jesus raised from the dead.
We sing hallelujah!**

6. Jesus, although in a different form, returned to Galilee to visit his disciples and give them instructions on how to live. Jesus, although in a different form, continues to live among us now.
**The Risen Christ lives today
present to us and the source of our hope.
In response to who Jesus was
and to all he did and taught,
to his life, death, and resurrection,
and his continuing presence with us through the Spirit,
we celebrate him as
the Word made flesh,
the one in whom God and humanity are perfectly joined
the transformation of our lives,
the Christ.**

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: Matthew 28:1-10

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

REFLECTION:

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

GIVING 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)*

Lord of life, we thank you for the blessings you have shown us this day. We stand in awe of your faithfulness, power and grace. Next to your gifts, what we offer seems so small, but that doesn't matter to you. You only ask that we are intentional in giving what we can. Accept these offerings, raised from the work of our hands, and the generosity of our hearts. Bless this offering and the hands that give, that they may be used to bring new life in your name. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

HYMN: *Jesus, Stand among Us*

VU 396

*Jesus, stand among us
in your risen power;
let this time of worship
be a hallowed hour.*

*Breathe the Holy Spirit
into every heart;
bid the fears and sorrows
from each soul depart.*

*Lead our hearts to wisdom
till our doubting cease,
and to all assembled
speak your word of peace.*

THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING:

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love,
You are beyond complete knowledge,
above perfect description.
Father, son, and Holy Spirit;
Source of life, Living Word, and Bond of Love,
you are creative and self-giving,
generously moving in all the near and distant corners of the universe.
Nothing exists that does not find its source in you.

Through fear-filled days and aching nights
When the powers of death have done their worst,
Your love has never deserted us.
Even when we turn away from you, you are with us;
Your presence never fails us,
Your gifts of hope and new life transform us.

We praise you for Jesus Christ,
Risen to life, eternal as your love.
With the woman at the tomb,
We raise strains of gladness.
Hallelujah! Life is stronger than death!
The day of resurrection has come, scattering fear and gloom.
And so we rejoice with all your people of every time and place,
With the angels and archangels,
To proclaim the glory of your name:

SUNG RESPONSE: *Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus and Benedictus)*

MV 203

***O holy, holy holy, God, O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!***

It is Jesus, God incarnate, the Risen Christ,
Who joins us together as a community of broken by hopeful believers:
Loving what he loved
Living what he taught, and
Striving to be his faithful servants
In our time and place.
In this meal we remember Jesus, his promises,
And the price he paid for who he was, what he said, and what he did.

On the night before Jesus died,
He took a loaf of bread,
Gave thanks, broke it, and said
"Take and eat, whenever you do this, remember me"
After supper, Jesus took the cup and poured, saying,
"This is the new covenant, remember me."
We do remember.

We remember his life of love, his friendship, his teaching, his dying, and his risen to life again.

In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of your faith:

SUNG RESPONSE: Memorial Acclamation

VU 204

*Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!
Sing Christ died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!*

Holy Mystery, God the Spirit,
We call on you to transform these familiar things,
As you continually transform the world around us.

Bless this bread and this cup,
The wheat and the grape,
The farmer and the harvest,
The seed and the sower.
So that in the sharing of these simple elements in community,
We may taste and see your goodness.

Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
All glory is yours, God most holy,
Now and forever,

SUNG RESPONSE: Great Amen

VU 205

*Amen, amen, O Holy One!
Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One,
Hosanna and Amen!*

SHARING THE MEAL:

(Pick up your communion)

These are the gifts of God for the people of God,

Thanks be to God!

The body of Christ

The bread of life. (partaking of the bread together)

The lifeblood of Christ,

The cup of blessing. (partaking of the bread together)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life.

We are fed by your love;

We are strengthened by your life.

We are sent forth into the world to live your way and share your joy.

We are now commissioned to:
Feed as we have been fed
Forgive as we have been forgiven,
Love as we have been loved.
Thanks be to God.
Amen.

SENDING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

HYMN: *Crown him with Many Crowns*

VU 211

*Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne:
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.*

*Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing
who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.*

*Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end;
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of Paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.*

*Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.*

BLESSING:

POSTLUDE: Christ the Lord is Risen Today ~ Payne

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SUNDAY APRIL 9TH, 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

THANK YOU!

Many thanks extended to celebrate all whom very generously support the Pantry and Brown Bag Lunch Programs whether by monetary or in-kind donations or volunteer time. Because of you, we have served 110 clients in the Pantry and handed out 164 bag lunches to 51 individuals since the beginning of the year. Thank you for your ongoing support of these very important outreach programs. We could not serve our community without your help!



EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Michelle will be away on Continuing Education from April 10th through 16th. For Pastoral care emergencies, please contact Rev. Ellen Beirsto at 506-206-1943.

DOWNTOWN UNITED ~ MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Creedence & Co. will be hosting joint service and presentation following worship on May 7th at St. Paul's. Mark your calendar today!

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: flour, cookies, jam, coffee, soda crackers, honey, relish, orange juice, juice boxes, dish detergent and laundry detergent. Thank you for your continued support!

BIBLE STUDY CANCELLED

Wednesday morning bible study is cancelled on April 12th week while Rev. Michelle is away. Session resumes on April 19th.



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

April 7th-10th ~ Office Closed

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

April 9th ~ Easter Sunday Service at St. Paul's ~ 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

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