

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

Fredericton, N.B.

May 21st, 2023

Easter 7

10:30 AM

"No one can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth." ~ Matthew 6:24

GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE: I Need Thee Every Hour ~ Payne

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)

This is the day that God has made

We come to rejoice for we are alive

This is the day that God has made

We come to give thanks for all God has given us

This is the day that God has made

We come to ground ourselves in God's way

This is the Day that God has made

We lift our praise to God.

OPENING PRAYER:

HYMN: *Take My Life and Let It Be*

VU 506

*Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.*

*Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.*

*Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.*

*Take my love: and I will pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.*

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: Romans 6:1-14

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION:

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

HYMN: *I Am the Light of the World*

VU 87

*'I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!'
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.*

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun: R*

*To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above! R*

*To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see God's children everywhere! R*

*To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth! R*

MOMENT OF REFLECTION FOR THE DOWNTOWN UNITED PROJECT:

MINISTRY IN ACTION:

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)

O God, we present our offerings, the time, talent and treasure of our lives, not because we have to, but because we want to. We want to be part of your saving work and the promotion of grace and love in our world. Bless these gifts offered in your name and the givers who freely give for your service. Amen

CHOIR ANTHEM: A Mighty Wind ~ Andrew's

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

LORD'S PRAYER:

SENDING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

HYMN: *I Danced in the Morning*

VU 352

*I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.*

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

*I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on. R*

*I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die. R*

*I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. R*

*They cut me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he. R*

COMMISSIONING: (Responsive)

We are invited by Christ to follow his light and join his dance!

In the midst of life, God will guide us, even though our steps are not perfect
Christ sets the mark, and is our model.

We will do our best to follow him by living with love, seeking justice and walking with mercy.
Go now, disciples of Christ, followers of The Way, to dance in the Spirit and shine with Christ's light.

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 ~ Henderson

Scripture Readers: Narrator 1 – Ann Krause, Narrator 2 – Jane Banks

Greeter: Carole Peacock **Audio Visual:** John Davis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SUNDAY MAY 21ST, 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.

REDUCED OFFICE HOURS

The office will have reduced hours from **May 18th through 23rd**. Volunteers will be holding down the fort from 8:30 to 12:30 during that time. Those wanting to drop off plants for the sale on Saturday can do so Friday from 9-12pm. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

St. Paul's is seeking to fill 2 summer student positions for July and August: Office Administration Clerk and Building Maintenance Worker. These positions fall under Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) funding and are 35 hours per week for 8 weeks. Eligibility criteria is: Between the ages of 16 and 30, Canadian Citizen, Have a valid SIN#. More information can be found on our website at [employment-opportunities](#) Interested candidates can forward a resume and cover letter to stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com Attn: CSJ or drop-off to the church office at 224 York Street. Application deadline is **May 31st**.

BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

This week, the program needs proteins with flip top lids. Thank you for your continued support and generosity of this program.

PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry program needs the following items: pudding, apple sauce, beans, jam, relish, mayo, macaroni, large juice, kernel corn, flour, icing, syrup, ketchup, granola bars, coffee, tea, crackers, cookies, dish detergent, cooking oil and canned mushrooms. Thank you for your continued support!

PAR (PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCE)

As we approach a great summer, being a member of PAR is a great method of giving regularly towards the operation of our wonderful church. Contributions to PAR in April by 52 families is of major importance to St Paul's! The amount contributed to OPERATIONS in April was \$8,060.17 and to M&S \$460.00! We encourage you to sign up today for your first time or to increase your present PAR contributions. Every dollar is important! Please call Meghan today at 506-458-1183 or pick up a form at the church entrance Sunday!

WARK/ST. PAUL'S SCHOLARSHIPS

Students who are members or adherents of St. Paul's and who plan to pursue post-secondary studies this fall are invited to apply for financial support from the Wark/St. Paul's Scholarship Funds. Details on eligibility and application guidelines are available at [scholarships-bursaries](#) Applications must be received on or before **July 31st**.



BROADVIEW MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION

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.

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday morning lectionary study. This week we will be focusing on Acts 2:1-4, Romans 8:18-39. Join us in the board room at 11:15am or online via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88619319967> and Passcode: 259190.



DOWNTOWN UNITED PROJECT

The Downtown United Project team, working with our Consultants Cathy and Marijke last weekend, presented 4 questions for all people of St Paul's to reflect on this month to further our discernment on a way forward. Your participation is vital to shape the nature of the project which will be determined. We are asked to spend at least 5 minutes a day reflecting on one of the questions before us. Each week we will receive a reflection guide. Follow the link to access this week's guide. downtown-united-project

TALK ABOUT IT AFTER WORSHIP

May 21st join with others to share your thoughts and ideas about the Downtown United discernment and reflection questions, which can be found on the website here: downtown-united-project It is also an opportunity to share your experience of the process and ask any questions which will be passed along to the Downtown United Project team. To join the conversation, take a seat at the discussion table, where you will also find printed copies of the questions and report.



NEW ZOOM LINK

As some of you are aware, we were victims of Zoom bombers last weekend. We deeply apologize for any distress you have experienced, please reach out to Rev. Michelle for support. Because of this incident, we will be changing not only our link but a few processes behind the scenes. You are encouraged to log in promptly so that the meeting may be locked, after which you will not be able to join. We will also be removing the ability to unmute your own microphone and have made changes to the chat settings. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81834519740> Passcode 657067. You can still join by phone only, if you don't have a long distance plan charges will apply. All you need to do is call 1 647 558 0588 and follow the prompts to enter Meeting ID 81834519740 and Passcode 657067.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 4th will be a joint service at Wilmot at 11:00am. Our consultants will be joining us to lead a discussion and deepen our discernment. We have heard feedback about length of the morning, so plans are underway to shorten worship and structure meeting differently. Your attendance is very important to the outcomes. Please book the time now to ensure you can fully participate. This is the last large congregational meeting prior to the presentation of project recommendations, which will be released in the fall.



CREMATION URNS

Cremation urns are available at St. Paul's, hand crafted by Harold Raper. These beautiful urns are made from oak and birch and all proceeds go towards church operations. Suggested minimum donation of \$250. To make arrangements to view or for more information, please contact Meghan in the church office at 458-1183 or stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com.



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

May 21st ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by the Choir

May 28th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Outreach

June 4th ~ Downtown United Service at Wilmot at 11am

June 11th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by the Board

June 18th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Christian Education

June 25th ~ Downtown United Service @ Wilmot at 10:30am



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

190 Years of Glorifying God through Worship, Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and Serving Others in Christ's name

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Minister: Rev. Michelle Armstrong | **Organists:** Dr. Sharon Pond & Alexis Ervin

Church Administrator: Meghan Roebuck | **Custodian:** Rusty Blakely