

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

Fredericton, N.B.

191 Years of Glorifying God through Worship, proclaiming the Gospel of Christ, and serving others in Christ's name

Jan 14th, 2024

Second Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 AM

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. ~ Psalm 126

GATHERING AS GOD'S OWN

PRELUDE: My Jesus, I Love Thee ~ Birchwood

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

INTROIT: *Arise, Your Light Is Come*

VU 79 vs 1

*Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.*

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Responsive)*

Let everyone who has ears listen!

With ears open we come longing to hear.

From the noise of our lives, we come,

listening for wisdom and truth.

Let everyone who has ears listen!

We come seeking the Word, that brings life.

Into this time we come with open hearts and minds,

with the worshipful expectation that we will hear.

OPENING HYMN: *Soil of God, You and I*

MV 174

*Soil of God, you and I, stand ready to bear
seeds of faith nourished by God's tender care.
Growing in everyone for here God is found.
All stand together, we are Holy ground.*

*Soil of God, you and I, now ready to be
part of God's promise, for others to see.
Open to everyone for here God is found.
All stand together, we are Holy ground.*

*Soil of God, you and I, now called to re-birth,
joining as partners with all of the earth.
Living in harmony for here God is found.
All stand together, this is Holy ground.*

OPENING PRAYER

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

STORY TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

THE STORY BEFORE THE STORY

SUNG PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: Open Our Hearts

MV 21 x 2

*Open our hearts, open our minds.
Open our lives to you O loving God.*

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Mark 4:1-34

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee ~ Smith arr. Davenport

MESSAGE

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

VU 703

*In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

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.

OFFERING AND TITHES RECEIVED

Offerings are collected at the door to the sanctuary, or via e-transfer to stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com. To set up Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) monthly contributions, please contact Meghan in the office.

SUNG DEDICATION: *Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands*

VU 537

*Your work, O God, needs many hands
to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve
unless our gifts we share.*

*Because we love you and your work,
our offering now we make:
be pleased to use it as your own,
we ask for Jesus' sake.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

GOING FORTH WITH GOD

CLOSING HYMN: *For the Fruit of All Creation*

VU 227

*For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.*

*In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.*

*For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

CHORAL CLOSING: *Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New*

MV 115

*Behold, behold,
I make all things new, beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold, behold,
I make all things new, my promises true, for I am Christ the way.*

POSTLUDE: Praise Him! Praise Him! ~ McDonald

*Scripture Readers: Narrator – Deborah West, Jesus – Barb Cull-Wilby
Greeters: Ann & Harold Raper Audio Visual: John Davis*

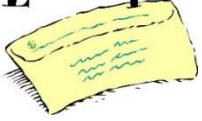
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE JANUARY 17TH

If you are a chair of a committee or group, it is time to thinking about your annual report. This is the official record of what has happened in the life of our congregation during 2023. We are asking for all reports to be submitted to Meghan by **January 17th**, and if you could keep your report to a 2 page maximum, it would be greatly appreciated. Now is a great time to begin reflecting on what you did in 2023.

Offering Envelopes



CHURCH ENVELOPES AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP

Church envelopes are available in the Narthex over the holidays and then at the office in the New Year. Please pop in to pick yours up!

FELLOWSHIP HOUR SERVERS

Thank you to everyone who has provided for our fellowship time this past fall and those who have already signed up this winter. We have a full slate of servers for January. You can help our faith community by picking one day to serve. Check the bulletin board across from the hall for available dates.

BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

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

PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry program needs the following items this week: brown, white, and icing sugar, flour, cake mix, apple sauce and orange juice, canned pears, salt, granola bars, and Mr. Clean. Thank you for your continued support of this increasingly busy outreach program!



WARM CLOTHING DONATIONS NEEDED!

Our clothing cupboard is running low on winter boots and warm jackets. Also needed are warm socks and mittens. If you have any gently used items to donate, please drop by the office. Many thanks for helping keep things warm!

WORSHIP AT ST. ANDREW'S

Rev. Michelle will be away on continuing education on January 21st. We have been invited to attend worship at St. Andrew's that Sunday. This is also the first Sunday in the week for Christian Unity. What a great way to celebrate! The worship committee hopes that they will see you at St. Andrew's on January 21st, at 11 am.

GOD'S STORY, OUR STORY

Pick up this reflection guide at the back of the sanctuary to use as a home devotional or with your friends.

BIBLE STUDY ON SUNDAY READING

Tuesdays from 10:45am-11:45am in the Board room. Can't make it in person, Join by Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81736183320> Meeting ID: 817 3618 3320 Passcode: 750844

EVENING SMALL GROUP FAITH EXPLORATION

Thursdays from 6-7pm in the Parlor. We hope you will join us.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

January 14th ~ Service at 10:30 ~ Fellowship Hour hosted by Lois Walker, Ann Krause and Jane Banks

January 17th ~ Annual Report Submissions Due

January 19th ~ Joint Leadership Meeting from 2-4pm

January 21st ~ Joint Service at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at 11am

January 28th ~ Service at 10:30 ~ Fellowship Hour hosted by Mel & Barb McGuigan & Debbie Allison

February 4th ~ Service at 10:30 ~ Fellowship Hour hosted by Beth & Shawn Meister

February 13th ~ Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



PANCAKES ARE COMING

Save the Date. Mark your calendar! Shrove Tuesday is February 13th. If you are interested in volunteering at this event, please reach out to Ralph Simpson for more information.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is from January 18-25,2024. The Theme is "You Shall Love the Lord Your God... and your neighbor as yourself." There will be a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service on **Monday, January 22,2024** at St. Dunstan's Roman Catholic Church,120 Regent Street, Fredericton at 12:00 PM. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The United Church of Canada is working with its Mission and Service partners to respond to the urgent needs of civilians in Palestine and Israel who are impacted by the current conflict. You can support this critical work through financial contributions [secure donation page](#), prayer, and advocacy. Further information about how you can act can be found [here](#).

MENTAL HEALTH LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

The Regional Affirm Committee is hosting a workshop to explore and discuss mental health. Dawn O'Dell of Mental Health New Brunswick, will be the key presenter as introduce participants to mental health basics with the goal of increasing understanding of mental health issues. This Webinar will take place on January 17th at 2pm and will last 90 minutes. Unlike other webinars from the Affirm Committee, this webinar will **not** be recorded. Register today <https://ucceast.ca/82237-fsldw-affirm-webinar-mental-health-and-resiliency>

REIMAGINING CHURCH - RECLAIMING YOUR CALL (LAY PEOPLE ONLY!)

Imagine your community of faith as a fellowship of disciples (instead of a floundering institution); Imagine following the footsteps of our radical Teacher (instead of being ground down by budget shortfalls and petty conflicts); Imagine being part of a Christian community that understands the essence of our identity and call as people of God. Fall in love with your faith all over again! Join this six-week series to renew and rekindle your call to discipleship. Live sessions are led by a diverse group of United Church people with a depth and breadth of experience including national staff members. The live sessions take place February 10th, 24th, March 9th, 23rd, April 6th, 20th, 2024 from 1pm-3pm. Between live sessions, there will be reading, journal-writing, and online conversation among other participants to further your learning and growth. Cost: \$99.99 (discount when registering as a group) Register today at United in Learning <https://churchx.ca/local/shop/product.php?id=132>

BOWLING EVENT JANUARY 28TH

Wilmot's Radical Hospitality Committee has invited us to come and have fun at their bowling event on January 28th from 2:30 - 4:30p.m. As we continue to look at ways to foster relationships between our churches what better way than some fun and friendly bowling.



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CONTACT INFORMATION

224 York St., Fredericton, NB E3B 3P1

Web: www.stpaulsunited.ca | Tel: 506-458-1183 | Email: stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com

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

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