

# 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Epiphany Sunday

10:30 AM

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*The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him. For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust. ~ Psalm 103:6-14*

## GATHERING AS GOD'S OWN

**PRELUDE:** "Andante can Moto" ~ Schubert

**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)*

Arise! Shine!

**For our Light has come!**

The glory of the Lord is in this place.

**The glory of the Lord is in you, in me.**

See! Be radiant!

**Our hearts rejoice!**

Gathered around the light, to hear his word and touch his life,

**in gratitude, in joy, together we worship.**

**OPENING PRAYER** <sup>1</sup>

**OPENING HYMN:** *Will You Come and See the Light*

VU 96

*Will you come and see the light from the stable door?  
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.  
It will be your guiding star,  
it will show you who you are;  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?*

*Will you step into the light that can free the slave?  
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.  
By the pyramids of greed  
there's a longing to be freed;  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?*

*Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?  
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.  
When the truth is cut and bruised,  
and the innocent abused,  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?*

*Will you join the hope, alight in the young girl's eyes,  
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?  
When the lowest and the least  
are the foremost at the feast,  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?*

*Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?  
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,  
and the darkness all about  
is too dim to put it out:  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?*

### **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 2:1-22

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** God of Mercy, God of Grace ~ Davidson

**MESSAGE**

### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE:** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

**VU 271**

*There's a wideness in God's mercy  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice  
which is more than liberty.*

*There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heaven;  
there is no place where earth's failings  
have such gracious judgement given.*

*There is plentiful redemption  
in the blood that Christ has shed;  
there is joy for all the members  
in the sorrows of the Head.*

*Troubled souls, why will you scatter  
like a crowd of frightened sheep?  
Foolish hearts, why will you wander  
from a love so true and deep?*

*For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of the mind,  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.*

## **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](mailto: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: *I Have Called You by Your Name***

**MV 161**

*I have called you by your name, you are mine;  
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.  
I will not abandon you;  
all my promises are true.  
You are gifted, called, and chosen;  
you are mine.*

*I will help you learn my name as you go;  
read it written in my people, help them grow.  
Pour the water in my name,  
speak the word your soul can claim,  
offer Jesus' body given long ago.*

*I know you will need my touch as you go;  
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.  
Like the woman reaching out,  
choosing faith in spite of doubt,  
hold the hem of Jesus' robe,  
then let it go.*

*I have given you a name, it is mine;  
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.  
With my wonder in your soul,  
make my wounded children whole;  
go and tell my precious people  
they are mine.*

## STAR WORD FOR THIS YEAR:

Follow the star!

**The light of Jesus Christ will be our light in the new year.**

**We will study faithfully and listen patiently.**

**We will proclaim Jesus joyfully and care compassionately.**

**We will play our part in the faith community fully  
and pursue justice with daring.**

You will go with God,

**and God will go with 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: "Rondo" ~ Purcell

<sup>1</sup> Teri Peterson, BibleWorm Liturgy, January 7, 2024

**Scripture Readers:** Narrator – Kelly Simpson, Scribes – Debbie Allison, People – Chris Grant, Jesus – Cathy Davis  
**Greeters:** Ann & Harold Raper **Audio Visual:** Murray Simpson

## 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.

### M&P ANNOUNCEMENT ~ FARWELL RUSTY

Our Church Custodian, Rusty Blakely, is leaving his job at St. Paul's on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Rusty plans to study carpentry and fine work in that area when his studies are complete. He started his work at St. Paul's in 2021. We will miss Rusty, but we wish him all the best with his new endeavours. For those who would like to express thanks to Rusty, Ann Krause will have a signing card available before and after the service this Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



### ANNUAL REPORTS DUE JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>

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 17<sup>th</sup>**, 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: canned milk, coffee, white, brown & icing sugar, pudding cups, soda crackers, Ritz crackers, vinegar, chunky soup, Hamburger Helper, oatmeal, Corn Flakes, Rice Crispies, canned corn, tin foil, waxed paper, laundry & dish detergent, Mr. Clean, and Comet. 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 21<sup>st</sup>. 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 21<sup>st</sup>, at 11 am.

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

**January 7<sup>th</sup>** ~ Service at 10:30 ~ Fellowship Hour hosted by Beth & Shawn Meister & Debbie West

**January 10<sup>th</sup>** ~ Board Meeting at 7pm

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

**January 17<sup>th</sup>** ~ Annual Report Submissions Due

**January 19<sup>th</sup>** ~ Joint Leadership Meeting from 2-4pm

**January 21<sup>st</sup>** ~ Joint Service at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at 11am

**January 28<sup>th</sup>** ~ Service at 10:30 ~ Fellowship Hour hosted by Mel & Barb McGuigan & Debbie Allison

**February 4<sup>th</sup>** ~ Service at 10:30 ~ Fellowship Hour hosted by Beth & Shawn Meister

## 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.



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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***