

# 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*

Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Lent 1

10:30 AM

*The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.*

~ Psalm 19:7-10

## GATHERING AS GOD'S OWN

**PRELUDE:** What Wonderous Love is This? ~ Hayes

**WELCOME**

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**INTROIT:** *Take, O Take Me A I Am*

MV 85

*Take, O take me as I am.  
Summon out what I shall be  
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** *(Responsive)*<sup>1</sup>

God has given us the sign of a rainbow,

**A covenant between God and all creation.**

God has given us the commandments,

**A teaching of old to guide us to God.**

God has sent his son Jesus to us,

**The Word made Flesh to live among us.**

God has shown us the Way, the Truth, and the Life,

**May we turn our hearts and minds to worship and follow Christ.**

**OPENING HYMN:** *Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights*

VU 108

*Throughout these Lenten days and nights  
we turn to walk the inward way,  
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,  
we live in hope till Easter Day.*

*The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,  
who found in weakness greater power,  
embraces us, though lost and flawed,  
and leads us to his Rising Hour.*

*We bear the silence, cross and pain  
of human burdens, human strife,  
while sisters, brothers help sustain  
our courage till the Feast of Life.*

*And though the road is hard and steep,  
the Spirit ever calls us on through  
Calvary's dying, dark and deep,  
until we see the coming Dawn.*

*So let us choose the path of One  
who wore, for us, the crown of thorn,  
and slept in death that we might wake  
to life on Resurrection Morn!*

*Rejoice, O sons and daughters! Sing  
and shout hosannas! Raise the strain!  
For Christ, whose death Good Friday brings  
on Easter Day will rise again!*

## 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: *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*

VU 121 ~ Lent General

*Light of life beyond conceiving,  
mighty Spirit of our Lord;  
give new strength to our believing,  
give us faith to live your word,  
give us faith to live your word.*

## TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Mark 10:17-31

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM: The Lord is My Shepherd ~ Allen

## MESSAGE

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

**HYMN OF RESPONSE: *Take My Life***

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.*

### **A NEW CREED:**

**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.**

VU 918

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: *Grant Us, God, the Grace***

**VU 540**

*Grant us, God, the grace of giving,  
with a spirit large and free,  
that ourselves and all our living  
we may offer faithfully.*

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION <sup>2</sup>**

**COMMUNION HYMN: *As We Gather at your Table***

**VU 457 vs1-2**

*As we gather at your table,  
as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence;  
let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story  
till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet  
how to make Love's victory known.*

*Turn our worship into witness  
in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you,  
bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion  
to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image  
in the world you died to save.*

### **COMMUNION LITURGY: <sup>3</sup>**

God is with you!

**And God is with us all.**

Open wide your hearts.

**We open them completely to the Spirit of God.**

May God's love nurture your wandering spirits each day.

**May God's light sustain your souls each night.**

From before the dawn of creation you have been here God.  
It is by your hand that all that is receives its being.  
For your great acts of creation, we give you thanks.  
For the relationality embedded in this world, we stand in awe.  
Yet you didn't stop there, you have woven yourself into every time and place.  
We Thank You for the abundance and grace you showed to our earliest ancestors,  
For the vision of life you gave us, your people so long ago,  
For the way you continued to speak through priests and prophets,  
Calling us into a life-giving relationship with you,  
Time and time again.  
When we turned our backs on you, you didn't give up.  
Finally, you could bear it no more,  
Bringing your full Divinity into the human form,  
divinity and humanity bound as one, you came.

So we join with all creation,  
And the faithful in every time and place,  
Singing praise and thanksgiving.

**SING: *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!***

The Lenten roads are long, O God,  
Yet we stop at the beginning of our journey to remember they are also full of gifts.  
The path can often seem chilly.  
Yet we are warmed along the way by the winds of your Spirit.  
The Spirit of God is the light that leads us into the hushed nights.  
Christ is with us as we journey in the intense sunlight of day.  
Today we remember his time in the wilderness-  
The struggles. The hunger. The peace.  
And we come to this table seeking the Divine in our midst.  
On this journey, we crave the bread of life.  
In our desert road, we thirst for the fruit of the vine the cup of blessing.  
And we remember,

The night before he was arrested.  
The night of serenity, solemnity, and love.  
Jesus took in his hands bread from the table.  
He blessed it and broke it.  
Eat in remembrance of me.

And after supper,  
As the night grew long,  
Jesus took a cup and filled it with the fruit of the vine.  
As he blessed it, he spoke to them.  
Take and Drink and always remember me.

We remember at this table Jesus the Christ as we sing the scandal and Mystery of our faith.

**SING: Memorial Acclamation**

**MV 204**

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

May the spirit who traveled with Christ in the wilderness,  
And fills us with hope of God,  
Surround these elements,  
That they may speak clearly on our Lenten journey.  
Like a bell ringing out, may these elements draw us closer together,  
and attune us to Christ in our midst.  
Holy Spirit come and rest on these gifts and your people around this table and beyond,  
To strengthen and make new. This we pray,  
Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the holy Spirit.  
All glory is yours, God most holy,  
Now and forever.

**SING: Great Amen**

**MV 205**

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

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**GOING FORTH WITH GOD**

**CLOSING HYMN: *As We Gather at Your Table***

**VU 457 vs2-3**

***Turn our worship into witness  
in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you,  
bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion  
to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image  
in the world you died to save.***

***Gracious Spirit, help us summon  
other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome  
those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us  
nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels  
to repeat the sounding joy.***

## COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

CHORAL CLOSING: *When You Walk from Here*

VU 298

*When you walk from here,  
when you walk from here,  
walk with justice, walk with mercy,  
and with God's humble care.*

POSTLUDE: Toccata in D Minor ~ Nevin

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Mindi, *Worship Resources for Feb 18, 2023, Rev-o-lution.org*

<sup>2</sup> Rev. Sarah A. Speed, *January 4, 2023, sanctifiedart.org.*

<sup>3</sup> *Adaption of Michelle L. Torigian, A Communion for Lent, March 7, 2021*

**Scripture Readers:** Narrator – Carole Peacock, Rich One – Kelly Simpson, Jesus – Andrew Steeves, Disciples – Cathy Davis

**Greeters:** Erin & Brad Webb **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.



### PURDYS EASTER CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER

Want to know the most DELICIOUS way to support us? Order Purdys Easter chocolates from our fundraiser!

Our Easter Chocolate Fundraiser begins... NOW! Go get your Easter treats:

<https://fundraising.purdys.com/1719958-115485>

This year, our goal is to raise \$2000 so we need your help - but don't worry, all the work you're doing is choosing which chocolates to order.

Stock up on beautiful Easter gift boxes, fun chocolate bunnies, Sweet Georgia Browns and more. All profits will go directly to St. Paul's Outreach Programs. So, satisfy those cravings, get all your Easter basket-shopping done while supporting a great cause.

Ordering is as easy as eating chocolate. Just click this link <https://fundraising.purdys.com/1719958-115485>, fill out your info you'll need an email address, click "Join Campaign", enter campaign number – 67403, and order to your heart's content!

**The deadline to order is March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.** Once orders close, we'll notify everyone when and where you can collect your treats. Pick up at St. Paul's will start around March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Please share with anyone you know who might be interested. It would help us so much.

Thank you!

### 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 this week: sugar, Jello, ritz crackers, 1 liter orange juice, icing sugar, vinegar, pudding cups, cookies, canned ham, turkey & chicken, Comet, Mr. Clean, Laundry & dish detergent, and waxed paper. Thank you for your continued support of this increasingly busy outreach program!

### 2023 TAX RECEIPTS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP

2023 Tax Receipts are available for pick up at the office. Please feel free to deliver receipts to those you know!





# Faith Formation

## GOD’S STORY, OUR STORY

Pick up this reflection guide in the narthex to use as a home devotional or with your friends. This devotional follows the pattern of pray, reflect and do, offering suggestions on how to put the biblical theme into action.

## BIBLE STUDY ON SUNDAY READING

**Tuesdays from 10:45am-11:45am** we explore the biblical passage for Sunday, seeking to create connections with our lives. Come explore deeper the passage we will be reading. As one participant noted, “it makes Sunday service richer”. Join us in the boardroom. Can’t make it in person, you can join the discussion via 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 explore the questions you have, scripture and faith practices to deepen our connection with God and each other. We hope you will join us.

## LENTEN BOOK STUDY

**When Church Stops Working: by Andrew Root and Blair Bertrand.** If you are interested in joining the discussion, please sign up on the bulletin board across from Frasier Memorial Hall. Available in print, e-book, and audio formats order your copy today. If finances are a constraint or if you need help finding a copy of the book, please reach out to Rev. Michelle

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- ASAP** ~ Annual Report Submissions Due
- February 18<sup>th</sup>** ~ Fellowship Hour hosted by Debbie West
- February 25<sup>th</sup>** ~ Fellowship Hour hosted by Beth & Shawn Meister
- March 3<sup>rd</sup>** ~ **Fellowship Hour Hosts Needed!**
- March 10<sup>th</sup>** ~ Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 10<sup>th</sup>** ~ Fellowship Hour hosted by Lois & Bill Paterson & Carole Peacock
- March 17<sup>th</sup>** ~ Fellowship Hour hosted by Mel & Barb McGuigan & Debbie Allison
- March 24<sup>th</sup>** ~ **Palm Sunday ~ Fellowship Hour Hosts Needed!**
- March 28<sup>th</sup>** ~ Downtown United ~ Maundy Thursday Service at Wilmot
- March 29<sup>th</sup>** ~ Downtown United ~ Good Friday Service at St. Paul’s
- March 31<sup>st</sup>** ~ **Easter Sunday Service with Communion ~ Fellowship Hosts Needed**

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICES

The World Day of Prayer Services, prepared by the Women of Palestine will be held at two locations in the Fredericton region:

**Northside:** St. Theresa’s Catholic Church, 1 William Street off the Royal Road on Friday, **March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at 2:00pm.** Refreshments to follow. Storm date will be Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 2:00pm. Wheelchair Accessible.

**Southside:** Brunswick Street Baptist Church, 161 York Street on Friday, **March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at 7:00pm.** Storm date will be March 3, 2024 at 2:00pm. Refreshments to follow. Wheelchair Accessible. You can also watch it on Computer, go to [wicc.org](http://wicc.org) click on World Day of Prayer 2024 Videos.





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## **ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH**

*191 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:*** Jaedyn Williams