

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

Lent 2

10:30 AM

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*Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. Which of you desires life and covets many days to enjoy good? Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. ~ Psalm 34:11-14*

## GATHERING AS GOD'S OWN

**PRELUDE:** Ciacona ~ Buxtehude

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**INTROIT:** *Take, O Take Me As 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)*

From our places of power and our places of poverty,

**We call out to Christ.**

In seeking for our needs and our wants,

**We lift up our longings to the Lord.**

With great assurance and fearful hope,

**We vulnerably step forward into the light of Christ.**

And God Receives us, no matter where we come from or what we are asking. God Receives us,

**Offering us what we need even when it is not always what we want.**

So we come this day, seeking God's presence.

**Yearning for God's touch, Let us worship.**

**OPENING HYMN:** *Come Touch Our Hearts*

MV 12

*Come touch our hearts  
that we may know compassion,  
From failing embers build a blazing fire;  
Love strong enough to overturn injustice,  
To seek a world more gracious,  
come touch and bless our hearts.*

*Come touch our souls  
That we may know and love you  
Your quiet presence all our fears dispel;*

*Create a space for Spirit to grow in us,  
Let life and beauty fill us.  
Come, touch and bless our souls.*

*Come touch our minds  
And teach us how to reason,  
Set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;  
Help us to open doors of understanding  
To welcome truth and wisdom,  
Come, touch and bless our minds.*

*Come touch us in  
The moments we are fragile  
And in our weakness your great strength reveal;  
That we may rise to follow and to serve,  
Steady now our nerve,  
Come, touch and bless our wills.*

*Come touch us now,  
This people who are gathered  
To break the bread and share the cup of peace;  
That we may love you with our heart, our soul  
Our mind, our strength, our all,  
Come, touch us with your grace.*

## **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 10:32-52**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **CHOIR ANTHEM: The Lord's My Light ~ Ruthven**

## **MESSAGE**

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

**HYMN OF RESPONSE:** *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

VU 371

*Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.*

*Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*2Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*3Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
open my heart and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

### **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.

#### **PRESENTATION OF OFFERING AND TITHES:**

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.

*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**

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **GOING FORTH WITH GOD**

#### **CLOSING HYMN: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness***

VU 288

*Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.*

#### **Chorus:**

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -  
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!*

*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. R*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -  
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. R*

#### **COMMISSIONING & BLESSING**

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

**POSTLUDE:** Postlude on Hyfrydol

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*Scripture Readers:* Narrator – Andrew Steeves, Jesus – Ron Naugler, Disciples – Cathy Davis,  
Blind One – Ann Krause, People – Alanna Palmer  
*Greeter:* Mary Stickles **Audio Visual:** John Davis

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## 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.

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR SERVERS NEEDED!

Thank you to everyone who has provided for our fellowship time. Currently we are seeking folks to sign up for **March 3<sup>rd</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>**. You can help our faith community by picking one day to serve in the coming months. 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**. Thank you for your continued support and generosity of this program.

### PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry program needs the following items this week: laundry & dish detergent, Mr. Clean, tomato sauce, kernel corn, rice, cereal, cookies, puddings, cake mix, white sugar, flour, macaroni, vinegar, ketchup, tea, and large juice. Thank you for your continued support of this increasingly busy outreach program!

### 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!



## BOOKING MEETING SPACE AT ST. PAUL'S

As the use of our space at St. Paul's gets busier, please remember to book your meetings space through the office. Drop by in person, call 458-1183 or email Meghan at [stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com).



## WARM MITTENS & WINTER BOOTS NEEDED!

We are in desperate need of warm mittens and winter boots for folks without. If you have any gently used items to donate, please drop them off at the office. Many thanks!



## 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 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 hosted by Beth & Shawn Meister**

**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 at 10:30am**

**March 31<sup>st</sup> ~ Easter Sunday Service with Communion ~ Fellowship Hosts Needed**

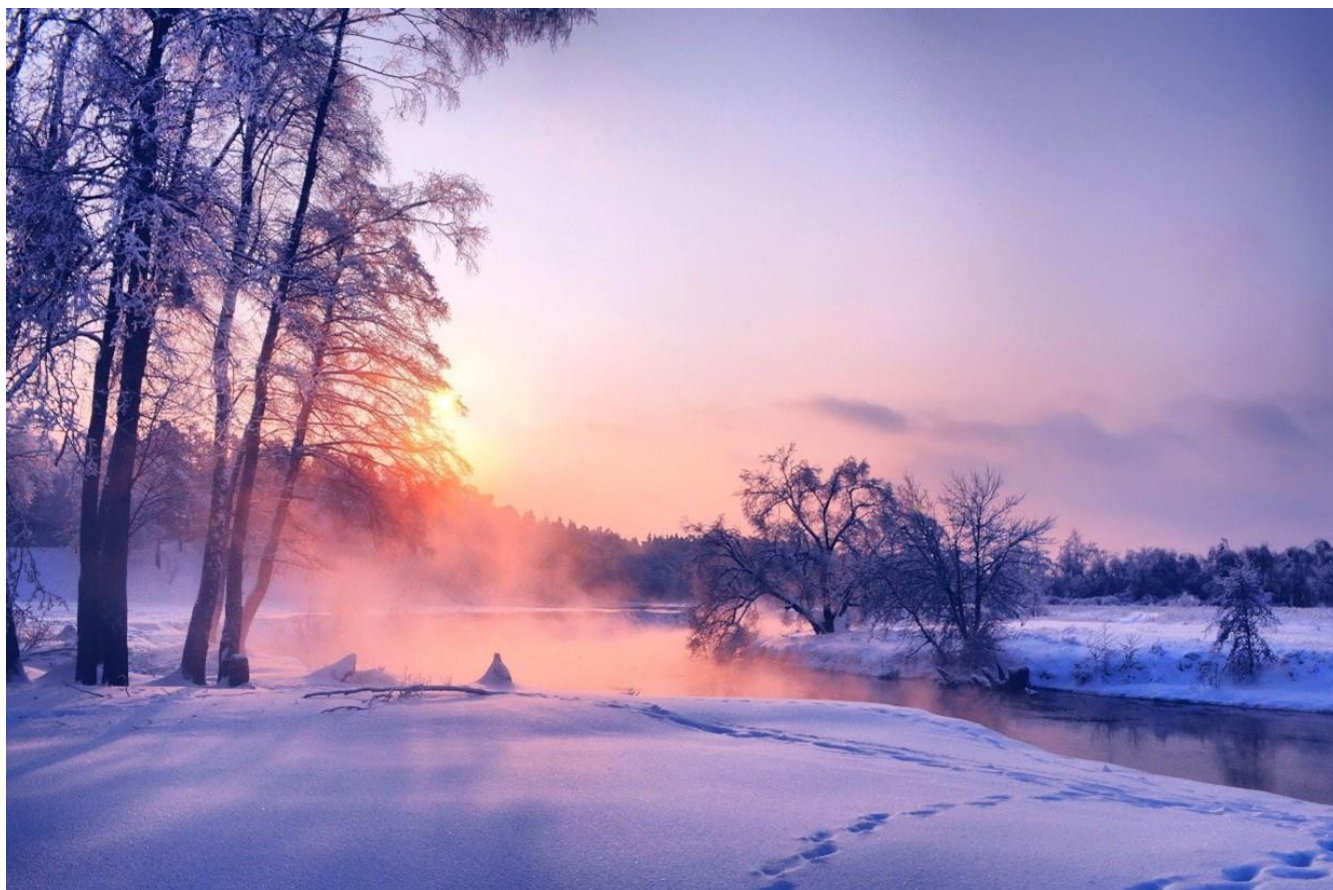
## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICES

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>** 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>** 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.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Wilmot United Church in downtown Fredericton is accepting applications for a **10-14 hr/wk** Church Office Administrator beginning **April 1,2024** (flexibility re: start date & hours). This position is key to creating a welcoming environment as well as the smooth, efficient, and effective functioning of the church. Its focus will be on reception, communication (i.e. social media, website management, newsletter) and general office responsibilities. Skills required include good interpersonal communication; advanced computer proficiency & knowledge of Microsoft Office products; graphics & database software; ability to work independently in an environment subject to frequent interruptions. Please direct **inquiries** or **covering Letter & resume** to Chair of Ministry & Personnel Committee, Judy Coates, [wilmotuc@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:wilmotuc@nb.sympatico.ca) cc [judycoates@rogers.com](mailto:judycoates@rogers.com)

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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:** Jaedyn Williams