

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

Mar 3rd, 2024

Lent 3

10:30 AM

Among the gods there is none like you, Lord; no deeds can compare with yours. All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name. For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God. Teach me your way, LORD, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever. For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths, from the realm of the dead. ~ Psalm 86:1-13

GATHERING AS GOD'S OWN

PRELUDE: Andante from Sonata No. 3 ~ Mendelssohn

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)*

Lent calls us to journey, inward and outward, following Jesus wherever he leads us.

This journey is not straight but winds us around socking claims and uncomfortable truths.

Lent calls us to journey, looking back at what has been and forward to what will come.

This journey helps us to see more clearly and discern our next steps

Lent calls us to journey with those that we meet on the road, friends, and strangers.

Together as we journey may we reflect Christ into each other's lives and mirror his grace.

On this Lenten journey, let us now pause and give thanks and praise to God who walks with us.

Let us worship with song and prayer!

OPENING HYMN: *O God, How We Have Wandered*

VU 112

*O God, how we have wandered
and hidden from your face;
in foolishness have squandered
your legacy of grace.
But how, in exile dwelling,
we turn with fear and shame,
as distant but compelling,
you call us each by name.*

*And now at length discerning
the evil that we do,
by faith we are returning
with hope and trust in you.
In haste you come to meet us,
and home rejoicing bring,
in gladness there to greet us
with calf and robe and ring.*

*O God of all the living,
both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving,
our peace and hope assured.
Grant now that our transgressing,
our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing,
in pardon, and in peace.*

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 12:1-17

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: Beautiful Saviour ~ Lee

MESSAGE

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

VU 375

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.*

*You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings. R*

*You swept thro' the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with their idols and lies,
then you spoke thro' your prophets to open their eyes. R*

*You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. R*

*You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams,
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise. R*

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.

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. To set up Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) monthly contributions, please contact Meghan in the office.

VU 918

*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: *Spirit God, Be Our Breath*

MV 150

*Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.
Our world seems inward, defensive, with-drawn.
Spirit God, be our song.*

*Patient God soothe our pride, calm our fear.
Comfort us. When we know you are near
we grow more certain, our vision is clear.
Patient God, calm our fear.*

*Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer.
Reaching out, joining hands as we share,
we seek your guidance through friendship and care.
Loving God, be our prayer.*

*Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.
Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new dawn.
Spirit God, be our song.*

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 and Fugue in D Minor ~ Bach

*Scripture Readers: Narrator – Alanna Palmer, Jesus – Greg Morton, Tenants – Brad Webb, Prophecy – Chris Grant,
Pharisees – Ann Krause*

Greeter: Carole Peacock 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.



EASTER CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER ~ ORDERS DUE!

Our Easter Chocolate Fundraiser is coming to a close! **Orders are due by March 5th.** Go get your Easter treats: <https://fundraising.purdys.com/1719958-115485>
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 5th, 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 24th. Please share with anyone you know who might be interested. It would help us so much. Thank you!

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 31st.** 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!

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.



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. Join us in the boardroom. Can't make it in person, join via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81736183320> 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. 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

March 3rd ~ Fellowship Hour following service

March 10th ~ Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 10th ~ Fellowship Hour hosted by Lois & Bill Paterson & Carole Peacock

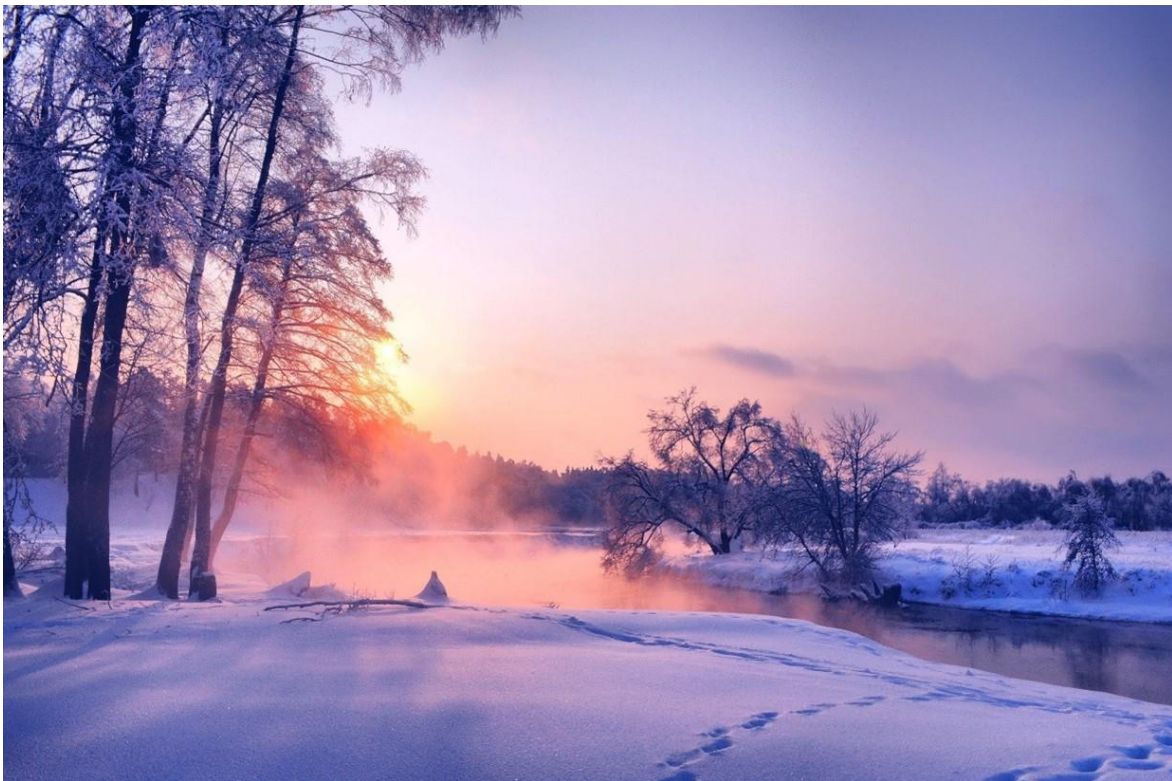
March 17th ~ Fellowship Hour hosted by Mel & Barb McGuigan & Debbie Allison

March 24th ~ Palm Sunday ~ Fellowship Hosted by Beth & Shawn Meister

March 28th ~ Downtown United ~ Maundy Thursday Service at Wilmot

March 29th ~ Downtown United ~ Good Friday Service at St. Paul's

March 31st ~ **Easter Sunday Service with Communion ~ Fellowship Hosts Needed**



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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