

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 10th, 2024

Lent 4

10:30 AM

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to my servant David: 'I will establish your descendants forever and build your throne for all generations.'" ~ Psalm 89:1-4

GATHERING AS GOD'S OWN

PRELUDE: Prelude on "Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier ~ Fey

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

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

MV 85 x2

*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)* ¹

Come, bring your whole self to worship -

Mind and body, heart and Soul.

Love for God and love for neighbour come together,

For we cannot do one without the other.

This is the foundation of faith and life:

To love with all we have and all we are.

OPENING HYMN: *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

VU 512 vs 1-3

*Lord, you give the great commission:
'Heal the sick and preach the word.'
Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.*

*Lord, you call us to your service:
'In my name baptize and teach.'
That the world may trust your promise,*

*life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervour, draw us
closer in community;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.*

*Lord, you make the common holy:
'This my body, this my blood.'
Let us all, for earth's true glory,
daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us
share your children's liberty;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.*

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 12:28-44

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: When I Survey the Wonderous Cross ~ Shephard

MESSAGE

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *Spirit, Open My Heart*

MV 79

*Refrain
Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love me I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.*

*God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender.*

*Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory.*

*May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another.*

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.

Grant Us, God, the Grace

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

VU 918

VU 540

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (In Unison) ²

Through the Great Commandment, we seek ways to share love more boldly.
Through the Great Commandment, we listen more intently to our Divine Source of Love.
We ask our God of Love to bless our giving -
From the money we share to the time we spend caring.
Through our gifts, may our neighbors experience your presence surrounding them.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

GOING FORTH WITH GOD

CLOSING HYMN: *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

VU 120

*O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.*

*O let me feel you near me: the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.*

*O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.*

*O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.*

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

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: Nearer, Still Nearer ~ Payne

¹ Teri Peterson, BibleWorm Collective Liturgy March 10, 2024

² Prayer by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian

Scripture Readers: Narrator – Jane Banks, Scribe – Debbie Allison, Jesus – Ron Naugler
Greeter: Mary Stickles **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.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS TODAY!

A quick reminder that daylight savings time begins Sunday **March 10th**. Don't forget we Spring Forward, so set your clocks ahead 1 hour before going to bed so you are not late for our church service!

ORGAN & CHOIR CONCERTATO

Dr. Pond and the choir will present "Take up Your Cross, the Savior Said" during service on **March 17th**. It is a Concertato for Choir and Organ.

"SPECIAL" ENEWS RESPONSES REQUESTED

Remember responses to the "Special" eNews sent out on Monday, Feb 26th are due on **March 15th**. Responses will be used to help guide the discussions and decisions on our next steps. Please respond today and make your voice, needs, and hopes heard.

CRITICAL CONGREGATIONAL UPDATE

There will be a Critical Congregational Update on **March 17th** after service, this meeting will update people on the work that has happened so far and provide important updates from the task groups looking at divesting of our property and the ecumenical shared ministry.

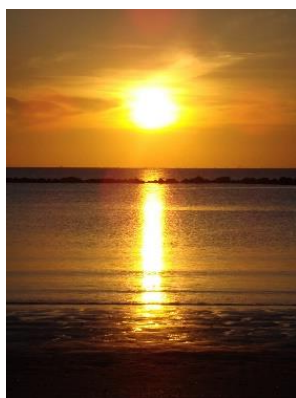
THANK YOU!

Delivering a very grateful and special Thank You! To the ladies who covered the office while I was on vacation. Many appreciative thanks to Cathy Davis, Patty Trail, Debbie Allison, and Jayden for their time, you are wonderful humans. ~ Meghan



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE AT WILMOT

Maundy Thursday Service will take place on **March 28th** at 6pm at Wilmot in their lower parlor. Please note this year there will be no meal, just a service.



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT ST. PAUL'S

St. Paul's will host Downtown United Good Friday Service at 10 am on **March 29th**.

EASTER MORNING SUNRISE SERVICE

Downtown United Easter Sunrise Service will take place at 7am on **March 31st** at the pedway by the library. Breakfast will follow at St. Paul's.

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.

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.

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: white & brown sugar, macaroni, spaghetti, Shake 'n Bake, Corn Flakes, Rice Krispies, pancake mix, crackers, cookies, Miracle Whip, corn kernels, large juices, jam, plastic wrap, tin foil, Mr. Clean, Comet, dish and laundry detergent. Thank you for your continued support of this increasingly busy outreach program!



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 10th** ~ Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 10th** ~ Fellowship Hour hosted by Lois & Bill Paterson & Carole Peacock
- March 15th** ~ Responses to "Special" eNews from Feb 26th Due
- March 17th** ~ Fellowship Hour hosted by Mel & Barb McGuigan & Debbie Allison
- March 17th** ~ Critical Congregational Update following service
- March 22nd** ~ Candlelight Classix Noon Hour Concert at St. Paul's from 12-1pm
- March 24th** ~ Palm Sunday ~ Fellowship Hour hosted by Beth & Shawn Meister
- March 28th** ~ Downtown United ~ Maundy Thursday Service at Wilmot at 6pm
- March 29th** ~ Downtown United ~ Good Friday Service at St. Paul's at 10am
- March 31st** ~ Downtown United ~ Easter Morning Sunrise Service at 7am with Breakfast to follow at St. Paul's
- March 31st** ~ Easter Sunday Service with Communion ~ Fellowship Hosts Needed
- April 1st** ~ Easter Monday STAT Holiday ~ Office Closed
- April 7th** ~ Annual General Meeting following service

UCW MARCH MEETING

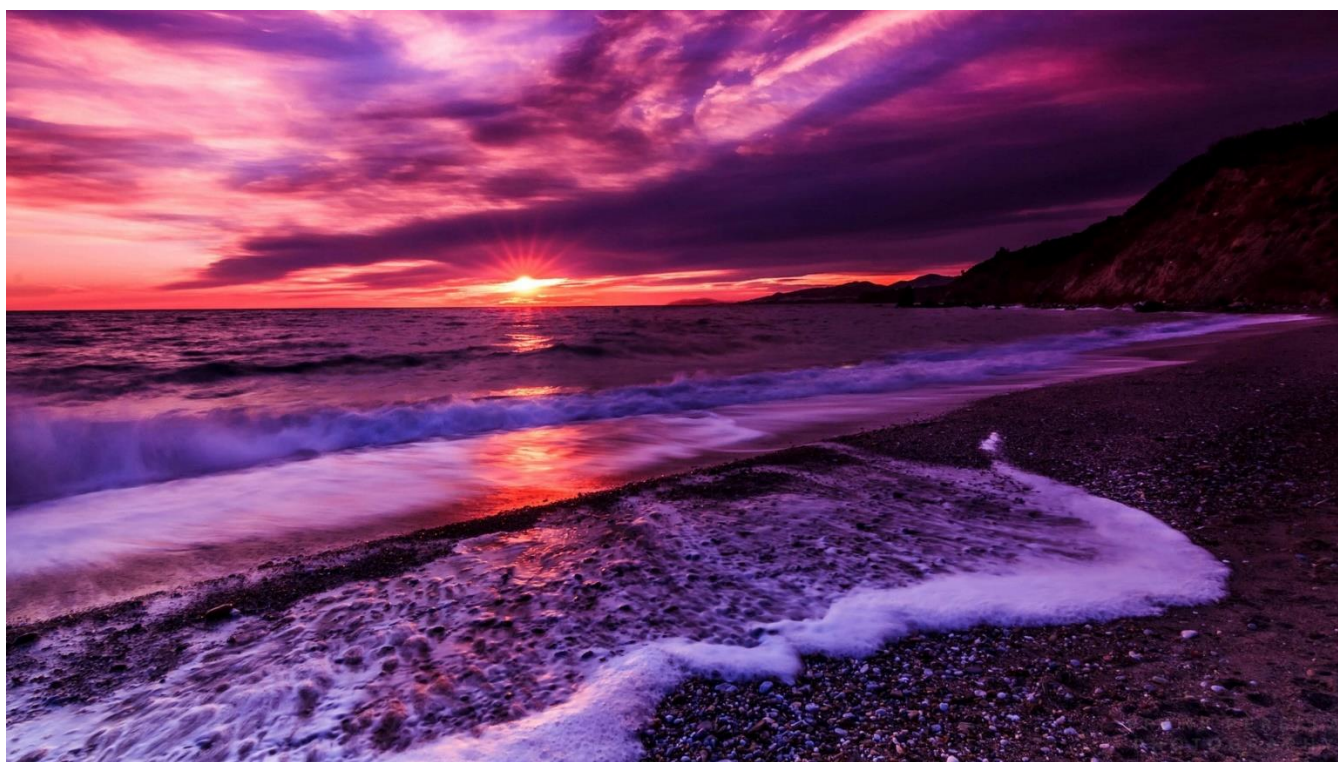
Wilmot UCW will be meeting on Monday, **March 11th** at 1 pm, in the church parlor. There will be a regular meeting, where we usually collect our Easter Thank Offering, followed by our annual Bring & Buy Sale. Bring along something you have and don't use; perhaps a small gift received but not needed like frames, jewelry, or decor. Also welcome are baked goods and preserves. If you don't have anything to bring, that's OK! Bring along a little money because we will be auctioning it all off. It's always great fun! We will close off the afternoon with tea and conversation. Please circle it on your calendar, all ladies are welcome.

VIGIL FOR MIDDLE EASTERN MOTHER'S DAY

You are invited to join the Fredericton community for a solemn vigil on **March 21st** in observance of Middle Eastern Mother's Day, to honour and show solidarity with Palestine mothers and families. The candlelight vigil is taking place at the Legislative Building at 706 Queen Street at 7pm. Please RSVP to fp.solidarity@gmail.com by March 20th and dress warmly for the outdoors.

STEW TAKEOUT AT NASHWAAKSIS UNITED

Nashwaaksis United Church, 46 Main Street, will be hosting a Stew Takeout on Friday, **March 22nd** from 4–5:30pm. The menu includes delicious homemade Beef Stew, Rolls and Carrot Cake for dessert. The cost is \$15. Cut off for reservations is Monday, March 18th. Please call the church office 506-458-9452 or email admin@nashwaaksisunited.ca *please use the front door for pickups*



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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