

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 17th, 2024

Lent 5

10:30 AM

But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever; your name endures to all generations. You will rise up and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to favor it; the appointed time has come. For your servants hold its stones dear and have pity on its dust. The nations will fear the name of the LORD and all the kings of the earth your glory. For the LORD will build up Zion; he will appear in his glory. He will regard the prayer of the destitute and will not despise their prayer. ~ Psalm 102:12-17

GATHERING AS GOD'S OWN

PRELUDE: Peaceful Meditation ~ 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

Whatever the state of the world, God's call is the same

To love God and neighbour, to do justice and mercy, to walk humbly.

When we are surrounded by beautiful things

We orient ourselves to living God's word

And when all around seems like the end is near,

We orient ourselves to living God's word.

God gathers us in from every situation:

We come to answer Christ's call.

OPENING HYMN: *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

VU 560

*O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
teach me thy secret, help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.*

*Help me the slow of heart to move
with some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.*

*Teach me thy patience; still with thee,
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sure and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,*

*In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.*

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 13:1-8, 24-37

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *My Life Flows On*

VU 716

*My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.
I hear the sweet, though far off hymn
that hails a new creation.*

*Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear the music ringing:
It finds an echo in my soul -
how can I keep from singing?*

*What though my joys and comforts die?
My Saviour still is living.
What though the shadows gather 'round?
A new song Christ is giving.*

*No storm can shake my inmost calm,
while to that Rock I'm clinging:
since Love commands both heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?*

*When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,
and hear their death knells ringing:
when friends rejoice both far and near,
how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell and dungeon vile
our thoughts to them are winging:
when friends by shame are undefiled,
how can I keep from singing?*

*I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin;
I see the blue above it;
and day by day this pathway smooths,
since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing:
all things are mine since I am Christ's -
how can I keep from singing?*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHOIR & ORGAN CONTATA: Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said ~ Dicie

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

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: *(In Unison)*

We want to be midwives in the coming of the kingdom, and so we give, proclaiming in our actions that we will not be afraid of the turmoil that is present in our world today. We give also because Christ first gave himself to us. So, we give as a commitment to hold to the way of the One whose true power was revealed through the cross. Take our gifts, and by your grace, use them to birth your vision into reality. This we pray Amen.

GOING FORTH WITH GOD

CLOSING HYMN: *My Soul Cries Out*

MV 120

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?*

Refrain

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!*

*Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shames,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. R*

*From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears,
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. R*

*Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
'til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. R*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE: When Morning Gilds the Skies ~ Payne

¹ Rev. Teri Peterson, BibleWorm Collective Liturgy, March 17, 2024

Scripture Readers: Narrator – Kelly Simpson, Jesus – Brad Webb, Disciples – Greg Morton

Greeter: Carole Peacock **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.

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.

NOON HOUR VIOLA CONCERT

Natalia DeLacroix will present Homage À Bach on viola on **March 22nd** from 12-1pm at St. Paul's Freewill offering, entry is free.

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

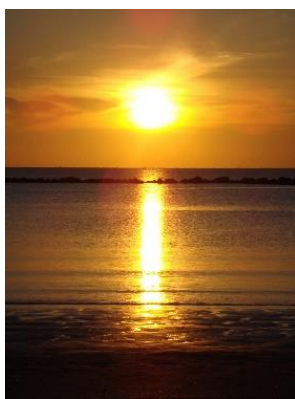
Downtown United Easter Sunrise Service will take place at 7am on **March 31st** at the pedway by the library. Breakfast will follow at St. Paul's.

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: Rice Krispies, white & brown sugar, Comet, Mr. Clean, cookies, rice, apple & orange juice (1L), tea, spaghetti, Shake n' Bake, ketchup, soda crackers, pudding cups, and toothbrushes. 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.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

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

March 17th ~ **Critical Congregational Update** following service

March 22nd ~ Homage A Bach ~ Natalia DeLacroix ~ 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**

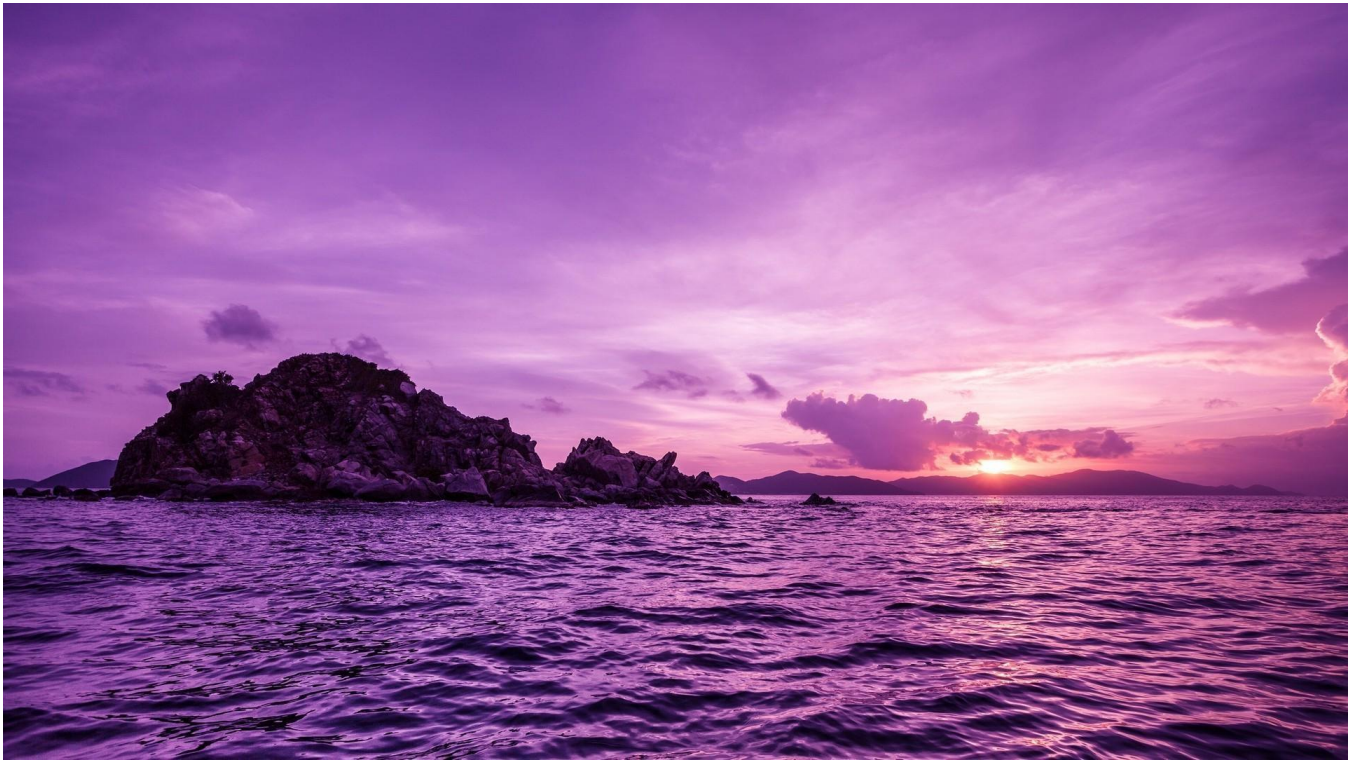
April 7th ~ **Annual General Meeting** following service

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