

# DOWNTOWN UNITED

Fredericton, N.B.

*A service of St. Paul's and Wilmot United Churches*

Mar 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Good Friday

10 AM

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*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night but find no rest. All who see me mock me; they sneer at me; they shake their heads; "Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver — let him rescue the one in whom he delights!" ~ Psalm 22:1-2, 7-8*

## GATHERING AS GOD'S OWN

**PRELUDE:** What Wondrous Love is This ~ Payne

**WELCOME**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE<sup>1</sup>**

**INTROIT:** *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

VU 135 vs 3

*I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face,  
content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,  
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** *(Responsive)*

Today is called Good not because of what happened on this day but because of what it means.

**The story of this day is one filled with betrayal, violence,  
indifference, isolation, and death.**

This is a day to remember when the cold shadow of fear and death swept over the world.

**We remember when it seemed that love had been lost, hope had died,  
and it seemed like God was no more.**

We gather on this day, to worship and remember,

**that God's love didn't run from our violence and ways of death,  
and God's love still stands, unwilling to sacrifice us to our own death-dealing ways  
and this is what is good.**

Come now as we remember and worship our Good God!

**HYMN:** *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

VU 133

*Go to dark Gethsemane,  
you that feel the tempter's power;  
your Redeemer's conflict see;  
watch with him one bitter hour;  
turn not from his grief away:  
learn from him to watch and pray.*

*See him at the judgement hall,  
beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;  
see him meekly bearing all;  
love to all his soul sustained.  
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss:  
learn from Christ to bear the cross.*

*Calvary's mournful mountain view;  
there the Lord of glory see,  
made a sacrifice for you,  
dying on the accursed tree.  
'It is finished,' hear his cry:  
trust in Christ and learn to die.*

## OPENING PRAYER

### LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

## 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.*

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 15:16-42

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN: *When I Survey the Wonderful Cross*

VU 149

*When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
save in the death of Christ, my God:  
all the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.*

*See from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small:  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.*

## MESSAGE

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:** *Were you There*

VU 144 Vs 1-3,5

On this day, as we remember the crucifixion of Jesus, we know that the violence of that day so long ago is not gone. So, as we reflect on the death of Jesus at the hands of human sin, we remember also the ways in which our world is still crucifying people today. So, we will pray in words and song on this day.

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

Spoken Prayer...

*Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?*

Spoken Prayer...

*Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?*

Spoken Prayer...

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

Spoken Prayer...

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### GOING FORTH WITH GOD

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Mark 15:42-47

*O come and mourn with me awhile;  
O come now to the Saviour's side;  
O come, together let us mourn:  
Jesus, our Love, is crucified.*

*Have we no tears to shed for him,  
while soldiers scoff and foes deride?  
Ah! Look how patiently he hangs:  
Jesus, our Love, is crucified.*

*Seven times he spake, seven words of love;  
and all three hours his silence cried  
for mercy on the souls of all:  
Jesus, our Love, is crucified.*

*O love of God! O sin-filled world!  
In this dread act your strength is tried,  
and victory remains with love:  
Jesus, our Love, is crucified.*

## COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE:** Chorale Prelude on “Rockingham” ~ Peberdy

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from *Tori Mullins and Richard Bowley, Gatherings L/E 2024 pg 39*

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**Scripture Readers:** Narrator – Ann Krause, Soldiers/Centurion - Deborah West, Crowd 1 & 2 – Greg Morton,  
Jesus – Alanna Palmer

**Greeter:** Mary Stickles    **Audio Visual:** Murray Simpson

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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.

### GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT ST. PAUL’S

St. Paul’s will host Downtown United Good Friday Service at 10am on **March 29<sup>th</sup>**.

### EASTER MORNING SUNRISE SERVICE

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

### FUNDSCRIP



Deadline for our next gift card order is **Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**. Time to think about Spring things... new barbeque, outside furniture, bikes for the kids. You can purchase all of these with FundScrip gift cards. Mother’s Day will be here before long... why not give Mum a gift card to her favourite store or take her out for dinner at one of the dining spots on our gift card list. Order forms are available in the church office, in the Narthex or click here [April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 FundScrip Order Form](#). **New supporters always welcome!** Remember: *Shopping is fundraising for St. Paul’s.*

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR SERVERS NEEDED!

Thank you to everyone who has provided for our fellowship time. We are seeking folks to sign up for **the month of April**. Please check the bulletin board across from the hall for available dates.

### BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

This week, the program needs **pudding cups** and **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: Mr. Clean, waxed paper, tin foil, oatmeal, rice, baking powder, chocolate cake mix, pancake mix, Hamburger Helper, vinegar, granola bars, and laundry soap. 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.

### UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

**Tuesdays from 10:45am-11:45am ~ Bible Study on Sunday Reading**

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81736183320> Passcode: 750844

**Thursdays from 6-7pm ~ Evening Small Group Faith Exploration**

**March 31<sup>st</sup> ~ Downtown United ~ Easter Morning Sunrise Service at 7am with Breakfast to follow at St. Paul's**

**March 31<sup>st</sup> ~ Easter Sunday Service with Communion ~ Fellowship Hour Hosted by the Choir**

**April 1<sup>st</sup> ~ Easter Monday STAT Holiday ~ Office Closed**

**April 7<sup>th</sup> ~ Annual General Meeting following service**

## HAM TAKEOUT AT NASHWAAKSIS UNITED

Nashwaaksis United Church, 46 Main Street, will be hosting a Ham Takeout on Friday, **April 19<sup>th</sup>**, from 4:00-5:30pm. The menu includes delicious ham, potato and macaroni salads, roll and lemon tart for dessert. The cost is \$15.00. Cut off for reservations is Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm. Please call the church office at 506-458-9452 or email [admin@nashwaaksisunited.ca](mailto:admin@nashwaaksisunited.ca) \*\*please use front door for pickups\*\*



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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