

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 31st, 2024

Easter Sunday

10:30 AM

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. ~ Psalm 118: 21-24

GATHERING AS GOD'S OWN

PRELUDE: Crown Him with Many Crowns ~ Payne

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

INTROIT: *Joy Comes with the Dawn*

VU 166 Refrain

*Joy comes with the dawn;
joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb
and scatters the night with her song,
joy comes with the dawn.*

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Responsive)*¹

Come - new day has dawned,

The first day of a new creation!

Look up and see what God has done –

The stone is rolled away, once and for all!

Christ is going ahead of you,

And we must share the good news!

OPENING HYMN: *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

VU 155

*Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!*

*Hymns of praise then let us sing hallelujah!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!
sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!*

*But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!
our salvation have procured; hallelujah!
now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!
where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!*

*Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!
praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!
praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!*

OPENING PRAYER

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

STORY TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

PRAYER OF CONFESSION ²

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: *(Responsive)* ³

Jesus said to the disciples,
"Take heart. Have no fear."

**As disciples, we no longer need to be burdened by guilt,
no longer need to be bound by fear.**

Be renewed through God's forgiving love:
be open to Christ's presence in your life.

Thanks be to God.

THE STORY BEFORE THE STORY

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: *(In Unison)* ⁴

**O God for whom there are no barriers, no stones too big to remove, roll away our resistance to you.
Let your words fill us with new life and bring us out from the tomb of indifference, alive again in you.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 16:1-8

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: It Is a Thing Most Wonderful ~ Bayley

MESSAGE

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!*

MV 121

*Refrain:
Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
Hey now! The morning has come!
Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
The tomb was empty at the rising sun.*

*Jesus loved people and he made them friends,
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
He called to the children and the women and men.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.*

*Jesus healed people and he helped them be well.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
He taught about God in the stories he'd tell.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.*

*Jesus loved people and they said he was a king.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
He turned all the tables on everything.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.*

*Jesus had power and they took him away.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
They nailed him to a cross and they killed him one day.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.*

*Jesus loves people and he lives again!
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
Calls us disciples and he calls us his friends.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.*

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING:

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.

SUNG OFFERING DEDICATION: *Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands*

VU 537 vs 2

*Because we love you and your work,
our offering now we make:
be pleased to use it as your own,
we ask for Jesus' sake.*

INVITATION TO THE TABLE: (Responsive)⁵

The Resurrection has begun! The Day of Celebration is here!

Alleluia!

We gather at the table to share in the Banquet of Life!

Here we meet all who share with us the hope for a brighter future!

All who wish to follow The Way of Life are welcome to eat and drink at God's table.

Let us eat together.

COMMUNION HYMN: *O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts*

VU 472

*O Jesus, joy of loving hearts,
the fount of life, the light of all
from every bliss that earth imparts
we turn, unfilled, to hear your call.*

*Your truth unchanged has ever stood;
you plead with all to call on you,
to those who seek you, you are good,
to those who find you, life is new.*

*We taste your everliving bread,
and long to feast upon you still;
we drink of you, the fountainhead,
our thirsting souls from you we fill.*

*O Jesus, ever with us stay;
make all our moments calm and bright;
chase the bleak night of sin away;
shed o'er the world your holy light.*

COMMUNION LITURGY ⁵

GREAT THANKSGIVING:

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed!

We should give thanks!

Thanks and praise to the One who brings life!

Gracious God, we raise voices hoarse from shouting alleluias,
we sing praises for the wonder of an empty tomb,
we give thanks for the gifts of life, of life that breaks the bonds of death.

We sing songs of praise for the world you have given us, for the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies.

As the spring deepens and the earth thaws, as green breaks through the brown of winter,
we sing songs of hope for new life springing from dead soil, for the promise held in every seed that is sown.

As people of faith, we remember all those who have gone before.

People like Moses and Miriam, leading their people to freedom; like Sarah and Abraham, seeking a new life in a strange land; like Peter and Mary, proclaiming an empty tomb and life beyond the cross.

We remember these and many others, named and unnamed, who have embraced Your life, Your hope, and moved into a new age.

And we trust that in remembering and retelling their stories, we too can take the leap into New Life.

Deep among all those memories we remember the life of a Special One.

Jesus, Child of Mary.

Born of a woman, he grew to adulthood among people who struggled daily for life.

Baptized by John, he embraced the life to which You called him.

He taught and preached a vision of a world where all divisions were broken down, where all had what they needed for abundant life, where the Reign of God was as real on earth as in heaven.

And though the powerful in his world fought back, he stood strong.

When offered a chance to take the easy way he overcame his own fear and instead prayed "yet Thy will be done".

Even though they put him to death you raised him to life, vindicating his vision and bringing hope and healing to the world.

As inheritors of that hope, we join together in the cries that welcomed him into Jerusalem, the cries of hope for the world:

Hosanna! Hosanna! Holy One!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!

REMEMBERING:

As we gather at this table, we remember a story told mere days ago,
and yet also an age ago.

We remember that Jesus gathered with his closest friends in an Upper Room to share the feast of liberation,
And while sharing the ancient story of freedom, he called them to remember the promised freedom of God's Kingdom.

We remember that at that table he took the bread, gave thanks for it, blessed it, broke it and passed it among them saying:

This is my body, broken by and for the world. Whenever you eat it remember me.

Then later he took the cup of wine, blessed it and passed it among them saying:

This is the cup of the New Covenant, sealed in my blood. Whenever you drink it remember me and look toward the fulfillment of God's Kingdom.

And so, we break the bread and pour the cup and we remember with hope.

On this Easter Day we share in the Banquet of Freedom to celebrate Life Victorious!

TRANSFORMING:

God of Life, in the beginning your Spirit hovered over the water,
calling forth life, creating and inspiring.

Send Your Spirit upon we who gather to share this meal, infuse this bread and this juice with the Spirit's power,
As we eat and drink we feel the power of Life Triumphant pulse in our veins, the fire of hope blaze in our hearts, and the joy of the Empty tomb dance in our souls.

Christ who died is now alive!

Alleluia! Amen.

And so, as children of a loving Parent, we pray together the words that Jesus, the Risen Christ, taught his friends

Our Father, who art in heaven...

BREAKING AND POURING:

Here at this table, we break the Bread of Life.

On this Day of Celebration, we pour the Cup of Promise.

These are Gifts from God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Come and eat, for all is now ready.

SHARING OF THE MEAL:

The Bread of Life, food for the journey.

The Cup of Blessing, the promise fulfilled.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER: *(In Unison)*

We have eaten, we have drunk, we have embraced the beginning of the new age.

Grant, O God, that we who have gathered together on this Day of Resurrection, will move on as people of hope, people of life, people of the Kingdom.

May the meal we have shared today revive us in body and soul and energize us as we go out to share the Good News. Christ is Risen! Death is Defeated! Life Wins! Alleluia and Amen!

GOING FORTH WITH GOD

CLOSING HYMN: *Thine is the Glory*

VU 173

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where the body lay.*

Refrain:

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

*Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth: death hath lost its sting. R*

*No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. R*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

CHORAL CLOSING: *Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New*

MV 115 x2

*Behold, behold, I make all things new,
beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold, behold, I make all things new,
my promises true, for I am Christ the way.*

POSTLUDE: Christ the Lord Is Risen Today ~ Payne

¹ Rev. Teri Peterson, *BibleWorm Collective Liturgy*, March 31, 2024

² *Celebrate God's Presence*, Pg 195

³ *Celebrate God's presence*, Pg 196

⁴ *Celebrate God's Presence*, Pg 197

⁵ *Gord Waldie Worship Offerings*, March 29, 2012

Scripture Readers: Narrator – Ann Krause, Mary – Cathy Davis, White Robed One – Ron Naugler

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.



FUNDSCRIP

Deadline for our next gift card order is **Sunday, April 7th**. 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 7th, 2024 FundScrip Order Form](#). **New supporters always welcome!**
Remember: *Shopping is fundraising for St. Paul's.*

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 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!



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.

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

April 1st ~ Easter Monday STAT Holiday ~ Office Closed

April 7th ~ 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 19th**, 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 16th @ 2pm. Please call the church office at 506-458-9452 or email admin@nashwaaksisunited.ca **please use 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