

SAINT ANDREW'S
Presbyterian
and
ST. PAUL'S
United
Ecumenical Shared Ministry

Sept. 21, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.
15th Sunday after Pentecost



Minister

The Rev. Michelle Armstrong

Organist & Choir Director

Sharon Pond

Council Chair

Marc Horncastle

Interim Moderator/Clerk of Session

Rev. Douglas Blaikie

Ministers Emeriti

Rev. Douglas E. Blaikie

Rev. Dr. Basil Lowery

Elder Emeritus

John Astle

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Bulletin submissions:
Noon Wednesday

*We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional
unceded territory of the Wəlastəkwiyik (Wolastoqiyik) Peoples.
This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship"
which Wəlastəkwiyik (Wolastoqiyik), Mi'kmaq, and Passamaquoddy
Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1726.
The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources
but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyik (Wolastoqiyik)
title and established the rules for what was to be
an ongoing relationship between nations.*

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude: *Highland Cathedral*

~ Callahan

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Introit:

'Come, All you People'

MV 2

Come all you people, come and praise your Maker

Come all you people, come and praise your Maker

Come all you people, come and praise your Maker

Come now and worship the Lord.

Call to Worship: *(Responsive)*¹

Pause here and pay attention: this is holy ground!

How can we know if God is present here?

Pause here and listen: God is giving a blessing!

How can we know if the blessing is true?

Pause here...let down your guard and open your heart: The
God of all creation is here.

**Surely the Lord is in this place — this is none
other than the house of God!**

Opening Hymn: *It's a Song of Praise to the Maker* **MV30**

It's a song of praise to the Maker,

the thrush sings high in the tree.

It's a song of praise to the Maker,

the grey whale sings in the sea, (R)

Refrain:

***And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy
cry And sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.***

*It's a call of Life to the Giver,
The waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of Life to the Giver,
When high tides break on the shore, (R)*

*It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the bumblebees sing along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the summer breeze joins the song. (R)*

*It's a chorus of all creation;
it's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation;
a song the universe sings, (R)*

Prayer of Adoration: ²

God our Creator, You sustain your creation as the source of life for every precious thing. You have given us more than we could ever earn or deserve, and so we offer you our love and loyalty, for without you, we would not be.

Receive our worship this day, O God.

Speak to us in the sounds and silence of this hour, and amaze us with your promise of new life revealed in Jesus Christ, and your power at work in us and among us through the Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession: *(Unison)*

God of wonder and welcome,

We confess that too often, we do not see You in the places we are.

Like Jacob, we are restless and distracted—wandering through our days, unaware that You are already here.

We have passed by sacred ground with hurried steps, treated Your creation as ordinary, and overlooked the people You call beloved.

Forgive us for the ways we close our hearts: to mystery, to grace, to the voices of the vulnerable, and even to the dreams You still give in the night.

Awaken us again to the truth: that heaven touches earth, that You meet us in surprising places, and that every moment can become holy when we open our eyes.

Help us to see and proclaim with our ancestors

“Surely God is in this place— and we did not know it.”

Assurance of Pardon

Just as Jacob awoke to discover that he had been resting on holy ground, so too are we awakened to grace:

Not because we have earned it,

but because God delights in meeting us where we are.

So open your hearts and hear this truth: In Christ, we are forgiven.

We are set free to live with eyes wide open to the sacredness of every moment.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Time for All Ages

The story before the Story

After Isaac is sacrificed Abraham decided that he needs to marry a woman from his own peoples. Rebecca gets pregnant and find out that she is going to have twins. The two sons Esau and Jacob. Elder brother gets the inheritance, and the family line is to carry on through him. However, in the case of these twins, Rebecca receives a prophecy that the children will struggle with each other and that the older will serve the younger.

Sung Prayer for Illumination

'Listen, God is Calling'

MV 97

***Listen God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness,
comfort and joy.***

Scripture Readings

Old Testament: Genesis 28:10-17

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Responsive Psalm - 139

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down

and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,

O Lord, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before,

and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning

and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

even there your hand shall lead me,

and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,

and night wraps itself around me,"

even the darkness is not dark to you;

the night is as bright as the day,

for darkness is as light to you.

New Testament: John 1:50-51

Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Praise God for this Holy Word.

Anthem: *Be strong in the Lord*

~ Fettke

Sermon

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Response

I Can Feel You Near Me God

MV 48

*I can feel you near me God I can feel you near
Yes I know you're with me God I feel you here
I can feel you near me God I can feel you near
Yes I know you're with me God Heaven is here.*

Refrain:

*And I'll jump for joy I'm singing Alleluia
Jump for joy for you
I will jump for joy I'm singing Alleluia
Jump for joy for you.*

*I can feel you loving me yes I know you care
God I know you're loving me always everywhere
I can feel you loving me yes I know you care
God I know you're loving me I know you're there. (R)*

Prayers of the People

Presentation of the Offerings

Doxology

'Praise God from whom all Blessings flow'
***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures high and low,
Give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.***

VU 541

Prayer of Dedication²

We bring our gifts to you, O God, in gratitude for all you give us. Bless them and make them a source of healing for a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who sends us out in love. Amen.

GOING OUT TO SERVE

Closing Hymn:

Your hand, O God, has guided

TBoP 477

Commissioning & Benediction

Sung Response

'Teach Me, God, to Wonder'
***Let me, God, Be ready,
Let me be awake
In your world of loving my place take.
Praise to you be given,
Love for you be lived,
Life be celebrated Joy you give.***

TBP 704 Vs 3

Postlude: Dance of the trumpets

~ Bish

¹ BibleWorm Liturgy ² Presbyterian Church in Canada, Worship Planner, Sept 21, 2025

GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME EVERYONE!

May this service be a blessing to you as we continue
to worship together each week, in person and online via Zoom.
Please join us in Hall following the service for refreshments.

Thank you to our Volunteers

Greeters - Mary Hossack and Ron Naugler

Scripture Readers - Barbara Cull-Wilby(Genesis) / Rick Gremm (Psalm #139 and John 1:50-51)

Audio/Visual - Glynis Martin, Beth and Shawn Meister

Coffee Hour/Hospitality – Ann R., Chris, and Mary S.

Counters – Kendall and Heather Wright / ***Tellers*** - Mel and Barb McGuigan

CONNECTING WITH REV. MICHELLE - Rev. Michelle can be reached at either church office number, or on her line (506-455-0639), or by text or call to her cell # (506 259-7602), or via email at michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com Her drop-in office hours are Sundays & Mondays, 1 -2:30 p.m. Appointments are preferred to ensure the time you need to connect.

Can't make it to Sunday Service in person?

Join us via YouTube here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83673756287>

Passcode: 2023

View anytime on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@st.paulsunitedchurch984/videos>

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

Congratulations from the congregation are extended to Hannah Simpson and Kirsten Simpson who have just received St. Paul's Scholarships to support their university studies.

Hannah is now in her fourth year of the Honours Mechatronics Engineering Co-op Program at the University of Waterloo. Kirsten is studying at the University of Ottawa where she is enrolled in the Honours program, Bachelor of Science in Physics (French Immersion Stream). We send best wishes to both recipients.

Scholarships are available for members or adherents of St. Paul's pursuing post-secondary studies. Info. and application details can be found on the St. P's website under "Resources".

SAINT ANDREW'S BREAKFAST 2 GO PROGRAM - The Friday morning pantry needs supplies for our breakfast guests. Donations of canned pasta, canned soup, pudding, Cheeze Whiz, peanut butter, coffee, boost/ensure or other nutritional drinks as well as toothbrushes and paste, shampoo, razors and laundry pods would be welcomed. Thank you for your support.

THE BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

needs canned proteins with pull tops (such as flakes of meat, Chef Boyardee, chili, sardines), chicken/tuna salad & crackers, pudding cups, fruit & apple sauce cups, and small, sweet treats such as mini chocolate bars. Thank you for your ongoing generosity!

THE PANTRY PROGRAM needs white sugar, white rice, juice boxes (apple and orange), individual fruit cups, individual applesauce, macaroni noodles, pancake mix, ketchup, soda crackers, tea, vinegar, mayonnaise, 1 Liter Orange and Apple juices, canned chicken, canned green beans, Mr. Clean, Comet, plastic wrap and aluminum foil. Thanks for supporting us!

The Fall Issue of *Presbyterian Connection* is available in the Narthex and at the Hall entry. The *UCC In Focus* is published in the Broadview Magazine; while subscriptions have been processed through St. Paul's office for this year, Rev Michelle has a copy that you can access; speak to her.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Ecumenical Assembly - Wednesday, September 24th at 5:30 p.m. in the Hall.

Policy Finance and Maintenance Committee - Wednesday, October 8th at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Monday - Friday ~ Community Outreach ~ *Brown Bag Lunch Program* from 10 a.m - 2 p.m.
Tuesdays ~ *Tuesday Morning Ladies Group* meets at 9:30 a.m. ~ *All are welcome!*
Quilting Group ~ **Tuesdays** 10 a. m. - Noon & **Thursdays** 1 - 4 p.m. ~ *All are welcome!*
Wednesdays ~ Community Outreach ~ *Pantry Program* from 9 -11am
Thursdays ~ *Bible Study* 6 - 7p.m. Rev. Michelle's Study ~ *All are Welcome!*
~ Like to sing? Join us for *Choir Practice* at 7 pm. ~ *All are Welcome!*
Fridays ~ Community Outreach ~ *Breakfast 2 Go* from 8:30-10am

NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY ~ Smile! ... we want to see your happy face in the new Saint Andrew's/St. Paul's photo directory!

Over the summer, volunteers reached out by phone and e-mail with an invitation to participate.

 Although we weren't able to connect with everyone, the response was very positive! If you were away, have a new phone number or have changed your email address, we may have missed you. It's not too late to participate; we'd love to hear from you. If you would like to

have your picture in the directory or have any questions, please contact:

For Saint Andrew's: **Rose Carolyn Smith** 506-459-0073

smithl@nbnet.nb.ca

For St. Paul's: **Carole Peacock** 506-452-1016

cpeacock@bellaliant.net

The directory will be produced by Universal Portrait Studios, the company responsible for past directories at both churches. Once we have your name and telephone number, we will forward your info. to Universal. You will receive a call from them during September to book an appointment for your photo.

The photographer will be here with us from Tuesday, October 28 until Saturday, November 1. Times for photo sittings will be from noon to 7:40 p.m. most days, and from 10 a.m. to 5:40 p.m. on Saturday. Photos can be for individuals, couples or family groups. There is no charge for the sitting, and you will receive a free copy of the directory.

You'll be able to see your photo as soon as it has been taken. That's when you can decide if you want to order any prints. The photographer can provide information on photo sizes and prices. And yes, your pictures will be ready in time for Christmas gift-giving!

Chair Yoga - Consider joining us at Christ Church Cathedral, 150 Church Street (wheelchair accessible) on Fridays from 10:15 -11:00 am, with instructor Monique Smith. Its is a gentle way to stretch and strengthen, and is suitable for all ages and mobility levels. Only \$5.00 per session - drop-in for one or all classes - no need to register for the entire term. Questions?

Email office@christchurchcathedral.com

Have you heard of Urban/Rural Rides? We are a registered charity that utilizes volunteer drivers to help seniors and low-income families in the community access medical appointments and local food banks. We are reaching out to you to help us 'spread the word' and in seeking volunteers. If we can receive your support reach us by phone at 506-999-2102. We will really appreciate it, and the community of Fredericton will be really blessed Thanks in advance.