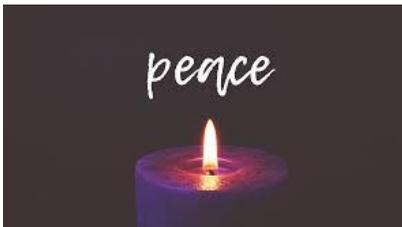


**Saint Andrew's Presbyterian
and
St. Paul's United
Ecumenical Shared Ministry**

**December 7th - 10:30 a.m.
Advent II**



Minister

The Rev. Michelle Armstrong

Organist & Choir Director

Sharon Pond

Council Chair

Marc Horncastle

Clerk of Session

Jean Boudreau

Ministers Emeriti

Rev. Douglas E. Blaikie

Rev. Dr. Basil Lowery

Elder Emeritus

John Astle

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Office Hours:

Mon. - Fri.
2:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Bulletin submissions:
Noon Wednesday**

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wəlastəkwiik (Wolastoqiyik) Peoples.

This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Wəlastəkwiik (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 Wəlastəkwiik (Wolastoqiyik) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Today we light the candle of peace,
remembering that your peace is not quiet resignation
or still silence,
but is brought through the Spirit's lively action,
mending us, enlivening us and making us whole,

**We seek your peace, that breathes new life into
what has grown weary,
has come apart at the seams, or has been
smashed into pieces.**

**We seek the peace found when we align our lives
with your call.**

As we light the candle for Peace, we trust that God
restores, rebuilds and renews.

May this light proclaim that God's peace issues in new life
for all.

**We remember that there is no shadow too deep for
God's life to find us**

**And no situation in which the Spirit's breath
cannot bring us peace.**

Introit:

We light this candle

TLUS 55

***We light this candle for Peace
Await the New life within.***

***May our hearts now live each day,
so Peace can find a way,
so Peace can find a way.***

Opening Prayer¹

*Comfort, comfort you my people
Comfort, comfort you my people;
tell of peace, thus says our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness
Bowed beneath oppression's load.*

*Speak you to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them
tell them that their sins I cover;
and their warfare now is over.*

*For the herald's voice is calling
in the desert far and near;
bidding us to make repentance
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise in meeting
and the hills bow done in greeting.*

*Make you straight what long was crooked;
make the rougher places plain;
let you hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign.
for the glory of the Lord
now o'er earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.*

Prayer of Confession:

We miss the mark, O God, when we think peace is just about a lack of war.

We miss the mark, O God, when we go through life as if faith is a chore or a box to be ticked.

We miss the mark, O God, when we choose to stand on our own, isolated in our own corners, rather than live in community.

O God, you know the truth of what makes life rich and full, and you do things that we think are impossible.

So loving God, forgive us and gather us together; rebuild your body, strong and resilient, ready for action.

Teach us how to look at the world with your eyes, and give us eyes to see new ways forward following your path.

And help us accept your peace, that it may fill our being and overflow into the world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Time for All Ages

Hymn:

*Long ago, prophets knew
Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew
come to make all things new,
bear all people's burden,
freely love and pardon.*

TBoP 121

Refrain:

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
Who will make him welcome?*

*God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.*

R.

*Mary, Hail! Thou afraid,
she believed; she obeyed.
In her womb, Good is laid
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected.*

R.

*Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlehem shines like a star,
stable door stands ajar:
unborn sone of Mary,
Saviour do not tarry!*

Final Refrain:

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
Who will make him welcome?*

Prayer for Illumination²

God of peace and possibility, we turn to your Word to hear your will and your wisdom for our times. Open our hearts and minds by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit so that we might hear what you are saying to the church through Christ, our Prince of Peace.

Special Choral Presentation: 'A Little Advent Music'

~ Shepherd

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done
On Earth as it is in Heaven
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the Glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Presentation of the Offerings

Doxology:

What Child Is This

VU 74 vs 3

***So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh:
Come, one and all, to own him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.***

Prayer of Dedication³ (Unison)

God, our Peace and our Promise, receive our gifts as seeds of gratitude for your gift to us in Christ Jesus. Bless these seeds with growth so that peace will take root in all your people. Use them to empower the bringing of your peace to the world. This we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

GOING OUT TO SERVE

Closing Hymn: *People, Look East*

VU 9

***People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.***

***Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.***

***Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.***

***Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.***

***Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.***

Commissioning & Benediction

Sung Response:

***It Came Upon A Midnight Clear
For lo! The days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
God's promised splendours fling,
and all the world take up the song,
which now the angels sing.***

BOP 148 vs 5

Postlude: Fantasie on Picardy

~ Bedard

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 service today for fellowship and refreshments.

WELCOME to Natalia Delacroix and Fran Robinson, joining us today for 'A Little Advent Music'.

Thank you to our Volunteers today:

Greeters - Ron Naugler, Arlene Arsenault

Audio/Visual - Glynis Martin, Beth and Shawn Meister

Coffee Hour/Fellowship Hosts - Lita Llewellyn and Khris Grant

Counters - Leslee and David Dell / ***Tellers*** - Carole Peacock and Gail Simmons

AED TRAINING DATES

Automated External Defibrillator

St. Pauls' brought with them their AED, and dates have now been established for training on the unit.

This is an easy lifesaving skill to learn, but you want to learn it before you may possibly need it.

Dates that you can attend this short session are tomorrow, **Monday, Dec. 8th at 3:00 p.m.** and also **Sunday, Dec. 14 at 12:15 p.m.** Both sessions will be held in the Hall and everyone who wants to participate is encouraged to attend. ~ Roger Miller

PARKING REMINDERS!!

Winter parking restrictions are in place. Parking is prohibited on the West side of Carleton Street (facing Saint Andrew's) between George and Charlotte Streets until Spring. Please respect the postage signate.

Parking is available in the Bright Minds Early Learning Center lot, on the corner of Carleton & Needham Streets just back of the church. If you can comfortably walk a few extra steps to service, please consider doing so and leave a few more spaces in our lot for those who may need to park closer to our facilities. Thanks!

YOUR PHOTOS taken by Universal Portrait Studios have arrived. If you have not yet picked yours up, you may do so today following service from Joanna at the table by the East door.

A BIG THANK YOU to Barb McGuigen who donated the lovely festive wreaths you see on the Hall doors this morning!

THANK YOU to all who contributed to the success of the Christmas Bazaar and Tea, which took place yesterday. There are still some **CONGRATULATIONS to the Ladies Group and their 'Helper Elves'** for another successful event! **And** items and some goodies for sale (and one last chance to bid on the lovely handmade quilt by Silent Auction). You can get a bit of shopping accomplished today without going near a Mall! Come see our wares at Fellowship time.

MORE ANGELS HAVE ARRIVED ON THE MISSION TREE!

Once again, the SAPC **Mission & Outreach Committee is supporting a family at Liberty Lane for Christmas.** This charitable organization, located in Fredericton, offers Second Stage Housing to female identified individuals (and their children) who have left family violence, and Domestic Violence Outreach services to people of all gender identities. **This year our family is a mom with an 11 year old daughter and a baby girl.**

Items for the mom should be gift wrapped, but we will provide wrapping supplies so the mom can wrap the children's gifts. **There is a sign-up heet at the back of the church to record your chosen angels.** This will ensure that all angels are received before the delivery deadline, Sunday, Dec 14th. If you are unable to bring your angel to the church, during office hours or Sunday service, please contact **Carol Doucette at (506-447-0162).** Thank you in advance from the M & O Comm. for your continuous generosity.

NEEDS OF OUR OUTREACH MINISTRIES

BREAKFAST 2 Go needs the following supplies for our guests: canned milk, canned meat, canned soup, pasta and sauce, pudding, Cheeze Whiz, peanut butter, coffee, Boost/Ensure or other nutritional drinks, and also toilet paper, shampoo, conditioner (2 in 1); razors, laundry pods. We are grateful for you faithful support.

BROWN BAG LUNCH needs canned proteins with pull tops (such as flakes of meat, Chef Boyardee, chili, sardines), chicken/tuna salad & crackers, pudding cups, fruit & applesauce cups, and small, sweet treats such as mini chocolate bars. Thanks for your ongoing generosity to our visitors.

THE PANTRY needs these items: vinegar, salt, ketchup, white rice, cookies and dish soap. Thank you for helping us take good care for our clients.

Do you have an unused (by you) but still usable cell phone? The offices sometimes gets requests from clients who drop by and have lost theirs. If your old one is no longer of use to you, please consider donating it to the office (with charging cord, if possible) so we can have some on hand if needed. Thanks in advance!

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, Dec. 10

1:30 p.m. – Mission & Outreach meeting

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. – Council meets in the Church

COFFEE / FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

Dec. 14 - The Simpsons

Dec. 21 - Beth & Shawn Meister

Dec. 28 - Volunteers needed.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Monday - Friday ~ Community Outreach ~ **Brown Bag Lunch Program**

Tuesdays ~ **Ladies Group**, 9:30 a.m. ~ *All are welcome!*

Tuesdays & Thursdays ~ **Quilting Group**, 1- 4 p.m. ~ *All are welcome!*

Wednesdays ~ Community Outreach ~ **Pantry Program**

Thursdays ~ **Bible Study**, 6 - 7 p.m. - Rev. Michelle's Study ~ *All are Welcome!*

~ **Choir Practice**, 7 - 8 p.m. ~ *All are Welcome!*

Fridays ~ Community Outreach ~ **Breakfast 2 Go**, 8:30 -10 am

Can't make it to Sunday Service in person?

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

Passcode: 2023

View anytime on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@st.paulsunitedchurch984/videos>

CONNECTING WITH REV. MICHELLE

Rev. Michelle can be reached at either office number: **(506) 455-8220** or **(506) 458-1183**, on her direct office line: **(506) 455-0639**, or by text or call 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.

A new round of scam emails, this time from our Organist Sharon Pond, requesting help with the purchase of gift cards, should be ignored/deleted, as with any such request from Rev. Michelle.

OUT AND ABOUT You are invited to attend the **2025 Advent Series of Music and Message 'Finding the Light of Christmas – In the Darkness of December'** at Christ Church Parish Church - Wednesdays at 12:10 p.m.

Dec. 10 ~ Music: *The Elm City String Quartet* - Messenger: *Canon Albert Snelgrove* ~

Dec. 17 ~ *Trio Carols of the Season (piano, voice, clarinet)* - Messenger: *Bishop Bill Hockin* ~

Listed below are some more Advent & Christmas activities ~ see the bulletin board inside the Hall

Teas

Friday, Dec. 12, 2-4 p.m. ~ *Christmas Treasures Tea* ~ Nashwaaksis United

Concerts

Tue. Dec. 9, 7 p.m. ~ *Fredericton Ladies Choir Annual Christmas Concert* ~ St. Dunstan's

Tue. Dec 16, 7 p.m. ~ *Handel's Messiah Part 1 & Carols of the Nativity* ~ CC Parish Church