

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

**December 14<sup>th</sup> - 10:30 a.m.  
Advent 3**



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**

**Our Address**

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**Office Hours:**

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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 Wəlastəkwiyyik (Wolastoqiyik) Peoples.*

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

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**Welcome & Announcements**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

On this third Sunday of Advent, we light a candle for Joy. It is in God that we find true joy, the everlasting spring, that is not fleeting but flows deep in our hearts.

**We are in awe of our God, who invites all who  
hunger and thirst to be filled,  
and sustains us with the living water of Christ,  
that will never run dry.**

**We rejoice in the God who sustains life with  
abundance, mercy and delight.**

As we light the candle of Joy, we celebrate God’s generous provision.

*(Candle is lit.)*

May this light awaken in us deep and enduring joy,  
**as we relish and find true delight in the living  
Word who gives us salvation.**

**Introit:**

*‘We light this candle’*

**TLUS 55**

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

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

**Opening Prayer:**

We seek you today, Lord God, trusting that you are near. We come to the feast you prepare — a delight for the senses, nourishment for the soul. Rain down your word, water all creation with your purpose, that together we may flourish and go out in your joy. **Amen.**

*'Come Thou Long Expected Jesus'  
Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.*

*Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver;  
born a child and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever;  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.*

***Prayer of Confession: <sup>1</sup>***

Why do we spend our money, time and energy on things that do not satisfy, O God?  
You have shown us what is good,  
and yet we stuff ourselves with more and more things.  
We confess that we are over-full with things we don't need.  
We stuff our space with material things that we think will make us happy.  
We cast judgement on others, thinking it will make us feel better about ourselves.  
We create schedules to capture every opportunity,  
worried that we might miss out on something great.  
We accumulate abundant savings for a rainy day,  
that we never plan to share and likely will never use.  
Our lives are so full we have no room for you to satisfy our hunger.  
In our fullness and hubris, we do not spend the time to listen deeply to what is truly  
needed, so we end up making assumptions about how to respond quickly.  
In our rushing, tend to grab ahold of the first truth we hear, we think we understand,  
when ultimately all we have is a few crumbs of knowledge.  
Forgive us for the crowded lives we lead and help us clear space that we may truly  
know your way of joy and generosity. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon***

## **PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD**

***Time for All Ages***

***Special Christmas Music***

***Story before the Story***

***Prayer for Understanding*<sup>2</sup>**

God of justice and joy, 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 Friend and Saviour.

***Scripture Readings:***

**Isaiah 55:1-13**

**Voice 1:** Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters;  
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread  
and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

**Voice 2:** Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;  
let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**Voice 1:** For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the Sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

**Voice 2:** For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

**John 4:13-14**

Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God.**

**Anthem:** *'All on a Silent Night'*

~ Slagle Mayo

**Sermon**

~ Rev. Michelle

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn of Response:**

*'Canticle of Turning'*

**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 shame,  
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*

### ***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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
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.*

***[Refrain:]***

*This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

#### ***Prayer of Dedication***<sup>3</sup> *(Unison)*

O God, you are our Joy, and you inspire us to give. Receive our gifts as seeds of gratitude for your gift to us in Christ Jesus. Bless these seeds with growth so that joy will blossom for all your people. May joy of knowledge of you fill people depleted by challenges, and in places overwhelmed by scarcity. Through your power may these gifts empower us to live your justice and joy, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **GOING OUT TO SERVE**

**Closing Hymn:**

*"You Shall Go out with Joy"*

**VU 884**

***You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;  
there'll be shouts to joy, and all the trees of the field  
will clap, will clap their hands!***

***And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap)  
the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap)  
the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap)  
while you go out with joy.***

**Commissioning & Benediction**

**Sung Response:**

*It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*

**BOP 148 vs 5**

***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.***

**Postlude:** *'Postlude on Gloria'*

*~ Payne*

<sup>1</sup> *Adapt. Bibleworm Liturgy 2025-12-14;* <sup>2</sup> *PCC Worship Planner 2025.12.14 ;* <sup>3</sup> *Adapt. PCC Worship Planner 2025.12.14*

### ***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.***

### **Thank you to our Volunteers today:**

**Greeters** - Muriel Aiken, Mary Hossack, Lita Llewellyn

**Advent Candle Lighting** - Brad, Erin and Brian Webb

**Scripture Readers** -

Barbara Cull-Wilby (Voice 1, Rose Carolyn Smith (Voice 2), Deborah West (Gospel)

**Audio/Visual** - Glynis Martin, Beth and Shawn Meister

**Coffee Hour/Fellowship Hosts** - The Simpsons

**Counters** - Leslee and David Dell / **Tellers** - Laura Steeves and Alan Thorne

**A correction to a notice last Sunday:** It was Nancy McGarvie who donated the two lovely evergreen wreaths for our Hall doors this year. **Thank you, Nancy**, for your thoughtful gift. The wreaths offer a silent and lovely festive greeting to all who visit Saint A's and St. P's.

**THE MISSION & OUTREACH** Angels, along with your selected item for our sponsored family from Liberty Lane, **are due back today**. Carole Peacock will pick up any that are not here yet; you can reach her at (506) 452-1016. Thank you for providing a joyful Christmas to this family.

**UNIVERSAL PORTRAIT STUDIOS** photo orders - There are still 14 sets of photos to be picked up at the table by the East door. If you have not picked yours up, please do so today.

**BE PREPARED IN AN EMERGENCY! Automated External Defibrillator (AED)  
Training Session TODAY at 12:15 p.m. in the Hall .**

In this short session a certified First Aid and AED instructor will show us how to effectively use the AED unit found in the Hall entryway (on the wall just to the right of the buffet table) and also answer any questions you may have about its use. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend; effective use of an AED can save a life!

**2026 Offering Envelopes** for **Saint Andrew's** are available for pick up this morning at the back of the Sanctuary. If you would like to be assigned an envelope number, please contact **Joanna** in Saint Andrew's Office at **(506) 455.8220** or [sapcfred@gmail.com](mailto:sapcfred@gmail.com).

**2026 Offering Envelopes** for **St. Paul's** will be available for pick up as soon as they arrive. If you would like to be assigned an envelope number, please contact **Erin** in St. Paul's office at (506) 458-1183 or [stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com) .

**THE NEEDS OF OUR OUTREACH MINISTRIES CONTINUE.....**

**BREAKFAST 2 GO** needs the following: canned milk, canned meat, canned soup, pasta and sauce, pudding cups, Cheeze Whiz, peanut butter, conditioner (or 2 in 1), razors, and laundry pods. We are grateful for your faithful support of our outreach each coffee, Boost/Ensure or other nutritional drinks, and also toilet paper, shampoo, Friday.

**BROWN BAG LUNCHES** 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 those who visit us during the week.

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

**Presbyterian Connection** (Winter 2025) is available today at the back of the church and on the hall entry table. **See page 13** for an article by Rev. Jacqueline Cleland, formerly of Saint Andrew's Church), who is now engaged in full time ministry in Sooke, British Columbia.

## **UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Sunday , Dec 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m. - Longest Night of the Year / Blue Christmas service**

**Wednesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m - Christmas Eve services**

**Sunday, Dec. 28 – Regular service at 10:30 a.m.**

### **SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Dec. 21 - Beth & Shawn Meister**

**Dec. 28 - Volunteers needed.**

*We also need to fill in the slots for Sundays in January.*

*You will find the sign-up sheet on the Hall entry bulletin board.*

*Thank you for supporting this ministry of hospitality!*

## **ONGOING CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- Monday - Friday** ~ **Brown Bag Lunch Program - Community Outreach**  
**Tuesdays** ~ **Ladies Group, 9:30 a.m. - All are welcome!!**  
**Tuesdays & Thursdays** ~ **Quilting Group, 1 - 4 p.m. - All are welcome!**  
**Wednesdays** ~ **Pantry Program - Community Outreach**  
**Thursdays** ~ **Bible Study, 6-7 p.m., Rev. Michelle's Study - All welcome!**  
~ **Choir Practice, 7-8 p.m. ~ All are welcome!**  
**Fridays** ~ **Breakfast 2 Go, 9-10:30 a.m. - Community Outreach**

### **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 posted signage to avoid a parking ticket.

**Parking is available** in the **Bright Minds Early Learning Center** lot at **486 Needham St.** (corner of Carleton and Needham Streets). If you can comfortably walk a few extra steps to service, please consider doing so, and leave a few more spaces in our parking lot for those who may need to park closer to our facilities.

### **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](mailto: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 Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83673756287> Passcode: **2023**

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