

**Saint Andrew's (Presbyterian) &
St. Paul's (United)
Ecumenical Shared Ministry**

**December 21th – 10:30 a.m.
Advent 4**



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:

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

Prelude

Advent Candle Lighting & Call to Worship

We have come to the fourth Sunday in Advent, our waiting is nearly over. Soon the Word becomes flesh, and a new light will shine in the sky, all because of Love.

In love God made the world, for love Christ gave all, with love we come today trusting that God, full of grace and truth, renews all things.

As we light the candle of love, let us welcome the love that enlivens creation, renews our spirits and draws us into Christ's light

(candle is lit)

May this light renew us, enliven us and prepare us to receive Christ with open hearts.

We open ourselves to God's light that it may shine upon us and within us, that we may overflow with your love.

Introit:

We light this Candle

TLUS 55

We light this candle for love.

Await the new life within

May our hearts now live each day,

So love can find a way.

So love can find a way.

Open Hymn: Angels from the Realms of Glory TBoP 146

Prayer of Adoration¹

Prayer of Confession¹

Lord of love,
We confess we sometimes find your love daunting.
You called Joseph to honour his love for Mary,
Even when custom called him to break his engagement.
We confess custom has a hold on us too,
And challenging expectations for love's sake makes us nervous.
You call us to love our neighbour,
but we resist your call if our neighbour does not please us.
You call us to love our enemies too,
but that seems impossible in these contentious times.
Forgive us for loving only in the safest situations.
Dare us to love as Jesus loved, so he will be born joyfully in us

Assurance of Pardon

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Time for All Ages

Special Christmas Music

Story before the Story

Prayer of Illumination¹

God of life and love, 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, your Love Incarnate

Scripture Readings

Psalm 130:5-8 (responsive)

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord

**more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.**

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

**For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.**

It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

John 1:1-18

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

Anthem

Sermon

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Response: 'All Earth is waiting'

VU 5

Prayer of People

The Lord's Prayer

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.

**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 (Unison)

**In these days of waiting, O God, as Mary grew Jesus in her womb, so grow in us
a spirit of generosity. Bring to birth within us a passion for justice and peace
that is rooted in your love. As we share these gifts, which you have entrusted to**

us, so may your dream for the world come closer to fulfillment. May your love be bolstered and find new ways to break in to the world by what we have to give. We pray in the Jesus name. Amen

GOING OUT TO SERVE

Closing Hymn: 'Will you come and see the light'

VU 96

Commissioning and Benediction:

Sung Response: 'It Came Upon A Midnight Clear'

BOP 148 vs5

Postlude

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: (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.

Thank you to our Volunteers today

Greeters – Margie Penney & Lita Llewellyn

Audio/Visual – Beth and Shawn Meister

Readers – Cathy Davis, Rick Gremm and Sandra Steeves

Counters – David & Leslee Dell / **Tellers** – Laura Steeves & Alan Thorne

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.