

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

**December 24th – 7 p.m.
Christmas Eve**



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

512 Charlotte Street
Fredericton, NB E3B 1M2

Office Administrators

Erin Webb

(506) 458-1183

stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Tues./Wed./Thurs.

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Joanna Price

(506) 455-8220

sapcfred@gmail.com

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.

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

Prelude

Acknowledgement of Place

Opening Hymn: Crown Him with many crowns BOP 274

Welcome

HOPE

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-3

Reflection

Call to Worship: (Responsive)

In a world longing for peace,

God brings the first spark of hope.

Into weary hearts and crowded days,

God whispers, “Do not fear – I am with you”

Into the night of waiting,

A light begins to grow.

Come, let us walk toward hope together.

We open our hearts to the Light that is coming.

Lighting of the Hope Candle

Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

VU 652

PEACE

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:4-5

Reflection

Prayer

Lighting of the Peace Candle: *(Responsive)*

Now we light the second candle, the Candle of Peace

As its flame joins the first, we remember that God's peace is not the fragile peace of the world.

It is a peace that steadies us,

a peace that holds us,

a peace that travels with us

on every road we take.

Hymn: *Once in a Royal David's City*

TBoP 166 vs 1-3

JOY

Scripture Reading: *Luke 2:6-7*

Reflection

Lighting of the Joy Candle: *(Responsive)*

In this morning we light the third candle, the Candle of Joy.

Its pink candle reminds us that joy is not something we have to earn.

It is God's gift, a gift that rises even in uncertainty,

That shines even in the shadows, and fills the quiet places with warmth.

Hymn: *Away in a Manger*

TBoP 149

LOVE

Scripture Reading: *Luke 2:8-12*

Reflection

Lighting of the Love Candle: *(Responsive)*

And now we light the fourth candle, the Candle of Love

Its flame reminds us that God's love reaches farther than fear,

shines brighter than uncertainty,

and includes every person, every story, every heart.

Hymn: *Angels we have heard on High*

VU 38 vs 1-2

CHRIST'S LIGHT

Scripture Reading: *Luke 2:13-18*

Reflection

Lighting of the Christ Candle: (Responsive)

The wait is over. We gather around the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, each one reminding us of the gifts God had already placed in our lives.

**We give thanks for Hope that lifts us, Peace that steadies us,
Joy that surprises us, and Love that holds us fast.**

And now we welcome the Light at the centre of it all, the Light that was promised, the Light that came among us, the Light that still shines.

**Christ is born, the fullness of Hope, the giver of Peace, the source of Joy,
the heart of Love.**

As we light the Christ Candle, we remember that Christ embodies every promise of God, and so much more than we can name.

May His light shine on us, and through us, this night and always.

Special Music: Hallelujah Chorus on Organ

Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

TBoP 139

Invitation of Offering

Offertory Dedication Hymn:

What Child is This?

VU 74 vs3

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)

Generous God, on this holy night, You have given us Your very heart: the gift of Christ, the gift of light, the gift of hope that will not fade. As we offer what we can this night, receive our gifts, and use them to shine Your light where it is most needed. Bless what we give, bless how we live, and shape us into people who carry Christ's love with courage and compassion. Amen.

Christmas Communion Liturgy: (see insert)

Sharing the light

Hymn: Silent Night

VU 67

Commissioning: *(Responsive)*

On this holy night, we have heard the story again, the story of angels and shepherds, of wonder and courage, of God's love born among us.

We go now carrying that story in our hearts and Christ's light in our lives.

We have held the light in our hands. Now we carry it into the world, into places longing for hope, peace, joy and love.

We go with gratitude and wonder, ready to share the light we have received.

Go in peace. Christ is born. Love has come. The Light shines.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Choral Closing:

Joy to the World

VU 59

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 – Beth and Shawn Meister

Audio/Visual – Glynis Martin, Beth and Shawn Meister

Counters – David Dell / **Tellers** – Carole Peacock & Gail Simmons

MERRY CHRISTMAS 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).