

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

March 1, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.

Lent II



Minister

The Rev. Michelle Armstrong

Organist & Choir Director

Dr. Sharon Pond

Clerk of Session

Jean Boudreau

Council Chair

Vacant

Ministers Emeriti

Rev. Douglas E. Blaikie

Rev. Dr. Basil Lowery

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Erin Webb & Melissa Howard

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Our Address

512 Charlotte Street

Fredericton, NB E3B 1M2

Bulletin submissions:

Wednesday by Noon

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.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude: 'Ave Verum'

~ Mozart

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Introit:

'Healer of Our Every Ill'

VU 619

***Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.***

Call to Worship: ¹ (Responsive)

Jesus says: I am the resurrection and the life.

**And so we come seeking possibilities
we don't yet know how to name.**

Jesus says: You will see the glory of God.

And so we look, through all around seems bleak.

Jesus says: Unbind him and let him go.

And so we take our part in a new future.

In worship we come, giving thanks, finding hope, gathering strength for life with our living Lord

**And so we worship the one who sees us as,
offering us his heart and guides us to life.**

Opening Prayer: ²

Holy God, Creator of Life, we adore You for the tenderness of Your Son. We praise the Saviour who wept at the tomb of His Friend, showing us that You are not distant from our grief but enter into our sorrows with divine empathy. We worship You as the one who hears our cries and meets us in our deepest places of loss.

Almighty Lord, we stand in awe of Your voice – the same voice that commanded, “Lazarus, come out!” and was obeyed by the grave itself. We adore You as the one who unbinds us from the chains of our past and leads us into the brightness of a new day. You are the victor over fear, the champion over death, and the source of our eternal home.

WE praise You, for even in the presence of death, You reveal Your glory. We worship you for Your perfect timing and Your power to turn every ending into a beginning. Fill this house with Your Spirit, that we might see Your glory today and live as Your resurrected people.

To the One who is the resurrection and the Life, be all honour, power and praise, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn:

'Spirit of the Living God'

TBoP 400

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

***Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind; make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.***

Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.

Prayer of Confession: ² *(Responsive)*

Gracious God, you are the Resurrection and the Life, yet we confess that we often live as those without hope. We stand before the “tombs” of our lives- our failures, our grief, and our brokenness- and we believe the stone can never be moved.

Forgive us, Lord, for our unbelief.

Like Martha and Mary, we often limit Your power to the past or the distant future. We say, “If only you had been here,” or “I know they will rise on the last day,” while forgetting that You are present and powerful now.

Forgive us, Lord, for doubting Your timing and Your presence

Jesus, You wept at the tomb of Your friend, showing us Your heart for our suffering. We confess that we often harden our hearts to the pain of others, or we look for someone to blame rather than seeking Your glory in the midst of the trial.

Lord, have mercy and soften our hearts.

You call us to “come out” of the darkness, yet we often cling to our “grave clothes” – the old habits, past shames and lingering fears -that keep us bound and hidden from Your light.

Unbind us, O God, and set us free.

(Moment of silence for personal confession)

Jesus said “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” May we let go of our “stench” of despair and trust in the One who brings life from death.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus, and wake us from our sleep.

Assurance of Pardon

Time for All ages

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Grounding and Presentation of Candidate for Baptism

Baptism is a gift from God ...

[...]

Who comes to receive the gift of baptism?

Elder: On behalf of the session of Saint Andrew's Presbyterian,
I present Mokarrameh Pudineh Moarref "Puneh"
to receive the sacrament of baptism.

Puneh, do you desire to be baptized?

I do.

Renunciation and Affirmation

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God
who has been faithful to us in all generations,
do you turn away from sin,
renounce all evil powers in the world
which rebel against God
or oppose God's rule of justice and love?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin which separate you from the love of God?

I renounce them.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ,
accepting him as Lord and Saviour,
trusting in his grace and love?

I do.

Do you desire, in dependence on the Holy Spirit,
to mature as a Christian in the church,
to seek the guidance of Christ as you listen for his Word,
to celebrate his death and life at the table he provides,
and to engage in his mission to the world?

I do.

Congregational Commitment

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ,
promise to guide and nurture Punah
by word and deed,
with love and in prayer,
encouraging her to follow the way of Christ
and to be a faithful member of his church?

We do.

Profession of Faith

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O gracious God,

[...]

Act of Baptism in the name of the Triune God

Pour out your Spirit upon this child of yours
So That Puneh may have power to do your will
and continue forever as a servant of Christ
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honour and glory now and forever. **Amen.**

Puneh, I baptize you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

May the Spirit of God dwell in you
and uphold you, now and forever. **Amen.**

Declaration and Welcome

See what love God has given us
that we should be called the children of God;
and that is what we are. *I John 3:1*
Puneh, you are now received by Christ's appointment
into the holy, catholic church.
Through baptism, God has made you
A member of the household of God
to share with Christ in the priesthood of all believers.
Remember your baptism and give thanks.
Be one with us in the church.

Come, grow with us into Christ who is our head.
"There is one body and one Spirit,
just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of us all,
who is above all and through all and in all." Eph. 4:4-6
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord be kind and gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favour
and give you peace. Amen. Num. 6:24-26

Hymn:

'I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry'

VU 644

*I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.*

*I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.*

*When you heard the wonder of the word, I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.*

*If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk 'till rising sun.*

*In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.*

*When the evening gently closes in, and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.*

*I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Prayer of Illumination: ³ *(Unison):*

God of Wisdom, we turn to Scripture to listen and learn. Send your Holy Spirit to help us listen carefully so that we hear what we have not heard before and learn to follow Christ with deeper understanding and renewed commitment. Amen.

Scripture: John 11:1-44

Narrator: Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said,

Jesus: "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples,

Jesus: "Let us go to Judea again."

Narrator: The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered,

Jesus: "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them."

Narrator: After saying this, he told them,

Jesus: "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him."

Narrator: The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly,

Jesus: "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

Narrator: Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her,

Jesus: “Your brother will rise again.”

Narrator: Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her,

Jesus: “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

Narrator: She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said,

Jesus: “Where have you laid him?”

Narrator: They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said,

Jesus: “Take away the stone.”

Narrator: Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her,

Jesus: “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”

Narrator: So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said,

Jesus: “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”

Narrator: When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice,

Jesus: “Lazarus, come out!”

Narrator: The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them,

Jesus: “Unbind him, and let him go.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Response:

'Now quit your care'

TBOP 191, vs. 1-3, 5

*Now quit your care and anxious fear and worry,
for schemes are vain and fretting brings no gain.*

Lent calls to prayer, to trust and dedication;

God brings new beauty nigh;

reply, reply, reply with love to love most high;

reply, reply, reply with love to love most high.

"For is not this the fast that I have chosen,"

the prophet spoke, "to shatter every yoke,

of wickedness the grievous bonds to loosen,

oppression put to flight,

to fight, to fight, to fight till every wrong's set right,

to fight, to fight, to fight till every wrong's set right."

*Then shall your light break forth as does the morning;
your health shall spring, the friends you make shall bring*

God's glory bright, your way through life adorning;

and love shall be the prize.

Arise, arise, arise! and make a paradise;

Arise, arise, arise! and make a paradise!

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology

'Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow'

VU 541

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise God, all creatures high and low,

Praise God in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word and Spirit One.

Prayer of Dedication: ³ (Unison)

Lord God, we offer our gifts in thanksgiving for all the goodness you provide. Bless our gifts and our lives so that we become a source of goodness for others, in the name of Christ, our strength and our hope. Amen.

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
and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.

WALKING TOGETHER IN THE WAY

Hymn:

'We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection'

VU 586

***We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
we'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed;
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of new life in Christ.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story
including all in circles of our love.***

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing:

'Throughout these Lenten Days and Nights'

VU 108, Vs. 5

***So let us choose the path of one
who wore, for us, the crown of thorn,
and slept in death, that we might wake
to life on Resurrection Morn!***

Postlude: 'Praise the Lord with the Drum and Cymbals'

~ Karg- Elert

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.

Please join us in the Hall following service for refreshments and fellowship.

Thank you to our Volunteers today:

Greeters - Sandra and Ron Steeves

Scripture Readers - Rick Gremm (Jesus), Barbara Cull Wilby (Narrator)

Audio/Visual - Glynis Martin, Beth and Shawn Meister

Counters - Colleen Watson and assistant / ***Tellers*** - Carole Peacock and Gail Simmons

Fellowship & Refreshments Host - Joanna Price

Change in hours - Saint Andrew's Church office

Joanna will now be working **Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.** Erin will continue to staff St. Paul's office on Wednesdays, 10 a.m – 1 p.m. If you need to meet with Melissa, please contact her at stpauls224@gmail.com to arrange a time that is convenient for you.

TAX RECEIPTS for Saint Andrew's and St. Paul's are available today.

Please pick yours up following service. For those who worship online and would like to pick yours up at the offices next week, ***please call or email us today,*** otherwise those remaining will be mailed Monday afternoon.

CURRENT NEEDS OF OUR OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The Pantry: Cheeze Whiz; Jello; tuna; spaghetti; salt; toothbrushes.

Brown Bag Lunches: juice boxes.

Breakfast 2 Go: Cheese Whiz; peanut butter; instant coffee; mini cereal boxes; TP.

All donations are appreciated!

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Worship Committee meets in the Hall tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

ONGOING CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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

Tues. & Thurs. ~ ***Quilting Group, Parlour – 1 - 4 p.m. ~ All are welcome!***

Wednesdays ~ ***Pantry Program, Basement – 9 -11 a.m.***

~ ***Brown Bag Lunch Program, St. Paul's Office – 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.***

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

~ ***Choir Practice, Hall – 7 - 8 p.m. ~ All are welcome!***

Fridays ~ ***Breakfast 2 Go, Hall entrance – 9 - 10:30 a.m.***

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

March 8 - Lois Paterson and Barb McGuigan

March 15 - The Simpsons

March 22 - *Volunteers needed!*

March 29 - Kim Keetch, Beth and Shawn Meister

Sign up sheet for volunteers is on the bulletin board in the Hall entry.

Thank you for supporting this ministry of hospitality!

Annual World Day of Prayer Services in the Fredericton Area

Theme - I Will Give You Rest: Come.” (Matthew 11:28-30).

The Women of Nigeria have prepared the service this year.

The Women’s Inter-Church Council of Fredericton invites you to the following services:

Southside: **Friday, March 6, at 2:00 p.m.** at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church,
2130 Route 102, Lincoln. Rain Date: *Friday, March 13 at 2:00 p.m.*

Northside: **Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 p.m.** at St. John’s Anglican Church,
75 Main Street, Fredericton. Rain Date: *Sunday, March 15 at 2:00 p.m.*

Refreshment and Fellowship following the services.

~ All are welcome, women and men. ~

Na’sis United Special Events Committee is planning “An Artful Tea” - 2:00 - 4:00 pm **Friday, March 20th**. Enjoy afternoon tea, sweets and sandwiches while viewing artwork displays, with some for sale, by students of Kathy’s Kreative Art Groups. All are welcome.

CAMP GEDDIE is now seeking staff for the 2026 summer season. We welcome anyone and everyone above the age of sixteen to apply on the many positions being offered. It runs this year from July 2 until August 14. Campers may also register at this time according to the available specified dates and age group. For more information, please visit the website at campgeddie.ca. We are looking forward to an excellent summer experience of faith and fun for all involved.

Parking for Sunday Service

If our lot is full,
extra spaces are available at
Bright Minds Early Learning Centre,
486 Needham Street,
a 2 min. walk out Carleton Street
to the West door of the church.

Reserved parking spaces in our lot for the
Minister and Organist
are to be available to them 24/7.

Thank you
for your understanding and cooperation.

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**
by text or call to her cell: **(506) 259-7602**
or by email at

michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com

or during her ‘drop in’ office hours:

Sunday and Monday, 1 -2:30 pm

(Pre-booked 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>