

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

**March 15, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.
Lent IV**



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The Rev. Michelle Armstrong

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Jean Boudreau

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Bulletin submissions:
Wednesday by Noon

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

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

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude: 'I Surrender All' ~ arr. Berry
'I Surrender All' ~ arr. Ham

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)

Inside and outside,
the story unfolds.
In the dark back rooms and in the public eye,
the story unfolds.
In human hearts and imperial schemes,
the story unfolds.
In probing questions and flickering shadows,
the story unfolds.
And we watch, finding ourselves undone
as the story unfolds,
**so we come seeking God's presence and strength
as the story unfolds.**

Opening Prayer ²

Hymn:

'Throughout these Lenten days and nights'

TBoP 196 vs. 1-4

***Throughout these Lenten days and nights we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light, we live in hope till Easter day.***

***The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God, who found in weakness greater power,
embraces us, though lost and flawed, and leads us to his rising hour.***

***We bear the silence, cross, and pain of human burdens, human strife,
while sisters, brothers help sustain our courage till the feast of life.***

***And though the road is hard and steep, the Spirit ever calls us on
through Calvary's dying, dark and deep, until we see the coming dawn.***

Prayer of Confession: ³ *(Responsive)*

Faithful and loving God,

in the quiet of this moment we come before you honestly.

In the garden, when the moment of truth arrived,

many who loved you could not stand beside you.

God of mercy, we recognize ourselves in their story.

**Like Judas, we sometimes trade faithfulness
for comfort, approval, or gain.**

**Like Peter, we promise courage
but retreat when faith becomes costly.**

**Like the disciples who fled,
we turn away when the path of love is difficult.**

We confess the times we deny you

with our silence, our choices, and our fears.

Yet even in the darkness of that night,

Jesus stood with courage and truth.

When others hid, he stepped forward.

When questioned, he spoke honestly.

When abandoned, he remained faithful to your way.

**Forgive us, O God,
for the ways we fall short of such faithfulness.**

**Strengthen us with your grace
so that when we face moments of decision,
we may choose courage over fear,
truth over convenience,
and love over self-protection.**

**Renew us in your mercy,
and help us follow Christ more faithfully
in the days ahead.**

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: Even in the night of betrayal and denial, Jesus remained faithful to God's love. That same mercy meets us today—offering forgiveness and a new beginning. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen.**

Time for the Young and the Young at Heart

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

The Story Before the Story:

Jesus has just finished his teachings at the last supper with the disciples. This is a rich dialogue, so I encourage you to read this section of text while they are at the table learning with Jesus, called the farewell discourse by biblical scholars. In this Jesus gives the New Commandment to Love one another as I, Jesus himself has loved. As the discussion closes Jesus tells Peter that he will that the cock will crow three times before you will deny me. It is after that that we pick up this text, and things move into the text that we often look at only on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. But the narrative Lectionary slows down and explores Holy Week more fully.

Prayer of Illumination: *(Unison):*

**God of light and love, in coming among us you bring us new vision and hope.
As we hear our Scripture, send your Spirit to illumine your action and a path for us, as the biblical story intensifies and moves closer to the cross. Amen.**

Scripture: John 18:1-27

Reader 1: After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place because Jesus often met there with his disciples.

So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these people go."

This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me."

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Reader 2: Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in.

The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.”

When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” Jesus answered, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?” Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, “You are not also one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

This is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: *'Amazing Grace'*

~ Clarke

Message

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of Response:

'Will you come and follow me?'

TBoP 634

Will you come and follow me If I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know And never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown, Will you let my name be known,

Will you let my life be grown In you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind If I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind And never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare Should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer pray'r In you and you in me?

*Will you let the blinded see If I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free And never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, And do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean In you and you in me?*

*Will you love the you' you hide If I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside And never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found To reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound In you and you in me?*

*Lord, your summons echoes true When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you And never be the same.
In your company I'll go Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow In you and you in me.*

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology

*'Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow'
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.*

VU 541

Prayer of Dedication: ⁴ (Unison)

Gracious God,
bless and transform all that we offer:
our faltering steps,
our brokenness,
our hope, our risking, our hearts.
Also, take our offerings given from our accumulated wealth.
With your blessings, let all we offer reflect your Glory and build your kingdom.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer: (Unison)

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, and the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

WALKING TOGETHER IN THE WAY

Hymn:

'In Suffering Love'

TBoP 696

***In suffering love the thread of life
is woven through our care,
for God is with us, not alone
our pain and toil we bear.***

***There is a rock, a place secure
within the storm's cold blast;
concealed within the suffering night
God's covenant stands fast.***

***In love's deep womb our fears are held;
there God's rich tears are sown
and bring to birth, in hope newborn,
the strength to journey on.***

***Now to our hearts your joy commit,
into our hands your pain;
so send us out to touch the world
with blessings in your name.***

***In suffering love our God comes now,
hope's vision born in gloom;
with tears and laughter shared and blessed
the desert yet will bloom.***

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing:

***'Throughout these Lenten Days and Nights'
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!***

VU 108, Vs. 5

Postlude: *'Toccata on Amazing Grace'*

~ Pardini

¹ - Adapted from Teri Peterson BibleWorm Liturgy, March 8, 2026; ² - Teri Peterson BibleWorm Liturgy, March 8, 2026; ³ - Developed in discussion with Chat GPT; ⁴ - Adapted from Celebrate God's Presence prayer # 5R001

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 - Mary Stickers, Joanna Price

Scripture Reader - David Charters, Sandra Steeves

Audio/Visual - Glynis Martin, Beth and Shawn Meister

Counters - Colleen Watson and assistant / ***Tellers*** - Carole Peacock and Bill Paterson

Fellowship & Refreshments Hosts - The Simpsons

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

March 22 - The Sunday School

March 29 - Kim Keetch, Beth and Shawn Meister

April 5 - Worship Committee

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

Thank you for your ongoing support of our ministry of hospitality.

CURRENT NEEDS OF OUR OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The Pantry: Tomatoes, milk, granola bars, cake mix. Icing, mustard, relish.

Brown Bag Lunches: fruit cups, pudding cups.

Breakfast 2 Go: Canned meat and fish; Cheez Whiz; peanut butter;
instant coffee; individual cereal boxes; TP.

All donations are appreciated!

TODAY at 3:00 p.m. at Oromocto United Church – **Lintuhtine Singers** present their annual **St. Paddy's Day Fun Concert**, directed by Helen McKinnon-Bagnell, accompanied by Lynn Mills, Conrad Levesque on bass guitar, with special guests Sidney Murgatroyd, fiddle and mandolin and William Toner, vocals and guitar. Monetary donation at the door for choir expenses (music, etc.) All are welcome to join in this musical celebration of all things Irish!

Nashwaaksis United Church Special Events Committee is holding "An Artful Tea" **Friday, March 20th, 2:00 - 4:00 pm.** 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 Reminder

There are two parking spots in our lot designated 24/7 for the Shared Ministry, clearly identified as Minister and Organist *only*.

There is also designated parking for those displaying disability permits (one in our lot and several along Charlotte Street directly in front of the church).

As parking in our lot and along Charlotte Street is somewhat limited,
extra parking is available *for Sunday service only*
at Bright Minds Early Learning Centre, 486 Needham Street,
a 2 minute walk out Carleton Street, just west of the Church.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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>