

**Saint Andrew's Presbyterian  
and  
St. Paul's United  
Ecumenical Shared Ministry  
March 22, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.  
Palm Sunday**



*Our thanks to Rev. Darryl Levy,  
leading us in worship today.*

**Minister**

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

**Office Administrators**

**Saint Andrew's**

**Joanna Price**

Monday – Friday,

9 am – 1 pm

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**St. Paul's**

**Melissa Howard**

Hours vary.

Emails are monitored.

Please reach out.

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[stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com)

**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 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.*

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**WE GATHER TOGETHER**

***Prelude:*** 'Chorale Prelude on Rockingham' ~ Perberdy

***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:*** <sup>1</sup> (Responsive)

Gates open wide!

Greet the Anointed who comes in the name of our God.

Welcome the movement founder, Jesus of Nazareth.

**Let voices be raised – hosannas of praise.**

**Gates open wide!**

Homes, open wide!

Trust in the Spirit that dares to imagine God's reign.

Welcome outsiders once banished, now cherished, set free.

**Remove every fence. No need for defense.**

**Homes open wide!**

Hearts, open wide!

Welcome the servant whose service is freedom and peace.

Join in his journey, through death's shadow, to light.

**Sing out in joy! No grief can destroy.**

**Hearts open wide!**

***Opening Prayer (Unison)***

As the gates of the city swung open to welcome Jesus, so may our hearts be opened to God's Spirit among us. As Jesus wept for the people, so may we weep for those who suffer at the hands of those who have forgotten how to love. Let our worship today express the joy and sorrow, the laughter and weeping of that first Palm Sunday. Amen.

***Hymn:***

*'Hosanna, Loud Hosanna'*

**TBoP #218**

*Hosanna, loud hosanna, the happy children sang;  
through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang.  
To Jesus, who had held them close folded to his breast,  
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.*

*From Olivet they followed amid the shouting crowd,  
the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud:  
Messiah, God's anointed, rode there in humble state,  
'Hosanna in the highest!' rang out their praises great.*

*'Hosanna in the highest!' That ancient song we sing,  
for Christ is our Redeemer; the Lord of heaven our King.  
Oh may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,  
and in God's joyful presence eternally rejoice!*

***Prayer of Adoration & Confession: <sup>2</sup> (Responsive)***

Jesus said, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light." Let us bring to God in prayer our burden of sin and our yoke of guilt, confident and trusting in the Spirit of grace.

**Forgive them all, O Lord:**

**Our sins of omission and our sins of commission;**

**The sins of our youth and the sins of our riper years;**

**The sins of our souls and the sins of our bodies;**

**Our secret and our more open sins;**

**Our sins of ignorance and surprise;**

**And our more deliberate and presumptuous sins;**

**The sins we have done to please others;**

**The sins we know and remember;**

**And the sins we have forgotten;**

**The sins we have striven to hide from others;**

**And the sins by which we have made others offend;**

**Forgive them, O Lord, forgive them all for his sake,**

**Who died for our sins and rose for our justification,**

**And now stands at your right hand to make intercession for us, Jesus Christ our**

**Saviour. Amen.**

### ***Assurance of Pardon*<sup>3</sup>**

Jesus said, "Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."  
Trust that peace and forgiveness are God's gift to you this day, whatever burden you carry.  
Be renewed by the breath of the Holy Spirit that will bring you into each new day. **Amen.**

## **THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

### ***Prayer of Illumination*<sup>4</sup>: (Unison)**

**Life-giving God, steady us with your Spirit. Open our hearts and minds so that we may attend to the stories of your grace and promise, revealed through Christ, your Living Word. Amen.**

### ***Scripture: Psalm 24* (Responsive) (\* Footnote: [www.biblegateway.com/NRSVA](http://www.biblegateway.com/NRSVA))**

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,  
the world, and those who live in it;

**for he has founded it on the seas,  
and established it on the rivers.**

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

And who shall stand in his holy place?

**Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,  
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,  
and do not swear deceitfully.**

They will receive blessing from the LORD,  
and vindication from the God of their salvation.

**Such is the company of those who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

Lift up your heads, O gates!

and be lifted up, O ancient doors!

that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is the King of glory?**

**The LORD, strong and mighty,  
the LORD, mighty in battle.**

Lift up your heads, O gates!

and be lifted up, O ancient doors!

that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory?**

**The LORD of hosts,  
he is the King of glory.**

### ***Gospel: John 12: 12-27***

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord - the King of Israel!'

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

‘Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,  
sitting on a donkey’s colt!’

His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. The Pharisees then said to one another, ‘You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!’

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem:** ‘*Let Loud Hosannas Ring*’

~ Drennan

**Message**

**Anthem + Congregation**      ‘*The Old Rugged Cross*’

***On a hill far away, stood an old rugged cross  
The emblem of suffering and shame;  
And I love that old Cross where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.***

***(Refrain)***

***So I'll cherish the old rugged cross  
Till my trophies at last I lay down  
I will cling to the old rugged cross  
And exchange it some day for a crown.***

***Oh, that old rugged cross so despised by the world  
Has a wondrous attraction for me  
For the dear Lamb of God, left his Glory above,  
To bear it to dark Calvary. R***

*In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine  
A wondrous beauty I see;  
For t'was on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,  
To pardon and sanctify me. R*

*To the old rugged cross, I will ever be true  
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,  
Where his glory forever I'll share. R*

### **OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD**

***Hymn of Response:***

*'Ride On, Ride On In Majesty'*

**TBoP #217**

*Ride on! Ride on in majesty;  
Hark, all the tribes Hosanna cry.  
O Saviour meek, pursue thy road  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.*

*Ride on! Ride on in majesty;  
in lowly pomp ride on to die.  
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.*

*Ride on! Ride on in majesty;  
the angel host beyond the sky  
look down with sad and wondering eyes  
to see the approaching sacrifice.*

*Ride on, ride on in majesty;  
the last and fiercest strife is nigh.  
Thy father on the sapphire throne,  
expects thee, loved, anointed Son.*

*Ride on! Ride on in majesty;  
in lowly pomp ride on to die.  
Bow thy meek head to mortal pain;  
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.*

### ***Invitation to the Offering***<sup>5</sup>

God breathes the power of new life into the world through Christ who is both Friend and Saviour to us. We offer our gifts in gratitude for God's renewing breath, trusting its power will move through our gifts into the world God loves.

### ***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: (Unison)***

**Like palms of rejoicing, like cloaks on the ground, we bring these gifts and offer them here. Let both gifts and the givers be lifted up, blessed, and sent forth to do your will. Amen.**

***Prayers of the People:***

As we gather our thoughts and our hearts in prayer, we ask God to fill us with hope, challenge and love in this time of uncertainty. Let us pray:

God of all times and places, our Lenten journey brought us today to enter the Holy Week. As in Jesus' time, the people waved palms and branches in praise of the One who comes in the name of God. We see the crowds shouting hosanna! Which will be replaced a few days after with Crucify him!

God of wisdom, what would it be like if we were among the crowd that day? Will we offer our loud praises and recognize the passion of Jesus? Will we offer our solidarity with the crowd and not be intimidated by the presence of the political and religious powers? Or will we run away and hide in fear of being crucified with Jesus? May we remember that Jesus entered Jerusalem bearing his cross of non-violence, truth in service, and humility for justice.

**Forgive us when we are lost in confusion and doubt. With your grace enfold our daily lives with insight and clarity that we may know your presence within each of us. In this Holy week, help us to fast from resentment, hostility, and apathy and instead feast on the love, peace and joy so freely offered for the journey.**

Spirit of healing, gently touch the lives of those needing comfort and wholeness in distressed lives and souls. In these times of uncertainty and fear there is crying and mourning in many parts of the world. **God's children are wounded.**

Seniors and young ones, royalty and common folks, health workers and travelers, political and religious leaders. **God's children are wounded.**  
Military people and civilians, healthy and injured, poor and rich. **God's children are wounded.**  
We earnestly pray:

For those who have recently gone before us, may healing love be with their loved ones in this time of sorrow.

**For those who are sick and those recovering from illness, may they find comfort from those who tend to them.**

For the doctors, nurses, researchers, first-responders and all health workers who seek to heal the sick and who put themselves at risk, may they know that many are praying for them.

**For the leaders in all sectors of society, may they lead with wisdom and foresight to act with love and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve.**

For people in places they call home or those without homes or those stranded in other parts of the world and cannot get home.

**For those who work for peaceful and just solutions.**

For those who stand on guard to protect the helpless.

**For those who pray, and for those who find it so hard to pray.**

For those whose names are in the headlines, and for those who are forgotten.

Compassionate Spirit, reach into our hearts and our minds and spark us into action. Move us to see the needs of your hurting world. We offer up to you all that is wrong within us and the world where we live, for we are the ones who must be enlightened, who must be led into the light. Prepare us now to enter into the Holy Week with hearts willing to change and lives ready to transform. And with grateful hearts, let us unite this prayer that Jesus taught his followers:

*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:**

*'All Glory, Laud and Honor'*

**TBoP #214**

*All glory, laud and honour to thee, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.  
Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal son,  
who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed one.*

*All glory, laud and honour to thee, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.  
The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present.*

*All glory, laud and honour to thee, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.  
To thee before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;  
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.*

*All glory, laud and honour to thee, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.  
Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,  
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious king.*

### ***Commissioning & Benediction: <sup>6</sup>***

As we move toward Holy Week and turn towards the Cross, remember the words of 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. So may the tears of the Lord Jesus wash over your sorrows, the Spirit of God dwell in your hearts, and God's promise of new life lead you through each day ahead.

**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:** *'All Glory, Laud, and Honor'*

~ Hayes

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<sup>1</sup> - Order of Service/Prayers: UCC online resources/UCC Celebrate God's Presence <sup>2</sup> – Scripture: [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com);

<sup>3</sup> - *The Old Rugged Cross*, George Bennard, 1913 (Public Domain) Courtesy of Cyber Hymnal™

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**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.***

***Congratulations to Lois Walker Gillin, the 2026 Philanthropy in Action Award recipient  
of the Fredericton Community Foundation - well deserved!***

***Holy Week & Easter***

**Lenten Prayer Series:**

Tuesday, March 31, Noon-1 p.m. at St. James Presbyterian (Hanwell): prayer, Scripture reading and reflection, followed by soup and fellowship. All are welcome to join us.

**Maundy Thursday:**

~ **Saint James Presbyterian:** Potluck at 5:30 p.m., worship at 7 p.m., led by the Rev. Wendy McWilliams.

~ **Forest Hill United:** Potluck at 5:30 p.m. (no desserts) and a service with handwashing to follow, led by the Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin.

**Good Friday:**

~ Service here at 11 a.m., led by the Rev. Darryl Levy.

**Easter Sunday**

~ **Sunrise Service** at the River (by pedway near library) at 7:00 a.m. with a kindling of fire, a time of remembrance of those who have died in the past year, led by the Rev. Ellen Bearisto. Breakfast to follow at Wilmot.

~ **Easter Service with Communion**, here at 10:30 a.m., led by Doug Blaikie, and a fellowship time to follow with hot cross buns!

**Thank you to our Volunteers today**

***Greeters*** - Rose Johnston and Mary Stickles

***Scripture Readers*** - Khris Grant

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

***Counters*** - David and Leslee Dell / ***Tellers*** - Carole Peacock and Gail Simmons

***Refreshments & Fellowship Hosts*** - Kim Keech, Beth and Shawn Meister

**CURRENT NEEDS OF OUR OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

***The Pantry:***

*Dish detergent, Cheeze Whiz, Apple juice (1 Lt.), Orange juice (1 Lt.), Jello powder, pancake mix*

***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!**

**THE NEW DIRECTORY** - Copies should be available the end of April and will be free for those who had a new photo taken last fall. Those who requested we use previous directory photos, submitted photos or chose not to have any photo included, but may want a copy, are able to purchase one. **The cost is \$20.00 + tax, payable by cheque made out to 'Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church'**, who will receive an invoice from Universal Portrait Studios to cover the cost of these extra copies. **Contact Joanna, Saint Andrew's office** to order yours.

**In Eastertide:**

**The Windham Chamber Singers**, as part of their 2026 Spring Tour, will perform at our location on Friday, April 10 at 7:00 pm. The Windham Chamber Singers gained international attention in 1996 when they won the *Prize of Vienna*, the highest award given at the International Youth Music Festival in Vienna, Austria. Since then, they have captured the hearts of audiences across the globe. The concert is free and open to the public.

**'Great Hymns of Faith'**, a community hymn sing, will be held here Sunday, April 26, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. A fellowship time will follow. The free will offering will go to support our outreach Programs - the Pantry, Brown Bag Lunches and Breakfast to Go.

**SUNDAY REFRESHMENT VOLUNTEERS**

**April 5 - Worship Committee**

The remaining Sundays in April are not yet covered.

Find a buddy, 'double up', and share the duties!

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

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

## **ONGOING CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- Tuesdays** ~ *Ladies Group, Hall, 9:30 am ~ All are welcome!*
- Tues. & Thurs.** ~ *Quilting Group, Parlour, 1 - 4 pm ~ All are welcome!*
- Wednesdays** ~ *Pantry Program, Basement, 9 -11 am*  
~ *Brown Bag Lunch Program, St. Paul's Office, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm*
- Thursdays** ~ *Bible Study, Rev. Michelle's Study, 6 - 7 pm ~ All are welcome!*  
~ *Choir Practice, Hall – 7 - 8 pm ~ All are welcome!*
- Fridays** ~ *Breakfast 2 Go, Hall entrance – 9 - 10:30 am*

**The latest email solicitation scam:** If you receive an email, allegedly from Rev. Doug Blakie soliciting gift cards, it is not legitimate. Scammers are using [officemailinbox168@gmail.com](mailto:officemailinbox168@gmail.com). He has no such email and is not soliciting anything. A similar scam email has popped up in email boxes before as 'Rev. Michelle' and also as 'Dr. Sharon Pond' with a similar request. You will never receive a 'solicitation email' like this from Saint Andrew's or St. Paul's, or anyone associated with us.

### **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>