

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

April 19, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Easter



Minister

The Rev. Michelle Armstrong

Organist & Choir Director

Dr. Sharon Pond

Clerk of Session

Jean Boudreau

Council Chair

Vacant

Ministers Emeriti

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Rev. Dr. Basil Lowery

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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: 'Prelude on Kelvingrove'

~ Payne

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: (Responsive)

God, our Shepherd, offers us abundant life.

God, you are with us!

God, our Shepherd, leads us by still waters.

God, restore our souls!

God, our Shepherd, walks with us through every dark valley.

God, we will not be afraid!

God, our Shepherd, we praise you

for your goodness and mercy with us every day.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

Our Lord and our God. You alone are worthy to receive glory and honour, respect and worship; for it was by Your will and Your power alone that all things were created, and it is by Your sustaining grace that all things hold together. Your deeds are great and wonderful: Your ways are just and true: Your love is rich and overflowing. We therefore come to You and offer to You blessing and honour and glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn:

'At Calvary'

**Years I spent in vanity and pride, caring not my Lord was crucified,
knowing not it was for me He died on Calvary.**

(Refrain):

**Mercy there was great and grace was free; pardon there was multiplied to me;
there my burdened soul found liberty, at Calvary.**

**By God's Word at last my sin I learned; then I trembled at the law I'd spurned,
till my guilty soul imploring turned to Calvary. R**

**Now I've giv'n to Jesus ev'rything; now I gladly own Him as my King;
now my raptured soul can only sing of Calvary. R**

**O the love that drew salvation's plan! O the grace that brought it down to man!
O the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary! R**

(Source: Hymns For The Family Of God # 415, <http://www.hymnary.org>)

Prayer of Adoration & Confession: *(Responsive)*

God of love, we come together into your presence trusting that your love has the power to defeat evil in the world.

We come together into your presence trusting that Christ shows us that your love defeats even the power of death.

We come together into your presence trusting that your Holy Spirit guides us through the darkest valleys.

We worship you with glad hearts, praising you in the name of our Risen Lord, praying with the breath of your Spirit in us.

Renew our strength and courage to face whatever each day holds, so our lives will bring you honour and glory now and always. **Amen.**

Trusting your grace and mercy, we come together to your throne of grace to confess our sins:

God of love,

**we confess that too often we let the events around us
shatter our trust in your love.**

When terror strikes and innocents fall,

we wonder if love can defeat violence.

When truth gets lost among misleading claims,

we wonder if love can prevail over lies.

**Forgive us, God, when we lose our trust in the power of your love
so soon after it raised Jesus from death's grip.**

Assurance of Pardon

The Apostle Paul asked: What will separate us from the love of Christ? Hardship? Distress? Peril or sword? No! he declared. Neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Let us rejoice that, no matter what is happening around us, God's gracious and forgiving love will never let us go. **Amen.**

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Prayer of Illumination: (Unison)

God of green pastures and still waters, quiet our hearts and minds as we listen to the Scriptures. By your Spirit, deepen our understanding so that we come to know you more fully, and follow your Word more faithfully. Amen.

Scripture:

Psalm 121 (Responsive)

I lift up my eyes to the hills -
from where will my help come?

**My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.**

He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

**He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

**The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

**The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.**

The Epistle: Acts 9: 1-19 The Conversion of Saul

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision^[a] a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.'

But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul^[b] and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: *'The Lord Is My Shepherd'*

~ Allen

Message

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Response³: *'How Deep The Father's Love For Us'*

**How deep the Father's love for us How vast beyond all measure
That He would give His only Son To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the chosen One Bring many sons to glory.**

**Behold the Man upon a cross My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life I know that it is finished.**

**I will not boast in anything No gifts, no powr, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.**

(Townsend, Stuart - CCLI Song # 1558110 / Lic. # 11189100)

Invitation to the Offering

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want": the words of the Psalm celebrate God's overflowing goodness and mercy in our lives. We offer God our gifts so God's goodness and mercy will keep flowing into the world God made.

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 (Unison): God with a tender heart, we thank you for the care you offer to us as our Shepherd. Bless the gifts we offer so they will spread your abundant love to lives in need of caring. Bless our lives so that we may care for the world as we follow Jesus day by day. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession:

Wise and generous God, shepherd of our lives, we are thankful this day for all you provide to sustain us. You call our weary souls to rest when the world seems busy. You bless us with the promise of new life as pastures around us turn green, announcing another spring. You gather us around tables of friendship to draw strength from one another. Thank you for signs of your goodness and mercy we can treasure each day.

Loving and listening God, shepherd of the world, we bring you our prayers for others, friends and enemies, neighbours and strangers alike.

We pray for people who are struggling with illness, loneliness, grief or sadness:

(silence)

Walk with them through dark days and steep valleys.

We pray for people in countries and communities where it is not safe to live out their faith or express their views openly.

(silence)

Walk with them through dark days and steep valleys.

We pray for victims of discrimination, acts of hatred, domestic violence and physical punishment.

(silence)

Walk with them through dark days and steep valleys.

We pray for journalists and advocates for justice who live under threat for telling the truth.

(silence)

Walk with them through dark days and steep valleys.

We pray for congregations that seek to renew and reorganize themselves to meet the needs of the communities they serve.

(silence)

Walk with them through dark days and steep valleys.

We pray for our families, friends and for ourselves, as well as those in the news whose situations tug at our hearts.

(silence)

Walk with us all through dark days and steep valleys.

We offer these prayers and our unspoken concerns to you, in the name of the Risen Lord who taught us to pray:

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:

'Love Divine All Loves Excelling'

TBoP #371

*Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.*

*Breathe, oh breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest;
take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.*

Commissioning & Benediction:

Go in peace, sure that the Good Shepherd walks beside you. May God lead you to places of rest and renewal; may Christ give you courage on the journey; may the Holy Spirit fill your hearts with joy and generosity; and may the blessing of God, Creator, Christ and Spirit, dwell in your hearts this day and always.

Postlude: *'Coronation March'*

~ Rizzotto

Liturgy: PCC Worship Planner, Apri. 26, 2026; Scripture text: <http://www.biblegateway.com>

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.

Here – this evening at 6:30 p.m. – 'Great Hymns of Faith'

Join us for a hymn sing hosted by the Rev. Darryl Levy, with a fellowship time to follow.
A free will offering at the door will go to support our outreach programs.

Thank you to our Volunteers today:

Greeters - Mary Stickles and Muriel Aiken

Scripture Readers - Rebecca Jonah, Beth Meisner

Audio/Visual - Glynis Martin, Beth and Shawn Meister

Counters - / ***Tellers*** – Carole Peacock and Gail Simmons

Refreshments / Fellowship Hour - Chris Grant and Marg Leonard

GOOD NEWS! Photo DIRECTORY UPDATE: The photo directory is now ready for printing! If you had your photo taken by Universal Portrait Studios last fall, you will receive a free copy. If you requested we use a photo from a previous directory or submitted a photo or chose not to have one included, you may purchase a copy for \$23.00, HST included, payable by cheque to ***Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church***. **The deadline for ordering a directory at this price is Tuesday, April 28.** After this date, the cost will be \$25 + HST = \$28.75 with a minimum order of 15 copies required. Anticipated delivery date: end of May.

The Tuesday Morning Ladies Groups are having a card making session this coming week, on Tuesday, April 28, from about 10:30 - 12 noon. We will be making all occasion cards from the kits that Eleanor Scott has put together. Some will be sent to the Dorchester Penitentiary for use by the inmates there. Others will be available for use within our Church. We invite anyone who is interested to join us - no experience is needed. Eleanor has made it very easy for us to create these cards.

PLEASE NOTE!

On Tuesday and Wednesday, from 1 p.m. – 6 p.m., the Fredericton Music Festival will be using our church as one of their venues, and the Hall for practice sessions. If you need to enter and exit the Hall, please be mindful of the student performers, and do so quietly. Thanks!

***Refreshment & Fellowship Hosts
for the month of May:***

3 - Ladies' Group;

10 - Beth and Shawn Meister;

17 - Mary Hossack and Margie Penny;

24 – Annual meeting (covered).

Thank you for your generous response to our request for volunteers.

The sign-up sheet for June is on the Hall entry bulletin board.

Current Needs of our Outreach Programs:

The Pantry:

*Canned tomatoes, canned milk,
chocolate pudding cups, Cheez Whiz,
Orange and Apple juice
(1 L size) and liquid dish detergent.*

Breakfast 2 Go:

*Canned meat and fish;
Cheez Whiz; peanut butter;
instant coffee; nutritional drinks
(Boost, etc.), individual cereal boxes; TP.*

All donations are appreciated!

From St. Paul's office: We are preparing our 2025 Annual Report. If you have photos from church events throughout the past year - services, gatherings, celebrations, or special moments - please consider sharing them with us. Your pictures help tell the story of our church community and bring the report to life. Please email your photos to St. Paul's church office ASAP! Thank you for helping us capture and celebrate all that has happened in 2025!

**Join us for our 2nd Annual Mother's Day Tea
at St. Andrew's and St Paul's Ecumenical Shared Ministry!**

Saturday May 9th from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Celebrate the special women in your life at a delightful afternoon of fellowship, while enjoying a selection of sandwiches, your choice of dessert, and coffee or tea.

Tickets are \$20.00 and can be purchased at the office between 9:00 am - 1:00 pm (cash only) or by e-transfer to stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com (get ticket at the event).

We look forward to welcoming you for a warm and memorable gathering!

WEEKLY ONGOING ACTIVITIES

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

ON THE HALL BULLETIN BOARD this week:

Lintuhtine Singers present..."Spring Has Sprung (At Last) Fun Concert' on Sunday May 3 at 3:00 p.m., with special guest Becka DeHaan; monetary donation at the door to offset costs.

Palmer Memorial Lecture with guest speaker Diana Butler Bass at Christ Church Cathedral, Wednesday, May 6 at 6:00 pm. in person and lively streamed: Tickets: www.ccath.ca

The Fredericton Choral Society – 2nd annual "Spring Song and Sweets" concert at 7 p.m.. May 9, 2026, at Christ Church Parish Church, wheelchair accessible at the Westmorland St. entrance). Tickets: \$25 (adults), \$10 (students), free (children 12 and under). Tickets can be purchased from the church office, members of the FCS and at the door.

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/@stpaulsunitedchurch984/videos>

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.