

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

May 3, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

**THANK
GOD**

Minister

The Rev. Michelle Armstrong

Organist & Choir Director

Dr. Sharon Pond

Clerk of Session

Jean Boudreau

Council Chair

Vacant

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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.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude: 'Minuet'

~ Boellmann

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 is our Rock and our Fortress.

In God, we find refuge and strength.

God's house has many dwelling places.

We will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Christ himself has gone to prepare a place for us.

For us, Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

So let us worship God in Spirit and in Truth.

Opening Prayer

Hymn:

'Come, We That Love The Lord'

VU 714

Come, we that love the Lord,

and let our joys be known,

join in a song with sweet accord,

join in a song with sweet accord

and thus surround the throne,

and thus surround the throne.

(Refrain)

*We're marching to Zion,
beautiful, beautiful Zion;
we're marching upward to Zion,
the beautiful city of God.*

*Let those refuse to sing
who never knew our God;
but children of the heavenly King,
but children of the heavenly King
may speak their joys abroad,
may speak their joys abroad. R*

*The hill of Zion yields
a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heavenly fields,
before we reach the heavenly fields
or walk the golden streets,
or walk the golden streets. R*

*Then let our songs abound,
and every tear be dry;
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground
to fairer worlds on high,
to fairer worlds on high. R*

Prayer of Adoration & Confession: (Responsive)

Steadfast God, you are our refuge in times of trouble our shelter when we are afraid, and our dwelling place forever. In you alone we place our trust for you set the way before in Christ Jesus and your Spirit gives us courage to follow him.

And so, we offer you our worship and love

as the Source of life for the world,

as the Son who preached the truth of grace and mercy,

and the Spirit who guides us this day and always.

Trusting in who you are, knowing who we are and what we have done, we confess to you our sins:

Steadfast God,

we confess Jesus as the way, the truth and the life for us,

yet we often fail to follow him,

too often gone our own way,

distorted the truth and led hollow lives.

Forgive us for falling short of your purpose for our lives.

Give us courage to follow Jesus, who continues to show us the way.

Assurance of Pardon

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Know that, in Christ, you are forgiven. Accept God's grace and forgiveness this day, and extend it to others for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Prayer of Illumination: (Unison)

**Gracious God,
send us your Spirit to guide our understanding as we listen to the Scriptures
so that we may follow you more closely,
know your truth more fully,
and share in your gift of life more abundantly,
through Christ, your Living Word. Amen.**

Scripture:

Psalm 138

I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

**I bow down towards your holy temple and give thanks to your name
for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;
for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.**

On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

**All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

**For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly;
but the haughty he perceives from far away.**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

**The LORD will fulfil his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures for ever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

Epistle Lesson: Acts 17: 16-31

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So, he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Also, some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, 'What does this babbler want to say?' Others said, 'He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.' (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, 'May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.' Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

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

A Moment for Mission

Jesus taught us, “Blessed are the peacemakers.” Wholistic peacemaking is what is needed not only in this present war involving Iran, but also with regard to the roots of the conflict, which are spread throughout the region. And in all things, and amidst all fears, we pray to Christ who is the Prince of Peace:

**Just God who desires healing for the people of all nations,
Prince of Peace, Spirit of truth and holiness
bring peace to places of violence and war
especially in and around Iran.**

**Inspire those who have power to use wisdom and mercy,
soften the hearts of politicians and religious leaders to act with compassion,
guard and protect the vulnerable and scared,
comfort those who are suffering and in pain,
console those who are afraid and who mourn,
strengthen those who serve and provide care,
and bring peace to the world you love,
in the strong name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, we pray,
Amen.**

Anthem: 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'

~ Shephard

Message

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Response:

'Hope Of The World'

VU 215

***Hope of the world, O Christ of great compassion,
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent;
save us, your people, from consuming passion,
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.***

***Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
still let your Spirit unto us be given
to heal earth's wounds and end its bitter strife.***

***Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
showing to wandering souls the path of light;
walk now beside us lest the tempting byways
lure us away from you to endless night.***

***Hope of the world, who by your cross has saved us
from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt;
we render back the love your mercy gave us;
take now our lives, with them your kingdom build.***

***Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious,
who by this sign has conquered grief and pain,
we would be faithful to your gospel glorious.
You are our Lord! You shall forever reign.***

Invitation to the Offering:

While the season of Easter unfolds, the gifts of spring also remind us of God's generosity in Christ and in creation. May our gifts reflect our gratitude to God, and our generosity share with others the abundance we know in Christ Jesus.

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):

Generous God, we bless you for life renewed through Christ's love and through springtime growth in fields and gardens. Use the gifts we offer to bring hope and renewal to the world you love in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession:

Holy One, God with us,

We give you thanks for the promises Jesus gave to all his followers,
that in him we see your face.

He has shown us the face of your mercy and compassion,
so we thank you for understanding us better than we know ourselves.

He has shown us the face of your peace and justice,
so we thank you for calling us to make a difference in the world for his sake.

Holy One,

in Christ, you show us the Way
that leads through paths of service.

We pray for those who feel lost or alone,
those who live with anxiety or doubt their own value,
and all who cannot imagine a purpose for themselves.

(Silence)

**God of the Way, lead those who are struggling to find the hope you offer
through the assurance of your love.**

Holy One,

in Christ, you show us the Truth
that is revealed through costly love.

In these days when lies are easily disguised,
we pray for those who have put their faith in false hope and flimsy promises,
those deceived by empty promises from the power hungry,
and any misled by conspiracy theories that circulate each day:

(Silence)

**God of the Truth, reveal the shallowness of things that distract or mislead us
and give us courage to stand for truth, even when it is unpopular.**

Holy One,

in Christ, you show us the Life
that overcomes death through your resurrecting power.

We pray for those facing illness or grief,
any who live with deep sadness, depression or despair,
and those whose lives are diminished by discrimination in action or attitude.

(Silence)

**God of Life, support all those who are suffering
and make your justice known in our land.**

Holy One, challenge us to find renewed purpose in following in the footsteps of Christ
so that in our living and loving, your kingdom of justice and love is revealed;
for we pray the words he taught us, saying:

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 The Bulb There Is A Flower'

VU 703

***In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.***

***There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.***

***In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.***

Commissioning & Benediction:

We are God's own people, who have received mercy.
So do not let your hearts be troubled. Jesus waits for you in each new day.
May the Spirit guide you in the Way; may Christ reveal the Truth in you;
And may God grant you Life abundant now and evermore.

Postlude: 'Toccata'

~ Boellmann

Liturgy: PCC Worship Planner, May 3, 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.

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; otherwise, you may purchase a copy (\$25 + HST = \$28.75) payable by cheque made out to **Saint Andrew's Presbyterian** or by e-transfer to St Paul's: stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com (a minimum of 15 copies required for an order at this new price). Anticipated delivery date: end of May.

TODAY at 3:00 p.m. - Oromocto United Church - **Lintuhtine Singers** present '**Spring Has Sprung (At Last) Fun Concert**' with special guest Bekka DeHaan (vocals/keyboard). Come out and support our choristers who are part of this event: Helen McKinnon-Bagnell (Director), Ardith Kerr, Rick Gremm, and Darryl Levy. A free offering at the door will be used to offset choir costs.

Refreshment & Fellowship Hosts for the month of May:

10th - Beth and Shawn Meister
17th - Mary Hossack and Margie Penny
24th - Annual meetings (covered)
30th – **Volunteer/s needed.**

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:

Jello, 1L orange juice, cookies, white sugar, icing, and 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!

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**

Please help us solve a 'mini mystery'!

Last September a volunteer kindly offered (via Rev. Michelle) their time and labour to stain the lovely new picnic table gifted to St. Paul's in 2025, from the United Church of Canada in celebration of their 100th Anniversary, before it is to be returned to its location the lawn for all to enjoy this summer.

We are now ready to take you up on your offer, 'mystery volunteer', and will happily supply the stain and brush/es you will need - once you identify yourself to Patty Trail at pattyann484@gmail.com – looking forward to hearing from you soon!



COMMUNITY EVENTS POSTED ON THE HALL BULLETIN BOARD:

This Wednesday (May 6) - Diana Butler Bass will be visiting Fredericton, and will hold a book-reading and signing event at Westminster Books beginning at 10am. At 6 p.m. she will be the guest speaker at the Palmer Memorial Lecture, at Christ Church Cathedral. All are welcome to attend one or both events; registration is required for the evening talk in either format (in-person or online). Access the registration page at [Cathedral DBB Event Page](#).

Diana is first and foremost a church historian, who holds a Ph.D. in religious studies from Duke (1991), with special emphasis in American ecclesiastical history. She is a popular speaker and an inspiring preacher, and also an award-winning author of eleven books. She is one of America's most trusted commentators on religion and contemporary spirituality, especially where faith intersects with politics and culture. Diana's passion is sharing great ideas to change lives -- helping listeners and readers to see themselves, their place in history, and God, differently.

Also on Wednesday May 6, at 11 a.m., St. James (Hanwell), Joyful Sound Tone Chimes Spring Concert with light lunch following. Free will donations will be accepted to be used for the purchase of a new defibrillator.

On Saturday, May 9 at 7 p.m. the Fredericton Choral Society will host their **2nd Annual 'Spring Song and Sweets Concert'** at Christ Church Parish Church (St. Anne's), Westmorland Street. Tickets (\$25 for adults, \$10 for students, and free for children (12 and under) can be purchased from the CCPC office, from FCS members, and at the door.

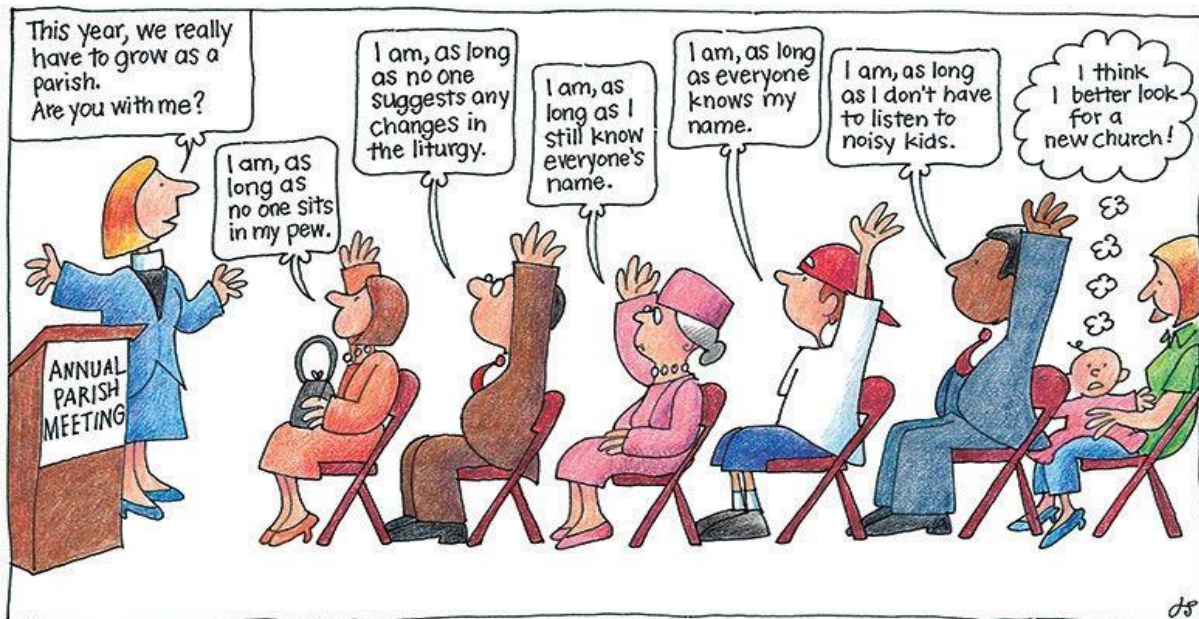
FABRIC, YARN AND CRAFT SUPPLIES SALE!

Sat. May 16, 9 am – 1 pm at the Multi-Purpose building in Shediac, sponsored by *Grandmothers for Grandmothers (Moncton)* - Stephen Lewis Foundation (<https://stephenlewisfoundation.org/>) in support of Grandmothers in Africa raising children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

In Fredericton, we are now accepting donations of the following items at The Quilting Shed: quilting cotton, dress weights, fleece, upholstery, yarn and related items, quilt/craft notions, sewing machines, unfinished projects, quilting/sewing/knitting/crafting books & magazines, patterns. **We cannot accept wooden quilt racks or frames.** The sale is a great opportunity for groups quilting or knitting for charity to stock up on supplies at a very reasonable cost. For more information view <https://www.facebook.com/G4GMoncton/>.

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE will be held on **Friday, May 29 from 3-7 pm and Saturday May 30 from 9 – Noon**. Posters are now available in the Narthex. If you can take a copy with you today to post on a bulletin board in your neighborhood or building, please do so. Thank you!

SAVE THIS DATE! SUNDAY, MAY 24 is the date set for our Annual Meetings. Both reports will be made available prior to the date. Please plan to stay following service on the 24th to take part in our '2025 year in review' and participate in the decisions we will make for 2026.



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>