

**Saint Andrew's Presbyterian
and
St. Paul's United
Ecumenical Shared Ministry**
August 23, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.
13th Sunday after Pentecost



**Today we welcome
the Rev. Susan McAllister
leading us in worship.**

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 Lowert

Office Administrators

Saint Andrew's
Joanna Price
Tuesday and Thursday
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St. Paul's
Melissa Howard
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Our Address
512 Charlotte Street
Fredericton, NB E3B 1M2

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: 'Wiegenlied'

~ Boom

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship: (Responsive)

- Adapted from Psalm 138:

One: We praise you, O God, with all our hearts;
before the gods we will sing your praises.

All: We bow down toward your holy temple and
praise your name for your love and faithfulness;

One: for you have exalted your name and your word above
everything.

All: On the day that we called, you answered us,
and put new strength in our souls.

One: All earth's rulers shall praise you,
when they hear the words of your mouth.

All: They shall sing of your ways, O God,
sing that your glory is great.

**We gather here in this Holy Place
to worship and praise you,**

Your love, O God, is eternal.

We gather together to love and to serve!

Praise the Holy One!

Opening Hymn: 'God Reveal Your Presence' VU #391

***1. God, reveal your presence: as we now adore you
and with awe appear before you.***

***Here in this your temple: all within keep silence,
gather now with deepest reverence.***

***You alone God we own,
you, our God and Saviour: praise your name for ever.***

- 2. God, reveal your presence: hear the harps resounding;
see the crowds the throne surrounding.
'Holy, holy, holy!' Hear the hymn ascending,
angels, saints, their voices blending.
Bow your ear to us here;
hearken, O Lord Jesus, to our humble praises.**
- 3. O great Fount of blessing, purify my spirit,
trusting only in your merit;
like the holy angels gathered all before you,
may I ceaselessly adore you.
Let your will ever still
rule your church terrestrial, as the hosts celestial.**

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Words of Grace

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Prayer for Understanding: (Unison)

Holy God, your Word is bread for our journey. Send us your Spirit so that we may know your wisdom and live it out for the sake of Christ, your Living Word. AMEN.

The Scriptures:

Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 1:8-2:10

⁸ Now a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. ⁹ He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³ The Egyptians subjected the Israelites to hard servitude ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard servitude in mortar and bricks and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this and allowed the boys to live?" ¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are

not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” ²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”

2 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ² The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³ When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵ The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” ⁸ Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. ⁹ Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰ When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, “because” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

Response: Thanks be to God for the gift of Ancient Wisdom.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Response: The Gospel for the People, Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Music for Reflection: 'Surrender'

~ Berry

Message: Courage and Compassion at the Riverbank

Hymn of Response:

'God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness'

VU #260

1. *God who gives to life its goodness,
God creator of all joy,
God who gives to us our freedom,
God who blesses tool and toy:
teach us now to laugh and praise you,
deep within your praises sing,
till the whole creation dances
for the goodness of its King.*

2. *God who fills the earth with beauty,
God who binds each friend to friend,
God who names us co-creators
God who wills that chaos end:
grant us now creative spirits,
minds responsive to your mind,
hearts and wills your rule extending
all our acts by Love refined.*

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology: (Unison)

*'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)

Eternal and ever-present God, we offer these gifts in thanksgiving for the work of Christ in our lives. Bless them and us with the power of the Spirit, using our gifts for the work of reconciliation Christ has given us to do in the world you love. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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

WALKING TOGETHER IN THE WAY

Closing Hymn:

VU #416

*'Forth In Your Name, O Christ'
Forth in your name, O Christ, we go,
our daily labour to pursue,
you, only you, resolved to know
in all we think, or speak, or do.*

*The task your wisdom has assigned
here let us cheerfully fulfil;
in all our works your presence find,
and prove your good and perfect will.*

*You may we set at our right hand,
whose eyes our inmost secrets view,
and labour on at your command
and offer all our works to you.*

*Help us to bear your easy yoke,
in every moment watch and pray,
and still to things eternal look,
and hasten to that glorious day.*

*Then with delight may we employ
all that your bounteous grace has given,
and run our earthly course with joy,
and closely walk with you to heaven.*

Commissioning & Benediction

Postlude: 'Dorian Toccata'

~ Bach

Scripture: <http://www.biblegateway.com> New Revised Standard Updated English

Good Morning Everyone - Welcome!

***May this service be a blessing to you
as we continue to worship together each week, in person and online.
Please join us following service for fellowship and refreshments in the Hall.***

Good News! Thank you, everyone for your patience, support and prayers during the time of Michelle's leave, and thank you to all who led and supported us in worship as well as other pieces of our church life.

We are delighted to share that as of August 17, Rev. Michelle has begun a gradual return to work. Please continue to be patient and supportive while sharing your joyful returning welcome when you next see her.

***Sincerely, Rev. Doug Blaikie,
Interim Moderator of Saint Andrew's & Co-chair Ecumenical Assembly***

Thank you to today's Volunteers!

Greeters - Mary Hossack and Mary Stickles

Scripture Readers - David Charters (Hebrew Scripture), Chris Grant (Gospel Reading)

Audio/Visual - Beth and Shawn Meister, Glynis Martin

SA's Counters - Treasurer & Assistants / ***SP's Tellers*** - Laura Steeves and Alan Thorne

Hospitality & Fellowship - Bill Cockburn and Iara Guerriero

(Volunteers are still needed for next Sunday.)

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Hall entry.)

Current Needs of our Outreach Programs

The Pantry: Hand soap, dish soap, vinegar, salt, cookies, tomatoes, syrup.

Breakfast 2 Go: Cheez Whiz, cans of ham, chicken, turkey, fish; peanut butter; instant coffee; nutritional drinks; mini cereal boxes; TP.

Breakfast To Go and The Pantry thank you for your continued support over the summer months.

PLEASE NOTE: Melissa Howard will be away from St. Paul's office September 2nd – 13th and will not have access to email during this time. If you have an urgent matter during her absence, please contact Joanna in Saint Andrew's office.

Book Table: There are still lots of books removed from our library shelves which are available for purchase by donation. Have a look after service at Fellowship Hour. A basket is provided for donations. We plan to use any funds to purchase new titles for you to borrow and enjoy.

Tuesday Morning Ladies Group resumes meeting on Sept 8th at 9:30 a.m. We are always happy to welcome new members!

School Supplies: Thanks to all who have generously contributed to the collection of 'back to school items' under the Mission Tree. We will continue to collect until next Sunday, so you are welcome to drop any off of these items: *backpacks, lunch box, water bottle, binders, loose leaf, lined tablets, crayons, pens/ pencils, individual Kleenex and travel size hand sanitizer* to the Hall during office hours this week or at service next week. The Pantry team will then distribute these to clients with children returning to school who may need some extra help.

Parking Reminder – There are 2 dedicated parking spaces in our lot: Minister & Organist. Please respect this 24/7; there is 1 space to park with a disability permit and several more available on Charlotte St. directly in front of the church. There is extra parking for *Sunday services only* at *Bright Minds Early Learning Centre* (486 Needham St.) a 2 min. walk out Carleton St. to the West door of the church, at the corner of Carleton & Charlotte Streets.

Can't attend Sunday Service in person? Consider joining us online!

Worship via Zoom - Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83673756287> **Passcode:** 2023