

**Saint Andrew's Presbyterian
and
St. Paul's United
Ecumenical Shared Ministry**
August 30, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.
14th Sunday after Pentecost



*Today we welcome the
Rev. Dr. Stephen 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
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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: 'Gabriel's Oboe'

~ Morricone

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship: (Responsive)

One: Give thanks to God and tell of God's gifts.

All: We will sing praises for all that God has done.

One: Let your hearts be joyful!

All: We will seek God's presence continually.

One: Call to mind God's wonderful works.

**All: We will always remember the blessings of God
and glorify God forever!**

Opening Hymn

TBoP # 592

***1/ I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.***

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.

***I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.***

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

***I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.***

***2/ I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.***

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? R.

**3/ I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? R.**

Prayer of Adoration and Confession:

Holy, Mysterious, Eternal and Ever-loving God,
in you we live and move and have our being.
You are the beginning and end of all things.
In your depth, we find mystery.
In your breadth, we know your tender embrace.
We can only wonder at your love for us,
so small a part of your whole creation are we.
Yet in Jesus Christ we meet your generous grace.
In the Holy Spirit, you move with us to inspire our action
and fill us with hope.
Our thoughts cannot exhaust your wisdom,
nor can our hearts fathom your mercy.
And so, we worship you in humble praise,
Holy God, ever Three and ever One, now and always.
Out of a desire to begin again with you and each other,
we confess to you our sins:
**Faithful and forgiving God,
we confess we do not live out your love and mercy.
We cling to old hurts and familiar habits.
We nurse anger and envy.
We are often so self-absorbed that we turn our backs on those in need.
Forgive what we have been, amend who we are,
and guide us toward who we may become according to your generous grace.**

Assurance of Pardon:

The Apostle Paul declared that from now on, we regard no one from a human point of view. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Thanks be to God that we can all make a new start through God's embracing grace.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Prayer for Understanding: (Unison)

God of wisdom, you teach us with love, you touch us with mercy, and you challenge us with truth. Send your Holy Spirit to help us grasp your love, mercy and truth in the Scriptures as we encounter your living Word today. Amen.

The Scriptures:

Responsive Psalm: 26:1-8

- ¹ Vindicate me, O LORD,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.
- ² **Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and mind.**
- ³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to you.
- ⁴ **I do not sit with the worthless,
nor do I consort with hypocrites;**
- ⁵ I hate the company of evildoers
and will not sit with the wicked.
- ⁶ **I wash my hands in innocence
and go around your altar, O LORD,**
- ⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and telling all your wondrous deeds.
- ⁸ **O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

Epistle: Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

(Response:) The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:21-28

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

Music for Reflection: *'The Lord's My Shepherd'*

~ Berry

Message: 'Mission Impossible'

Hymn of Response: *'Deep in the Shadows of the past'*

TBoP # 510

*1/ Deep in the shadows of the past, far out from settled lands,
some nomads traveled with their God across the desert sands.
The dawning hope of humankind by them was sensed and shown:
a promise calling them ahead, a future yet unknown.*

*2/ While others bowed to changeless gods, they met a mystery,
invisible, without a name: "I AM WHAT I WILL BE";
and by their tents, around their fires in story, song and law,
they praised, remembered, handed on a past that promised more.*

*3/ From Exodus to Pentecost the promise changed and grew,
while some, remembering the past, recorded what they knew,
or with their letters and laments, their prophecy and praise,
recovered, kindled, and expressed new hope for changing days.*

*4/ For all the writings that survived, for leaders long ago,
who sifted, copied and preserved the Bible that we know,
give thanks, and find its story yet our promise, strength and call,
the model of emerging faith, alive with hope for all.*

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

The Apostle Paul encourages us to let our love be genuine as we contribute to those in need in the world around us. Know that God will use our gifts for good things, both those we undertake in Jesus' name and in ways we cannot yet imagine.

Doxology: (Unison)

'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)

O God, we offer these gifts to you in hope and thanksgiving. Use them to transform the world you love with the mercy and compassion we celebrate in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

O God in whom we live and move and have our being, we come to you in prayer as the summer season draws nearer to its close. We give you thanks for the occasions we have enjoyed this summer. savouring the beauty of your creation right outside our doors, catching up with family and friends, and enjoying times for recreation and restoration. We recognize how blessed we are with many opportunities to find rest and relaxation in the summer. Thank you for every good thing that has refreshed us.

Yet we remember those for whom this summer has been difficult: those whose homes and communities have been ravaged by fire, storm or flood; those who go hungry or face violence in forgotten corners of our own community and around the world; Those who face economic struggles at home or at work; those whose crops have withered in heat or drought;

(Silence)

May each one find courage to face tomorrow in your company.

O God, Jesus walked with so many people in their pain and grief. We remember those who have faced crises this summer - through tragic death or unexpected loss, through critical illness or injury, through pain or problems that seem to have no end....

(Silence)

Surround them with your comfort and compassion.

O God, Jesus often faced many demands and pressure from his critics.

We pray for all those who have not found rest this summer: for leaders trying to figure out ways forward for their communities when resources are tight; for those whose jobs and responsibilities present new challenges; and for all who seek secure and affordable housing when supply is low;

(Silence)

May they know your strength and assurance day by day.

O God, we need the embrace of your presence, each in our own way.

Bring healing and peace to our lives and to this world you love.

Open our eyes and our hearts so that we may offer healing and peace to those we encounter, in the name of Christ Jesus who taught us to pray together:

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:

BoP # 722

*'Lord, whose love in humble service'
1/ Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
offered mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart,
consecrating to Your purpose
ev'ry gift which You impart.*

*2/ Still Your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead
As. O Lord, your deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
use the love your Spirit kindles
still to save and make us whole.*

*3/ As we worship, grant us vision,
till Your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
draws upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear;
stirring us to tireless striving
your abundant life to share.*

*4/ Called by worship to our service,
forth in your dear name we go
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know, and live.*

Commissioning & Benediction:

Moses met God unexpectedly, as a bush burst into flame. Consider that you may meet God in unexpected places, for God can make any place holy ground.
So may the God of mystery embrace you;
the Christ of mercy renew you;
and the Spirit of life move with you through each new day.

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.**

Thank you to today's Volunteers!

Greeters - Valarie Gallagher and Carole Peacock

Scripture Readers - Jean Boudreau (Psalm), Cathy Davis (Epistle); Ron Naugler (Gospel)

Audio/Visual - Beth and Shawn Meister, Glynis Martin

SA's Counters - Treasurer & Assistants / **SP's Tellers** - Wendy & Ross Mathers

Volunteers for Hospitality are needed for Sundays in September and beyond.

(To sign up, see the weekly duty roster on the bulletin board next to the Kitchen door.)

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

Book for Sale! Browsing is encouraged at Fellowship Hour after service, as we are still downsizing our library and there are lots of books (new ones added this past week) available for purchase (see table in the Hall). A basket is provided for donations, which will be used to purchase new titles for you to borrow and enjoy!

**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 & The Pantry
thank you for your continued support
over the summer months.**

Choir Practice resume on Thursday, September 3 at 6:30 pm. Sharon welcomes back current choir members and invites anyone who may be interested in becoming part of the choir to join us at practice.

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 our collection! We now have backpacks, lunch boxes, water bottles, binders, paper, lined subject and lesson books, pens, pencils, markers and crayons available in the Pantry for distribution to any students in need.

Gibson Memorial United Church invites you to their Annual Community Yard Sale, on Saturday September 12, 8 a.m. – Noon at 183 Gibson Street, Northside. Everyone is welcome!

If you or your family need pastoral care, please contact Rev. Ellen Beirsto (Wilmot) by text at her Cell # (506) 474-2324. An emergency contact name & number is always on the church office voicemail greeting message, 24/7.

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

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

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.