

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

October 18, 10:30 AM, 21st Sunday After Pentecost -ESM Anniversary

We acknowledge that the land on which we worship is the traditional unceded territory of the Wəlastəkwiik, Mi'kmaq, and Passamaquoddy Peoples. This land is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship," signed with the British Crown in 1726, which established the rules for an ongoing relationship between the nations, not a surrender of land and resources. May we continue working toward a just and right relationship with the First Peoples of this land.

COMING TOGETHER BEFORE GOD

Prelude: May the Lord Bless You
Rutter

Welcome & Announcements:

Moment for Missions: Trivia Time: What are Our Mission Activities as a Congregation?

Lighting the Christ Candle:

Call to Worship:

Come now before God,

We come as God's people, with a shared and divergent past.

Two years ago, we came together for the first time unsure of what the future will hold.

Today we come together as One Congregation, in all our diversity.

Today we celebrate all that God has done, calling to each other,

Come now, for it's time to worship!

Opening Hymn:
1-2,4-5

Your Hand, O God, Has Guided

VU 274 vs

**Your hand, O God, has guided
your flock from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written,
full clear, on every page.**

**Our forebears owned your goodness,
and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness:
one church, one faith, one Lord.**

**Your heralds brought glad tidings
to greatest as to least;
they bade them rise, and hasten
to share the heavenly feast.
And this was all their teaching,
in every deed and word,
to all alike proclaiming:
one church, one faith, one Lord.**

**And we, shall we be faithless?
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?
Shall we evade the conflict
and cast away our crown?
Not so: in God's deep counsels
some better thing is stored;
we will maintain, unflinching,
one church, one faith, one Lord.**

**Your mercy will not fail us,
nor leave your work undone;
with your right hand to help us,
the victory shall be won;
and then, by earth and heaven,
your name shall be adored,
and this shall be our anthem:
one church, one faith, one Lord.**

Grounding Prayer and Prayer of Confession:¹

God of all time and space,
You have called people to meet you over the centuries,
in many different places, in many different ways.
We praise you for welcoming us, receiving us as we are.
You hear our prayers and claim us as your own.

In this hour of worship, send your Spirit upon us
to revive our faith and guide our footsteps
in the way of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Saviour.

God of all life and each life,

You know all about us, our deepest concerns and our fondest hopes.

We confess we are often anxious to see results.

We lose patience when we cannot see progress.

We blame others instead of seeking solutions.

Forgive us.

Help us claim your peace when our hearts are anxious.

Assurance of Pardon:

HEARING AND PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Time for all ages:

Prayer for Understanding:³

God of Word and Wisdom, as we turn to the scriptures, may we hear your voice calling us to deeper faith and truer devotion. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Hebrew Scripture: Joshua 24:1-17

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac, and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in its midst, and afterward I brought you out. When I brought your ancestors out of Egypt, you came to the sea, and the Egyptians pursued your ancestors with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. When they cried out to the Lord, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians and made the sea come upon them and cover them, and your eyes saw what I did to Egypt. Afterward you lived in the wilderness a long time. Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan; they fought with you, and I handed them over to you, and you took possession of their land, and I

destroyed them before you. Then King Balak son of Zippor of Moab set out to fight against Israel. He sent and invited Balaam son of Beor to curse you, but I would not listen to Balaam; therefore he blessed you, so I rescued you out of his hand. When you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, the citizens of Jericho fought against you, as well as the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, and I handed them over to you. I sent swarms of hornets ahead of you that drove out before you the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. I gave you a land on which you had not laboured and towns that you had not built, and you live in them; you eat the fruit of vineyards and oliveyards that you did not plant.

“Now, therefore, revere the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went and among all the peoples through whom we passed,

Responsive Reading:

Sing to God a new song,

Sing your praise, all the earth.

Sing and bless God's holy name,

tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.

Declare God's glory among the nations,

among all peoples God's wonderful works.

For great is God and greatly to be praised,

To be revered above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are idols,

But you, O God, made the heavens.

Honour and majesty attend you,

Strength and beauty are in your sanctuary.

Ascribe to God, you families of peoples,

Ascribe to God glory and strength.

Ascribe glory to God's name,

Bring an offering and enter God's courts.

Worship God in the beauty of holiness,
And let the whole earth stand in awe.

Say among the nations. It is God who reigns!

The world is made firm and cannot be shaken.

God judges the peoples in equity.

Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth be glad.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,

Let the fields exult, and all that is in them.

Then let all the trees of the forest sing for joy,
For you come, O God, to judge the earth.

**You shall judge the earth in righteousness,
Its peoples with your truth.**

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

Choir Anthem:

Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown

Gibbs

Message: The People of Saint Andrew's and St. Paul's gathered...

Hymn of Response:

We Have This Ministry
**We have this ministry,
and we are not discouraged,
It is by God's own power
that we may live and serve
Openly we share God's word,**

VU 510

**speaking truth as we believe
Praying that the shadowed world
may healing light receive.
We have this ministry,
O God receive our living.**

**O Christ the tree of life,
our end and our beginning
We grow to fullest flower
when rooted in your love.
Brothers, sisters, clergy, lay,
called to service by your grace
Different cultures, different gifts,
the young and old a place.
We have this ministry,
O God receive our giving.**

**The yoke of Christ is ours,
the whole world is our parish
We daily take the cross,
the burden and the joy.
Bearing hurts
of those we serve,
wounded, bruised
and bowed with pain
Holy Spirit, bread and wine,
we die and rise again.
We have this ministry,
O God receive our loving.**

Invitation to Offering:

Doxology:

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

TBoP 306

**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:⁴

Generous God, Throughout the ages you invite people to follow the path of faith-filled giving. We all give in the ways we can. Some are able to offer time, helping in a variety of situations. Others have skills and gifts that are useful in your kingdom. Some of us can give financially. We know it is the spirit in which this is offered that is most important to you. Receive our offerings and use them to build up your glorious reign. Amen.

Prayers of The People:

And now we join our voices into one prayer and pray as Jesus taught,

**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.**

GOING OUT TO THE WORLD FOLLOWING THE WAY

Closing Hymn:

**Let Us Build a House
Let us build a house
where love can dwell
And all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
Rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ
shall end divisions;**

MV 1

Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome,

All are welcome in this place.

**Let us build a house
where prophets speak,
And words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and a symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim
the faith of Jesus: R**

**Let us build a house
where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground,
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ
the feast that frees us: R**

**Let us build a house
where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end
to fear and danger. R**

**Let us build a house
where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,**

**prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim
from floor to rafter: R**

Commissioning and Benediction:

Postlude:

Taccota on “St. Anne”

Long

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Announcements

Celebration and Volunteer Thank You Sunday! This **Sunday, October 13th**, marks the two-year anniversary of the joining of the congregations of Saint Andrew's and St. Paul's in Ecumenical Shared Ministry. At **Coffee Hour** we are celebrating not only our shared ministry but also our many **Volunteers** from both denominations who have given countless hours in volunteer activities which keep our church running smoothly and support the Church Family we have become and are becoming. Please join us after worship today for **Cake and Conversation**. There will be **Sign Up Sheets** as well as people who can answer questions about what is involved: **Scripture Readers, Greeters, Coffee Hour Hosts / Co-Hosts** (Provide Treats) and **Muffin Roster** (for Breakfast to Go.) We are very grateful for all Current and New Volunteers as we move into our third year together. Thank you!

Thank you to those who have used their gifts, time and talents to serve God in worship. Today's all-stars:

READERS

Hebrew Scripture: Rebecca Jonah

Responsive Psalm: Kathie Berry

Gospel: Chris Grant

GREETERS: Murial Aiken, Joan Shaw and Etta Davis

AUDIO VISUAL (zoom): Allen Thorn

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE: Mary Hossack and Margie Penney

We have been worshipping together for Two Years. Celebrate where we have been and hear about where we are going.

Reminder: the annual Fall Rummage Sale will be held Friday, October 23, from 3-7 p.m., and Saturday, October 24, from 9 a.m. - noon. **You can drop off donations this week: Tuesday 1-4, Wednesday 1-9, Thursday 1-4, and Friday 9-12.** Outside of these hours, please call the church to ensure someone will be here to receive you. Donations of Gently Used items (Clothing, Household goods, puzzles, books, linens, seasonal items, toys, craft items, etc.) can be left in the back of the church hall. We very much appreciate your support as we prepare for this sale, which benefits our community and our church.

It's Socktober! The lighted tree at the back of the sanctuary is decorated with socks! For the month of October, our Mission and Outreach Committee is requesting **Men's and Women's Winter socks**, which will be shared with needy men and women in our community who come to our doors or to the Emergency Shelters. Donated Socks can be placed in the basket at the base of the tree. We greatly appreciate your support!

Current Needs of our Outreach Programs

The Pantry: Our pantry staples of canned meats, Peanut butter, juice and School Safe snacks (such as puddings, fruit cups) are always needed!

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

Weekly Congregational Activities

Tuesdays ~ Ladies Group, in the Hall: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. All are welcome!!

Tues. & Thurs. ~ Quilting Group, Parlour - 1-4 p.m. ~ All are welcome!

Wednesdays ~ Pantry Program, Basement - 9-11 a.m. - Basement

Thursdays ~ Choir Practice, in the Hall: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. ~ All are welcome!

Fridays ~ Breakfast 2 Go, Hall entrance - 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Church Meetings

The **next EA meeting** will be held after Service on **October 25th, 2026**. 12:00-1:30 p.m. Session & Council members are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch.

Looking to **connect with Rev. Michelle**, you can call her direct office line at **(506)455-0639**, email michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com, or **text (506)259-7602**. For pastoral emergencies, please call her cell. Please note: Rev. Michelle will be off October 22 & October 28 and away on Continuing Education November 2-8th inclusive.

Can't attend Sunday Service in person?

Consider joining us online. Worship via Zoom - Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83673756287>

Passcode: 2023

View past services here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG2wvjhQzgAm-2Co5WvRkmA>

External Announcements

Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers Fredericton fundraises to help Grandmothers in Africa who are raising grandchildren whose parents have died from AIDS. We support grassroots organizations that provide education and support. This year we are holding a **Jewellery Sale on Saturday, October 24th at the Knights of Columbus Hall** on Regent Street near the Fredericton Market. We will be open from 8:00 to 3:00 and hope you are able to stop by and shop. We will also have Pearls for Girls jewellery available. Please come and support our efforts to continue to make a difference. Our funds go to Help Lesotho and the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Nashwaaksis United Church, 46 Main Street, is holding its annual fall "Chilli Take Out Supper" on Friday, October 23; pick-up is between 4:00 and 5:30 pm. The menu consists of mild chilli, a roll, Caesar salad and apple crisp, all for \$18.00. Please reserve your meal by calling the church office at **506-458-9452** or by email at admin@nashwaaksisunited.ca by Wednesday, October 21 at 2:00pm.