

St. Paul's United Church
Second Sunday of Advent
10:30 a.m December 4th, 2016

* Please stand as you are able, sit as you prefer *

Prelude Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Bach
We Gather in Community

Greeting

Introit: Don't Be Afraid MV 90
**Don't be afraid, my love is stronger,
My love is stronger than your fear
Don't be afraid, my love is stronger,
And I have promised, promised to be always near.**

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship/Candle Lighting Liturgy (Responsive):

The Light shines in the darkness,

But the darkness has not overcome it.

During Advent our weary souls seek God's daily strength.

The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

We grow weary when fear overshadows faith.

The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

We grow weary when destructive actions erupt in the world around us.

The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

For all of us feeling weary this Advent season:

Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

First & Second Candle are Lit

Sung Response: Christ be our Light (vs 2 and refrain)

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Prayer of Approach & Lord's Prayer

Children's Choir A Home For Jesus

Time for the Young at Heart

***Hymn of Praise:** Lo How A Rose

VU 8

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God, our lives reflect your kingdom values of justice and righteousness, but sometimes our lives become so entangled with the values of the world, that your values take second place. Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit, source of power and life. Merciful God, strip our hearts and minds of all that prevents our lives being firmly rooted in you. May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more, in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

We Listen for the Voice of the Spirit

Sung Prayer for Illumination: O Radiant Christ Incarnate Word VU 84 (verse 1)

O radiant Christ, incarnate Word,
eternal love revealed in time:
come, make your home within our hearts,
that we may dwell in light sublime.

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10 Ron Naugler
One: Herein is wisdom.
All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem A Voice Cries Out, "Prepare the Way of the Lord" Larson

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-12 Rev. Richard
One: This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
All: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Message The Voices of the Season Rev. Richard
***Hymn of Praise:** There's a Voice in the Wilderness VU 18

We Respond to the Spirit

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Basque Carol Tucker

***Dedication Verse:** (Words by Sandra Jenkinson. Sung to "Good King Wenceslas.")

Here our gifts we offer, God, thankful for your blessings.
Take them, Spirit, use them to spread the peaceful message
that Christ comes to bring to us life for all creation.
May our gifts help bring to all love and transformation.

*Dedication Prayer (Unison):

In hope we give our lives to you, in peace we live each day.
With joy we'll serve and worship you, Your love shall guide the way.
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your son,
inspire and guide, empower us until your kingdom come. AMEN

Prayers of the People

***Hymn of Praise:** Once in Royal David's City VU 62

*Blessing and Sending Forth (Responsive):

Prepare for the coming of the Lord!

In our hearts let us make way for the Eternal Love!

Get rid of all anger and fear, for God is about to bring incredible light to the world!

We take peace with us, going in confidence as witnesses to God's glory. AMEN

***Choral Closing:**

May the God of Hope

VU 424

**May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.**

**May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

**Praying, let us work for peace; (*clap clap*)
singing, share our joy with all; (*clap clap*)
working for a world that's new, (*clap clap*)
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

Postlude

We invite you to stay and enjoy the postlude

Announcements

Greeters:	Dec. 4:	Hope & Andrew Steeves
Ushers:	Left Side:	Allison Gorrill & Roger Miller
	Middle:	Isabel Green
	Right Side:	Linda & Alastair Lamont
	Upstairs:	Barb & Mel McGuigan
Coffee Hour:	Dec. 11:	The Pantry

Sympathy and prayers of the congregation are extended to Ivy & Ed Bujold in the death of Ivy's sister, Velma Bos of Quispamsis.

PARKING RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT: As of Dec 1st, parking around the downtown is changing. Please be aware of the signs, and note that parking on side streets like George St will be limited, if not restricted entirely.

2017 Offering Envelopes are ready this morning in Narthex as well as your Christmas Letter and flyer. Please ensure you pick yours up today.

White Gift Envelopes: This is the time of year we solicit your support of money for the White Gift Envelope Fund! These funds are divided between the Salvation Army (supporting the families and children on their Christmas list) and the St. Paul's Benevolent Fund. Please use the white envelope provided or other envelopes clearly marked "White Gift".

Thinking of joining the church family? We'd love to have you! On December 11th, Joy Sunday in Advent, we will be **welcoming new members** to the congregation. If you would like to be a part of this celebration, contact Pastor Sarah or Rev. Richard for more information.

Guided by Grace, Love, and Light: Will meet in the hall at 2:00 PM today.

Spirit Sisters, will meet this Monday Dec. 5th. in the Ladies' Parlour, start time 7:00 PM

Men's Conversation Group: Tuesday, **Dec. 6th** continuing with *Three Ways of Grace*. 6:45—Coffee, 7—Prayer and Conversation

Thanks to all our Sunday School volunteers so far this fall! We still need a leader for the December classes so please prayerfully consider how you might offer your gift of leadership in this. If you know you will be available for a month (or a Sunday every now and again) in the new year, please contact Rev. Richard Bowley(458-1183 or rev.bowley@outlook.com)

Lectionary Readings

Wondering where we get our ideas for scripture readings Sunday morning? Here are the next few weeks so you can get an idea of what we might talk, pray, and sing about.

December 4 - Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1–10, Psalm 72, Romans 15:4–13, Matthew 3:1–12

December 11 - Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1–10, Psalm 146:5–10, Luke 1:47–55, James 5:7–10, Matthew 11:2–11

December 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10–16, Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19, Romans 1:1–7, Matthew 1:18–25

Hospice Fredericton is now accepting referrals for the Adult Day Centre at 621 Churchill Row. We are open 3 days a week; Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00am to 3:00pm. We welcome clients with cognitive or physical impairments of any kind that are 55 and older. The centre offers a wide range of stimulating programs for memory loss, physical challenges, or social isolation. Activities will include music, games, trivia, bingo, and various exercise programs. For more information on our Adult Day Program, to make a referral or on volunteering please contact Nicole Pike in person at 621 Churchill Row, Fredericton, NB, E3B 1P5, over the phone at (506) 206-7955 or by email at hospiceadc@gmail.com

The Fredericton Choral Society and the Fredericton Symphony Orchestra will be performing **Handel's Messiah** on Friday, Dec. 9th, 7 p.m. at Wilmot United Church. Soft light and a cozy church filled with music and friends- what a great way to spend an evening- and we will do a sing-a-long to the Hallelujah chorus!