

St. Paul's United Church

10:30 a.m. September 11, 2016

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

Prelude

Ciaconne

Buxtelude

We Gather in Community

***Greeting (Responsive):** (Inspired by Psalm 14)

The foolish say, 'there is no God.'

We come, trusting in Jesus, the face, the voice, the presence of the God who loves us.

The scoffers of our age ask, 'why do you seek after God?'

We come, in this time, because God's grace has spilled over in our lives.

The hopeless around us think, 'no one cares about me.'

We come, in this time, to this place, because Jesus has found us and brought us home.

***Introit:**

Lord, Prepare Me

MV 18

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary

pure and holy, tried and true

with thanksgiving, I'll be a living

sanctuary for you.

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship (Responsive):

As summer gives way to fall, so God calls us to renew and refresh,

we are called to new beginnings.

To encourage those who return to school and college as students or teachers,

we are called to new beginnings.

(Time of reflection.)

To commit ourselves again, to the life and work of this faith community,

we are called to new beginnings.

(Time of reflection.)

To search out new opportunities for our own learning and adventuring,

we are called to new beginnings.

(Time of reflection.)

To explore our faith and the Word of God that sustains us,

we are called to new beginnings.

(Time of reflection.)

To find the ways to help our neighbourhood in the way of Christ,

we are called to new beginnings.

(Time of reflection.)

In every good beginning, you, Loving God, are there. You are our inspiration and our motivation. You are the source of our persistence and the reason for our hope. You never give

up on us. Your blessing is for us and with us continually. We come to worship you in our new beginnings!

Prayer of Approach
Lord's Prayer

Time for the Young at Heart

***Children's Hymn:**

I Am The Light

VU 87

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

God of wisdom, we confess the foolishness of our ways, and our failure to follow you in your paths of right relationships –with you and with others. We have gone astray; we feel lost. We have upheld our own interests first, to the detriment of others. We have failed to be generous with the poor, and abandoned our efforts to bring about justice. We feel the stains of our sins, God; have mercy on us according to your steadfast love. Wash our brokenness out of us, and help us to live more faithfully as your servants. We seek your unfailing Lordship and ask for your guiding hand on our lives. You are the immortal, invisible One; to you be honour and glory forever; Amen.

Assurance of God's Love (Responsive):

Merciful and loving God, we thank you for never losing hope for us.

When we are lost, you are there on the look-out for us, bringing us back to you like the good shepherd that you are.

Your Word tells us of the joy in heaven that awaits us.

May this joy flow into our lives each day, and be faithfully reflected into the world around us.

Thanks be to God, our Great Shepherd. Amen.

We Listen for the Voice of the Spirit

Sung Prayer for Illumination: Listen God is Calling

MV 97

Listen God is calling, through the word inviting offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

First Lesson: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Jen Petryshen

One: Herein is Wisdom

All: Thanks be to God

Second Lesson: Luke 15:1-10

Rev. Richard

One: This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Let Me Be a Light in the Darkness Beall/Carter

Message

Seeking The Lost

Rev. Richard

***Hymn:**

Come Let Us Sing

VU 574

We Respond to the Spirit

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Chorale Prelude

Willan

***Dedication Verse:** What Can I Do?

MV 191

What can I do? What can I bring?

What can I say? What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy! I'll say a prayer!

I'll bring my love! I'll do my share!

***Dedication Prayer (Unison):**

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for these gifts and ask that they be used to help the needy in our community and throughout the world. As we offer you these gifts, we offer ourselves as well, that together we might transform the world with your grace and love. Amen.

Prayers of the People

***Hymn:**

Wherever You May Go

MV 216

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

***Choral Closing:** Take Up This Song of Love MV 213

Take up this song of love and go into the world.

Take up this song of love in every moment.

In every moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives.

Lay them down in love, lay them down and take up this song.

Postlude

Toccata

Dubois

We invite you to stay and enjoy the postlude

Announcements

Greeters: Sept. 11: Sadie Miller & Shirley MacLeod
Ushers: Left Side: Gail Simmons & Roger Miller
Middle: Larry Buick
Right Side: Greg Morton & Bob Miller
Upstairs: Katie & Eric Lakes
Coffee Hour: Sept. 18: Facilitators

Congregational Meeting will be held after church on **Sunday, September 18th, 2016**, for the purpose of discussing the possibilities of moving forward with a second, paid, full-time minister. A representative of Woolastook Presbytery will be present, all are welcome to attend and discuss, and all confirmed members may vote.

Sunday School starts up today! We are blessed to have teachers for the months of Sept. and Oct., but are still looking for Nov. and Dec. Know that lessons are prepared ahead of time by a volunteer, and all you need to do is show up and lead. We support one another to make light the work God has called us to.

Spirit Sisters, a women's spirituality/discussion group will be gathering this fall. The first meeting will be a meet & greet, in the Ladies' Parlour at St. Paul's on **Monday, September 12th**, at 7pm. This will be a weekly group (except for holidays), and for the fall session, we will be looking at Stormie Omartian's book "The Power of a Praying Woman" which is available at Chapter's, Lighthouse, and through Amazon. All who self-identify as women and sisters in Christ are welcome to come and explore your spirituality with us. Any questions, queries, concerns, and conundrums can be addressed to Pastor Sarah at sarah.magie@gmail.com.

Men's Conversation Group will be starting up again **Tuesday, September 27th** at 6:45 pm. Our focus will be the book ***Three Ways of Grace***, a collection of ways that we in the church have come to experience the mystery of the Trinity. For more information contact Rev. Richard at rev.bowley@outlook.com

Cubs and Beavers will be having their first meeting/registration on Sept 13. We do not need leaders but we have lots of room for children from age 5 to grade 5. Contact jocraighenry@gmail.com for further information.

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday - Sunday, 25 September. Starting this fall, the last Sunday of **every** month will be a designated bring a friend to church Sunday. We will be discussing throughout this fall ways of being invitational in our church community, and this is one of the initiatives we will be trying. Printed invitations will be provided in the bulletin two weeks prior to our first Bring a Friend to Church Sunday, and we would like to challenge you to the **10 by 10** challenge: that means, for 10 days prior to the event, invite 10 people you interact with each day. That means everyone would have invited 100 people! Everyone is welcome here at St. Paul's!

We will also be having a **soup & sandwich potluck luncheon** after church on **Sunday, 25 September**. There won't be a sign-up sheet for this event, it will be a true smorgasbord of whatever people feel like bringing, but we suggest soup and sandwiches, because it's easy. Everyone is welcome, and we'll make sure there is enough soup and sandwiches for all!

Office Information needed:

Have you moved, do you have a new email address, wish to use envelopes or join the PAR program or have other information that needs to be changed on your family records here at St. Paul's? Please inform Cathy Simpson in the office at 458-1183 or email cathysimpson@nb.aibn.com