

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

Fredericton, N.B.

June 11th, 2023

2nd after Pentecost

10:30 AM

GATHERING

PRELUDE: Hymn of Promise ~ Sleeth

WORDS OF WELCOME:

Welcome to this time of worship

We are so glad you are here.

We are an open-minded, open-hearted, affirming community,
seeking to follow in the way of Jesus,
and engage in the work of compassion, love, and justice.

Wherever you are in your faith journey, with whatever questions you carry,

You are welcome here.

Whomever you love, whatever your gender identity, your sexual orientation, your ethnicity, race or ability,

You are welcome here.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Upon this great traditional land, we walk, live and play, acknowledging that this unceded land is the sacred home of the Wolastqiyik, Mi'kmaq and Peskotomuhkati peoples. We recognize their stewardship and honour them as keepers of the land.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:

INTROIT: *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

VU 382 ~ V1

*Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.*

GATHERING PRAYER: (In Unison)

We worship our Maker, who delights in diversity;

We worship the Lover, who in Jesus reached out and accepted and embraced everyone, despite all social, class, ethnic and spiritual barriers.

We worship the Keeper, the Spirit who continues to break down the walls that divide us. Thanks be to God!

PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT: (In Unison) ¹

VU 916

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be.

Father and Mother of us all,

loving God, in whom is heaven:

the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth!
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
Now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

VU 271

*There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.*

*There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such gracious judgement given.*

*There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that Christ has shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.*

*Troubled souls, why will you scatter
like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will you wander
from a love so true and deep?*

*For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.*

PRAYER OF SELF REFLECTION: (Responsive)

Grace giving God, be with us as we open our hearts to you.

Hear our prayers, O God.

We identify with the church home in which we find comfort.

Hear our prayers, O God.

We cling to those things to which we are accustomed and are uncertain of how we will fit into new situations.

Hear our prayers, O God.

We know change is inevitable and our reluctance to change can hide the positives.

Hear our prayers, O God.

As we embrace the changes before us, be with us and hear the thoughts of our hearts as we bring them to you in silence.

~ *Moment of silent prayer* ~

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

God has assured us as Easter people that we are loved and supported throughout our individual and collective struggles with inevitable change.

God hears our prayers!

EXPLORING

TIME FOR ALL AGES:

WORDS FROM OUR BIBLE: Luke 15:11-32

Herein lies Divine Wisdom.

We listen with our heart, soul and mind.

REFLECTION: With Arms Wide Open

HYMN OF REFLECTION: *O God, How We Have Wandered*

VU 112

*O God, how we have wandered
and hidden from your face;
in foolishness have squandered
your legacy of grace.
But how, in exile dwelling,
we turn with fear and shame,
as distant but compelling,
you call us each by name.*

*And now at length discerning
the evil that we do,
by faith we are returning
with hope and trust in you.
In haste you come to meet us,
and home rejoicing bring,
in gladness there to greet us
with calf and robe and ring.*

*O God of all the living,
both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving,
our peace and hope assured.
Grant now that our transgressing,
our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing,
in pardon, and in peace.*

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS:

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (In Unison)

Holy God, thank you for sending your Spirit, the Spirit of the risen Christ. We wait for your guidance and power, fill our hearts and minds with your gifts of faith, hope, and love. We make our offerings as witnesses to your grace and mercy. We dedicate ourselves and them to your good purposes in the world by the power of your Spirit. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

A WORD ABOUT GUARANTEED LIVABLE INCOME:

PRAYERS OF OUR COMMUNITY:

CLOSING HYMN: *Seek Ye First the Kingdom*

VU 356

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and God's righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.*

*Ask and it shall be given unto you;
seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.*

*We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, hallelujah.*

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING:

POSTLUDE: Hornpipe ~ Handel

¹ Adaptation by Jim Cotter

Scripture Readers: Narrator 1 – Cathy Davis, Narrator 2 – Carole Peacock, Narrator 3 – Ann Krause
Greeter: Mary Stickles **Audio Visual:** John Davis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SUNDAY JUNE 11TH, 2023

Good morning and welcome to EVERYONE. May this worship service be a blessing in your day as we continue to worship together each week in person and by Zoom.

FUNDSCRIP ORDERS DUE THIS SUNDAY!

Deadline for our next FundScrip order will be today **Sunday, June 11th**. Gift cards will arrive in time for distribution on Sunday, June 18 (Father's Day).... don't forget Dad! Order forms are available in the church office, in the Narthex or [click here](#). **Please note:** This will be our final order until the fall when we return to regular church services here at St. Paul's. You may want to order a few extra cards for your grocery shopping, gas purchases and other needs to see you through the summer. *Remember: Shopping is fundraising for St. Paul's.* The church needs your support throughout the year.



ST. PAUL'S SUMMER FUNDRAISING

Over the coming summer months, we hope that St. Paul's will be close to your heart, even if you are away traveling or enjoying some cottage time. For the next 3 months, we would like to highlight certain committees within the Church that generally require "extra" attention. In June, please think about the Property Committee, in July - The Pantry, and in August, when it can be very warm, consider the Boiler! In the Bulletin each month, a special envelope will be inserted, giving you an opportunity to contribute to that committee. The life and work of St. Paul's is ongoing. We hope you will remain an important part of the Church Family.



The Pantry program needs the following items: tooth brushes, paper towel, laundry & dish soap, tissues, toilet paper, cookies, large juice, apple sauce, pudding, canned fruit, canned beans, canned peas, macaroni, canned tomatoes, Stove Top, peanut butter, chicken noodle soup, ham flakes, turkey flakes, canned brown beans, juice boxes, soda crackers and salt. Thank you for your continued support!

PANTRY PROGRAM

PASTORAL CARE

Starting Tuesday, June 6th all emergency pastoral care calls are to be directed to Bev Sharpe who will be covering while Michelle is on Sabbatical. Her contact information is 506-471-4326.

PAR (PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCE)

As we approach a great summer, being a member of PAR is a great method of giving regularly towards the operation of our wonderful church. Contributions to PAR in April by 52 families is of major importance to St Paul's! The amount contributed to OPERATIONS in April was \$8,060.17 and to M&S \$460.00! We encourage you to sign up today for your first time or to increase your present PAR contributions. Every dollar is important! Please call Meghan today at 506-458-1183 or pick up a form at the church entrance Sunday!

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN FALL

We are trying something new, asking for people to committee not for the whole year but for one three-week Unit. The Fall themes are God Creates Family, Responding to God's love, God's way of Leading, Our sin, God's Faithfulness, and Promises Made, and Promises Kept. We are looking for leaders to help share the love of God with your youngest congregation members. All serving in the Sunday School will need to provide a valid vulnerable sector police record check. If one of these themes piqued your interest or you want to help our children grow please contact Erin Hayes at hayes.erin11@gmail.com

WARK/ST. PAUL'S SCHOLARSHIPS

Students who are members or adherents of St. Paul's and who plan to pursue post-secondary studies this fall are invited to apply for financial support from the Wark/St. Paul's Scholarship Funds. Details on eligibility and application guidelines are available at [scholarships-bursaries](#) Applications must be received on or before **July 31st**.



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

June 11th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by the Board

June 18th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Christian Education

June 25th ~ Downtown United Summer Service @ Wilmot at 10:30am

July 2nd ~ Downtown United Summer Service with Bev Sharpe at Wilmot at 10:30

July 9th ~ Downtown United Summer Service with Rev. Darryl at Wilmot at 10:30

July 16th ~ Downtown United Summer Service with Rev. Mary at Wilmot at 10:30

FRAUD/SCAMMING INFORMATION SESSION

The Nashwaaksis United Church Pastoral Care Committee will be hosting this session, to be held in the auditorium on Tuesday, **June 13th**, 1-3pm. Guest speaker will be Const. Mike Bamford, of the Fredericton City Police. There will be light refreshments.

BBQ AT GIBSON MEMORIAL

Gibson Memorial United Church, 183 Gibson St., will be hosting a Steak or Chicken BBQ on **June 28th**, 4 - 6 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Please call 457-1951 to reserve your tickets. Menu: Steak or chicken, potatoes, vegetables, gravy, coleslaw, pickles, rolls, & pie!



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

190 Years of Glorifying God through Worship, Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and Serving Others in Christ's name

CONTACT INFORMATION

224 York St., Fredericton, NB E3B 3P1

Web: www.stpaulsunited.ca | Tel: 506-458-1183 | Email: stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com

Minister: Rev. Michelle Armstrong | **Organists:** Dr. Sharon Pond & Alexis Ervin

Church Administrator: Meghan Roebuck | **Custodian:** Rusty Blakely