

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

Fredericton, N.B.

190 Years of Glorifying God through Worship, proclaiming the Gospel of Christ, and serving others in Christ's name.

Oct 1st, 2023

World Communion Sunday

10:30 AM

"And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the story about the bush, how God said to him, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is God not of the dead but of the living;"

~ Mark 12:26-27a

GATHERING AS GOD'S OWN

PRELUDE: Menuet ~ Lloyd-Webber

WELCOME

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

GREETING: *(Responsive)*

God be with you.

And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE: *(Responsive)*

Once there was someone who said such wonderful things and did such amazing things that people began to follow him. One day they asked him who he was, and he responded, "I am the light."

This light is present in our world and in ourselves. This light draws us here today, on this day to celebrate, with all creation, so let us sing!

INTROIT: *This is the Day*

MV 122

This is the day that God has made;

We will rejoice and be glad!

This is the day that God has made;

We will rejoice and be glad!

Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu!

We will rejoice and be glad!

Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu!

We will rejoice and be glad!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Responsive)*¹

Sometimes we feel like asking God: are you paying attention?

And God asks us too: are we paying attention?

To the people right in front of us,

to the people who live with the consequences of our actions,

to the realities with which our neighbors live,

to the opportunities presented to us:

Are we paying attention?

God sees, God knows, and God comes through us to respond.

We come together to celebrate God's presence and continue to listen, and look, and tough the world together.

GATHERING HYMN: *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

VU 371

*Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.*

*Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.*

*Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.*

*Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

OPENING PRAYER

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

STORY TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

BRINGING FORWARD OUR GIFTS FOR GOD

DEDICATION VERSE: *Grant Us, God, the Grace*

VU 540

*Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE STORY BEFORE THE STORY

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Exodus 1:8-17, 20-22; 2:1-6a, 10b; 3:1-15

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: The Lord is my Shepherd ~ Allen

MESSAGE

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

HYMN: *Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face*

VU 459 vs1-4

*Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
here would I touch and handle things unseen,
here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,
and all my weariness upon you lean.*

*Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
here drink with you the royal wine of heaven;
here would I lay aside each earthly load,
here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.*

*This is the hour of banquet and of song;
this is the heavenly table for me spread;
here let me feast, and feasting, still prolong
the fellowship of living wine and bread.*

*Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear.
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
the bread and wine remove, but you are here,
nearer than ever, still my shield and sun.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION: ¹

At this table, Christ gathers us in from east and west, north and south...

from places of privilege and places of oppression...

from backgrounds of comfort and of pain.

At this table, the refugee fording the river at night finds a welcome.

At this table, the parent hoping against hope while surrendering their child into a tiny boat finds help.

At this table, the trafficked worker hidden in the back of the truck finds freedom.

At this table, those people we hear about on the news but never think to find nearby are not abstract neighbours but treasured guests.

At this table, Christ feeds us with bread, no questions asked about our hunger.

At this table, Christ feeds us with courage to look into the eyes of our neighbour.

At this table, Christ feeds us with himself that we may in turn be his Body in the world.

No exclusions, no exceptions,

this is Christ's table, and he is the one who invites us to see the extraordinary in this ordinary feast he has prepared.

COMMUNION LITURGY: ¹

May God be with us.

God is with us.

Let us open our hearts to God.

We open them to God and to one another.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe,
for you pay attention to this world you have made.

In the beginning, you had your hands in the dirt and your breath in our faces,
and it was good.

In every time and place you have been faithful to your people,
leading Abraham and Sarah in the wilderness,

keeping watch over Hagar in the desert,

feeding your people through the ingenuity of Joseph,

saving them through the hands of Shiphrah and Puah,

making the way for a future through the quick thinking of Miriam...

in every generation you are at work,

revealing your care and your presence through the action of your faithful people.

We give you thanks, O God,

for your voice that echoes through history

in the prophets and the ordinary people,

for your Word embodied in Jesus,

for your servants who have carried your good news to every place.

We join creation which sings to you in praise...

RESPONSE: “Sanctus Benedictus”

MV 203

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.

All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.

Hosanna in the highest heav’n, creation sings your praise.

And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!

With this bread and juice before us we remember the way Jesus ate with all people,

And the words he shared with his closet friends on the night before he would die.

At that meal, he took the ordinary bread and blessed it saying

“take, eat, this is my body, given for you, each time you do this, remember me”

Then he took the Cup and after giving thanks he passed it to his friends saying

“drink.

This cup, poured out for you, is the promise of God.

Whenever you drink it, remember me”

In this meal, we are joined together with those first disciples

And Christ's followers all over the world,

As we eat and drink, as we remember and share,

We proclaim the mystery and power of our faith.

***Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!***

We pray at this table that we might be re-made into your Body
ready to bear your message of hope and justice in this world,
for the need is very great.

Today as we share the feast of your people around the world
we must turn our eyes to the reality you call us to see...
and so we lift to our attention, and to yours,
the families with no options, facing choices we do not want to imagine,
who are so desperate to save their children that they will risk anything and endure our hostility;
the women who work behind the scenes,
with no status and no resources beyond their own imagination,
who yet work for abundant life and secretly find ways to stand against oppression and injustice;
the people whose privilege protects them and yet they use it to lift up others,
in defiance of expectations...
without them, there would have been no Moses,
and without them today there will be no future for your people.

We lift to our attention, and yours,
To those places where the everyday things we take for granted are an unimaginable dream,
where the neighbors you call us to love are abandoned to rising seas, famine, and war,
where the very people we celebrate at today's feast go hungry and ignored.

As we claim to celebrate with the whole world today,
do not let us forget them when we leave this place.
For you came among us, word made flesh,
to get as close as humanly possible,
and nothing escapes your attention.
As we bring thanks and praise,
as we share bread and juice,
send your Holy Spirit again to fill us
that together we might take up your call to truly be a world communion of your people,
your Body living and breathing and serving and transforming this world you so love.
We ask these and all things in the name of the One who lives good news among us, Jesus the Christ.

***Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!***

SHARING OF THE MEAL:

The bread of life
The cup of blessing

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: (In Unison) - Celebrate God's presence.

We give thanks, almighty God,
that you have refreshed us at your table
by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ.
Strengthen our faith,
increase our love for one another,
and send us forth into the world
united in courage and peace,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

GOING FORTH WITH GOD

CLOSING HYMN: *Lead On, O Cloud of Presence*

VU 421

*Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come.
In wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.
Our slavery left behind us,
new hopes within us grow.
We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.*

*Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears,
but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears.
We are not lost, though wandering,
for by your light we come,
and we are still God's people. The journey is our home.*

*Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.
We pray our sons and daughters
may journey to that land
where justice dwells with mercy, and love is law's demand.*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

CHORAL CLOSING: *Go to the World*

VU 420 v2

*Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the Word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

POSTLUDE: Chorale Prelude ~ Reger

¹ Adapted from Rev. Teri Peterson, *Bibleworm Liturgy October 1st, 2023*

Scripture Readers: Narrator – Barbara Cull-Wilby, Moses – Ron Naugler, Pharaoh – Andrew Steeves,
Pharaoh's Daughter – Cathy Davis, God – Deborah West
Greeter: Mary Stickles **Audio Visual:** John Davis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



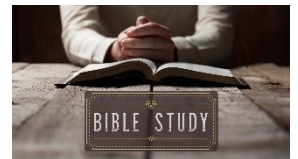
FundScrip – The deadline for our next gift card order is **Sunday, October 8** (Thanksgiving). You can leave your order and payment at the church office during the week if you plan to be away for the holiday. Order forms are available in the office and the Narthex or by clicking here [Oct 8th FundScrip Order Form.pdf](#). If you are not yet a FundScrip shopper and would like more information about this fundraising program, Carole Peacock will be happy to answer your questions. Remember: *Shopping is fundraising for St. Paul's!*

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Do you enjoy coffee and conversation after church? Do you bake? Can you pour a cup of coffee? Are you willing to learn how to use the dishwasher? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you are who we need. This post-service ministry is a great way to support and serve the community without being part of a committee. You have the flexibility to serve for one Sunday or more if it fits with your schedule. If you can help support the committees in this important community time, please sign up in Fraiser Memorial Hall or by calling Meghan in the office.

BIBLE STUDY ON SUNDAY READING

Mondays 11:00-12:00pm. We are venturing into a new format for our exploration. Dig into the scriptures, join with others as we seek to deepen our relationship with God. No prior experience needed.



EVENING SMALL GROUP FAITH EXPLORATION

We have heard an expressed desire for an evening program for those who work in the day. If this of interest to you, please contact Rev. Michelle michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com or 506-259-7602.

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING THIS SUNDAY

There will be a Special Board Meeting held this Sunday, October 1st at 12:30 p.m. in the office conference room.

IMPORTANT SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OCTOBER 15TH



An Important Special Congregational Meeting will be held on October 15th following service. We highly encourage all congregants young and old to attend. Mark your calendars today! The link to the agenda will be in next week's eNews.

PET BLESSINGS

You and your pet are invited to join us on October 7th, on our York Street lawn at 11 a.m., for a brief time of worship celebrating the unique relationship we have with our pets. After which each owner/pet parent is invited to bring their pet forward for an individual blessing. All people and pets are welcome. We ask that you ensure your pet is secured either on a leash or in a carrier or cage. If your pet doesn't travel well, feel free to bring a picture instead.



BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

This week, the program needs **proteins with flip top lids fruit cups and granola bars**. Thank you for your continued support and generosity of this program.

PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry program needs the following items this week: white sugar, soda crackers, ketchup, pancake mix, Corn Flakes, Rice Krispies, cookies, jam, flour, apple sauce, flakes of ham, can milk, Hamberger Helper, Stove Top stuffing, oatmeal, Mr. Clean and dish detergent. Thank you for your continued support!

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

October 1st ~ World Communion Sunday ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Christian Ed

October 8th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by the Choir

October 15th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Worship

October 22nd ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by the Trustees

October 29th ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by the Board



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CONTACT INFORMATION

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