

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.

Sept 24th, 2023

17th after Pentecost

10:30 AM

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me, yet not what I want but what you want." ~ Mark 14:32-36

GATHERING AS GOD'S OWN

PRELUDE: Flute Song ~ Yan

WELCOME

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

Divine promises,

Received and remembered:

to wait for, to work towards, to wrestle with.

Divine power,

Saving and transforming:

Making and marking us God's own.

Divine purpose,
Pushing and pulling:

Challenging and changing us into a blessing.

We take this faith journey,
reaching out to the Divine

Grabbing hold of with all our might.

GATHERING HYMN: *Bless Now, O God, the Journey*

VU 633

*Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.*

*Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way,
whose hope burns through the terrors,
whose love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound.
Together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.*

*Divine Eternal Lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise
where milk and honey flow.
But waiting not for places,
you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.*

OPENING PRAYER ¹

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

STORY TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

THE STORY BEFORE THE STORY

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Genesis 32:9-13; 22-30

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: With a Voice of Singing ~ Carpenter

MESSAGE

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

HYMN: *Take My Life and Let It Be*

VU 506

*Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.*

*Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.*

*Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.*

*Take my love: and I will pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.*

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

GOING FORTH WITH GOD

CLOSING HYMN: *Creator God You Give Us Life*

MV 27

*Creator God you gave us life,
your image formed within our souls,
yet through the mist of time and space,
we search for that which makes us whole.*

Refrain

*Through hands that paint majestic skies,
and voices chanting melody,
with words that reach beyond the page,
we comprehend your mystery.*

*In ev'ry flow'r and ev'ry tree,
we see your great diversity,
yet greater still we see your love,
expressed in our humanity.*

*When with our hearts, our hands our minds,
we share our gifts with all the world,
our spirits soar beyond the veil,
to touch the very face of God.*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION: *(Responsive)*

Wrestling with the Divine is not without risk,

We are confronted with truth that calls us to adjust how we think and how we act.

Wrestling with the Divine is not without reward,

We are shown the love that makes us whole and the grace that makes a way.

Go now, to continue to wrestle, holding on to our Living Lord with both hands,
Letting your encounter change you, and because you will have glimpsed God's face,
carry also the blessing of the One who will never let you go. Amen

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: Toccata ~ DeBois

¹Adapted from Rev. Teri Peterson, *Bibleworm Liturgy* September 24th, 2023

Scripture Readers: Narrator – Chris Grant, Jacob – Ron Naugler, Man – Andrew Steeves

Greeter: Chris Grant

Audio Visual: Murray Simpson

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.

FABRIC & YARN SALE

Cleaning out your sewing room? Don't know what to do with leftover balls of yarn? We have a solution! On **Sept 30th**, St. Paul's Quilters are joining with Wilmot for a Fabric & Yarn Sale at Wilmot United Church from 9am – 3pm. Donations of fabric and yarn can be dropped off at St. Paul's office or Quilting Room until 28th.

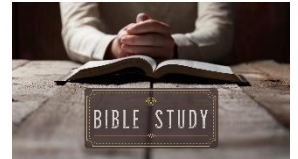


THANK YOU! TO THE FREDERICTON CO-OP

We would like to extend a sincere Thank You! To the Fredericton Co-Op for their very generous contribution to our Pantry and Brown Bag Lunch Programs. St. Paul's was graciously awarded \$3600 towards these much-needed food programs that help the most vulnerable folks in Fredericton and surrounding areas. Thank you!

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.



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.

FUNDSCRIP

FundScrip – The deadline for our next gift card order is **Sunday, October 8th** (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 [October 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!*



ANNOUNCEMENT SUBMISSIONS

Do you have an announcement you would like included in our weekly eNews or bulletin? A reminder that announcements will be accepted by the office weekly until **12 noon Wednesdays**, in person or by email to stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com All announcements will be included for a two-week period, unless otherwise requested.



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: fruit cups, cookies, flour, sugar, cake mix, frosting, jam, molasses, tomatoes, orange & apple juice, salmon, juice boxes, macaroni, Hamburger Helper, Stove Top Stuffing, icing sugar, vinegar, sardines, chick noodle soup, paper towel, toilet paper, laundry and dish detergent, Mr. Clean, Kleenex. Thank you for your continued support!



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.

LOOKING FOR USED SNOWBLOWER

Winter is just around the corner and at St. Paul's, that means having to clear a lot of snow. We are seeking a gently used snowblower to help make this job a bit easier and faster. If anyone has a snowblower to donate, that would be greatly appreciated.

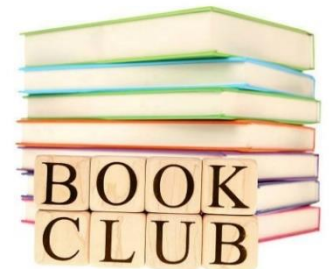


SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS NEEDED

HEY ADULTS! Are you available to help with the Sunday School for three-week stretches? We are looking for leaders to help share the love of God with our youngest congregation members. All serving in the Sunday School will need to provide a valid vulnerable sector police record check. If interested, please contact Erin at hayes.erin11@gmail.com

JOIN THE MODERATORS BOOK CLUB

Brew a cup of tea or pour a glass of your favourite drink and snuggle in with a good book. Oh, and you can discuss the book with at least two friends—the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator of The United Church of Canada, and her guest—in one of Canada's biggest book clubs. More info and sign up <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/organization-and-governance/moderator/right-rev-dr-carmen-lansdowne-44th-moderator/flourishing-project/mods-book-squad>



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- September 24th** ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by M&P
- 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

FLEA MARKET VENDORS WANTED

Forest Hill United Church, in collaboration with St. Matthew Lutheran Church, will be hosting a Flea Market. The Market will be on Saturday, **Sept. 23rd** from 9 am to noon at 45 Kimble COURT, Fredericton. The location is 45 Kimble COURT (not Kimble Drive), which is off Forest Hill Road. A variety of items will be for sale, including baked goods, Tupperware, and crafts. The proceeds from the St. Matthew table will go

toward sponsoring a refugee family. There are tables still available for vendors. If you are interested in signing up as a vendor, contact Forest Hill United Church at foresth.office@bellaliant.com or 506-455-0988.

DEATH CAFÉ

Death Café - Tuesday, September 26 from 1:30-3:00 pm, Fredericton Public Library. There is no charge to attend, and everyone is welcome! However, this is not a grief support group or grief counselling. For more information DeathInformationandEducation@gmail.com



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CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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