

**DOWNTOWN UNITED**  
*A Service of St. Paul's and Wilmot United*  
Fredericton, N.B.  
Reign of Christ Sunday

Nov 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

10:30 AM

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**GATHERING AS GOD'S OWN**

**PRELUDE:** Andante from Sonata no. 3 ~ Mendelssohn

**WELCOME**

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHILDREN INVITED FORWARD**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP: *Make A Joyful Noise***

**VU 820**

*Make a joyful noise all the earth!  
Worship your God with gladness.  
Make a joyful noise all the earth.  
Come to this place with a song!*

*Know that your God has made you.  
Know it's to God we belong.  
And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.  
Worship your God with a song! R*

*Enter these gates, thanks giving.  
Enter these courts with praise.  
Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy Name.  
Worship your God with a song! R*

*Ages through endless ages,  
seasons of endless years,  
the love of our Maker ever shall endure.  
Worship your God with a song! R*

**OPENING PRAYER**

**LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD**

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE:** Luke 24: 13-19, 28-32

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## MESSAGE

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

VU 703

*In the bulb there is a flower;  
in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise:  
butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter  
there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence,  
seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness,  
bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future;  
what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning;  
in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing;  
in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection;  
at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.*

## BRINGING FORWARD OUR GIFTS FOR GOD

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

What can I give, source of all life, but my heartfelt love, my dreams of care, creations from my talents and resources to build Your Kin-dom in the here and now. Bless our humble offerings in your most Holy of Names, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: *(Responsive)* <sup>1</sup>

Gracious God, through all time you listen to the pleas of your people. You listen to the gentle prayers of children, and hear the anguished cries of those in pain. You give ear to all who need your help. Trusting in your mercy, we speak in humility of our needs with you.

When fear and uncertainty creep into our lives,  
**remind us of your protective care.**

When we are weary and reach our limits,

**comfort and soothe us with your love.**

As we struggle to understand the meaning and purpose of change,

**give us open minds and the gift of wisdom to perceive your new opportunities to grow in faith and community.**

As we grow mature and confront new challenges,

**give us the courage to meet whatever tomorrow brings.**

As we serve you,

**help us to count our many blessings.**

**Creator God, give us fortitude to endure change, courage to step into tomorrow unafraid, wisdom to make good decisions, love and energy to serve your people well. Keep us faithful, reminding us always that whatever we do, we do in you, with you and through you. We thank you, faithful God, for your loving and constant care through Christ and Spirit. Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER:** *(In Unison)*

**Our Father Who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
forever and ever. AMEN**

### **GOING FORTH WITH GOD**

#### **COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION**

Our service of worship has ended,

**yet our service for the Kin-dom has just begun.**

Go out into the world with hearts burning with God's presence.

Go out into the world, ears tuned to the Creator's Call.

Go out into the world to share Christ's love and hope.

**We go embraced by God,  
who brings life from death,  
whose grace is unending,  
and who guides us on paths we can scarcely imagine.**

#### **CLOSING HYMN: *Travel On, Travel On***

**VU 647**

***Travel on, travel on, there's a spirit that is flowing,  
a spirit that is flowing night and day.***

***Travel on, travel on, with the spirit that is flowing,  
the spirit will be with us all the way.***

***Travel on, travel on, with the river that is flowing,  
the spirit will be with us all the way.***

*Travel on, travel on, there's a spirit that is growing,  
the spirit grows like flowers night and day.  
Travel on, travel on, with the spirit that is growing,  
the spirit will be with us all the way.  
Travel on, travel on, with the flower that is growing,  
the spirit will be with us all the way.*

*Travel on, travel on, there's a spirit that is playing,  
the spirit plays like music every day.  
Travel on, travel on, with the spirit that is playing,  
the spirit will be with us all the way.  
Travel on, travel on, with the music that is playing,  
the spirit will be with us all the way.*

*In the kingdom of heaven is our end and our beginning,  
the road that we must travel every day.  
Travel on, travel on, to the kingdom that is coming,  
the kingdom will be with us all the way.  
Travel on, travel on, to the kingdom that is coming,  
the kingdom will be with us all the way.*

**POSTLUDE:** Gigue Fugue ~ Bach

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<sup>1</sup>Adapted from Carmen L. Caltagirone, *Together We Pray*, pg 39

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**Scripture Readers:** Narrator – Alanna Palmer, Jesus – Donna Chauvin, Cleopas – Ron Naugler, Disciples – Rev. Mary Tingley  
**Greeters:** Erin & Brad Webb     **Audio Visual:** John Davis

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## 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.

### BECOME A CHRISTMAS SECRET PEN PAL

Advent is quickly approaching and while there may be a whirlwind of planning and activity, we are inviting folks to become a part of a Christmas secret pal connection over the four weeks of Advent. This is an exciting connection between Wilmot and St. Paul's and it is open to all! What we ask is that you provide your REAL name and address to the office of either church. These will be collected and sorted by the Wilmot Faith Formation Team with folks who wish to participate. On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, you will receive your secret pal's name and address and for the next four weeks we encourage you to send one note or card or letter each week of Advent. The great reveal will take place on Christmas Eve via email. Here are some suggestions as to what you might wish to consider in your questions or responses: Please note age-appropriate responses matter. Please tell your secret pal a little about yourself using your nickname. *What is your favorite part of the Advent season? Can you share a Christmas memory that you love? What do you hope for this year?* ~ Rev. Mary Tingley and Mary Lynn Cameron



## BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

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

## PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry program needs the following items this week: toothpaste and brushes, laundry and dish detergent, Mr. Clean, tin foil, rice, Hamberger Helper, chicken noodle soup, salmon, jam, can tomatoes, apple - juice large, can fruit, vinegar, salt, miracle whip, pancake mix, cookies, pudding cups, ritz, instant coffee, oatmeal, spaghetti, cake mix & frosting, and Stove Top stuffing. Thank you for your continued support of this increasingly busy outreach program!

## DOWNTOWN UNITED PROJECT UPDATE

The final presentation and recommendations from the Downtown United Project will be presented on **November 26<sup>th</sup>**. Following our Downtown United Service, join us for a fellowship meal and facilitated discussion. The note from the consultants [Note to DTU Congregations](#) and the full report [DTU Recommendations Report](#) are available on our website under the Downtown United tab <https://www.stpaulsunited.ca/downtown-united-project/>. Print copies can also be obtained from the office if needed. Coming to the discussion familiar with the report will be helpful, as there will be a vote to adopt recommendations 1 & 2.

## SIMPÁTICO: MUSIC FOR CELLO AND GUITAR

Please join Emily Kennedy and Steven Peacock in a unique celebration of the many textures and expressive possibilities of music for cello and classical guitar This 75-minute recital happens at 3pm on **November 26<sup>th</sup>** at Wilmot United Church and includes works by Vivaldi, Ravel, Villa-Lobos and Gnattali, together with compositions and arrangements by Steven Peacock, including a few familiar and less-than-familiar seasonal arrangements to close the program. Admission is by voluntary contribution to the Wilmot United Church Benevolent Fund.

## LAUGHING ALL THE WAY COMEDY AND CAROLS SHOW

A Christmas Comedy and Carols experience for the whole family! Thursday **November 30<sup>th</sup>** from 7-9pm at Nashwaaksis United Church, 46 Main Street. Laughing All The Way comedy show featuring Comedian Leland Klassen and Nashville recording artist Dan Macaulay, brings an evening of standup comedy, Christmas carols, musical silliness and improv. This one-of-a-kind Christmas event is designed to be friendly to all- young and old, church attenders or not. It is only one of 3 to be held in our province. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. Please contact the church office at 506-458-9452 for more information or to purchase tickets.

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AT MARYSVILLE UNITED

The Marysville United Church UCW are having their Christmas Bazaar and Turkey a la King take out on **December 1<sup>st</sup>**, with cream cheese squares. \$10. Pick up is 4 to 6 p.m. Call the church office to order in advance. 506 450-3082.



*Faith Formation*

## GOD'S STORY, OUR STORY

Pick up this reflection guide at the back of the sanctuary to use as a home devotional or with your own small group of friends.

### BIBLE STUDY ON SUNDAY READING

**Tuesdays from 10:45am-11:45am** in the Board room. Can't make it in person, Join by Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81736183320> Meeting ID: 817 3618 3320 Passcode: 750844

### EVENING SMALL GROUP FAITH EXPLORATION

**Thursdays from 6-7pm** in the Parlor. We hope you will join us.

## CAROLS BY GLOWSTICK

It's back! Christmas Carols by Glowstick returns on **December 1<sup>st</sup>** from 6-7pm. Join us in the historic and beautifully decorated sanctuary of St. Paul's United Church, 224 York Street, as we set the mood for the season to come. An evening of magic and joy will be yours from the moment the sanctuary lights dim, and your glowstick is snapped. As brightly coloured lights fill the sanctuary, and the music starts, you are invited to join in singing the songs of the season. This all-ages family-friendly evening invites your young ones to dance in the isle, wave their glowstick, and enter into the story of Christmas with joy. We will sing a mixture of traditional Carols and fun Christmas songs, providing something for everyone. Your ticket includes a glowstick for each person in your party and apple cider. Want more glow? Check out this year's exclusive Eventbrite ticket add-ons.

**Ticket Prices:** Online at <https://www.eventbrite.ca>: Single Ticket: \$5.50 plus service fees, Family Ticket: (Max. family of 4) \$20 plus service fees. Tickets can also be purchased by cash or etransfer at St. Paul's Office. *For questions or more information, please contact St. Paul's Office at 506-458-1183.* Don't miss out on the fun, get your ticket today.



## BREAKFAST & CHRISTMAS MARKET AT GIBSON MEMORIAL

Gibson Memorial United Church at 183 Gibson St., will be hosting a Breakfast & Christmas Market on Saturday, **Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 2023, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. The Breakfast will be from 8:00 - 10:30 a.m. at \$10/person. The market tables will feature Christmas cards & crafts by Lori Donovan, a church table with baking, pickles & knitting and a Book & Puzzle table. Everyone is welcome!

## CHARPENTIER'S MESSE DE MINUIT POUR NOEL

Inside our Church and out, this Christmas Season promises exciting and spectacular musical events. On **December 2<sup>nd</sup>** at 7:30 p.m. in Christ Church Cathedral, the Bel Canto Singers of Fredericton will present Charpentier's Messe de Minuit pour Noel with full orchestration from the Elm City String Quartet. Other acapella pieces include pieces by Mendelsohn, Lauridsen and others. Tickets for Bel Canto are \$25 General/\$10 Student. Tickets are available online, at the door and from choir members Jane Blakely & Debbie West.



## FUNDSCRIP

Countdown for Christmas! Deadline for the next gift card order... and the last before Christmas... is **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Convenient for last-minute shopping and welcome gifts for family and friends! If you usually purchase grocery store or gas cards, you may want to order extra cards in December as there will not be an order in January. The first order in the new year will be in February. Order forms are available in the church office, in the Narthex or click here [December 3<sup>rd</sup> FundScrip Order Form](#). New supporters always welcome! Remember: *Shopping is fundraising for St. Paul's.*

## MEMORIAL TREE LIGHTING SERVICE

McAdam's & Oromocto Funeral Homes know that for many among us, the approach of the holidays will bring bittersweet memories of those who won't be with us at this special time of year. As families gather, thoughts of loved ones who have died will often bring both smiles and tears. Though they may be gone they are very much alive in our hearts, especially during the holidays. Once again, we are pleased to host an evening of comfort and remembrance in our chapels, as we pause to reflect on the season and those who have shared seasons past. The annual Memorial Tree Lighting Service will be held at Oromocto Funeral Home on **Dec 5<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm and McAdam's Funeral Home in Fredericton on **Dec 6<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm.

## ADVENT CAROL FESTIVAL RETURNS!

For years it has been the musical event that marks the start of the Christmas season in Fredericton! **Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**, the Annual Advent Carol Festival returns to St. Paul's. Beginning at 7:30 p.m., the program will feature both new and familiar Christmas selections. Ten church and community choirs will take part, each singing a favourite carol or seasonal song. The choirs will also unite for a mass sing and the audience will be invited to join in the festive singing, too! Come enjoy the music of the season in our beautifully decorated sanctuary and show your appreciation to the choirs, their directors and event organizers for over 30 years of commitment to this annual tradition. A freewill offering will be received for the CBC's Feed a Family Campaign to support area food banks. Donations in past years total more than \$100,000.

## A CEREMONY OF CAROLS

Fredericton Choral Society presents Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols" at St. Paul's United Church on **December 9<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$20 General/\$10 Student. Tickets are available online, at the door and from choir members Jane Blakely & Debbie West.



## SONGS OF JUBILEE ORGAN RECITAL

Please join Dr. Sharon Pond, organist at St. Paul's United Church, for an organ recital at the church on Sunday, **December 10<sup>th</sup>** at 2:00pm. *Songs of Jubilee* will feature music of joy in a variety of genres: Baroque, Classical, Romantic, post-Romantic and contemporary... half of it being Christmas selections. Freewill offering will be received to support the music program at St. Paul's. A reception will follow in the church hall.

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

**November 26<sup>th</sup>** ~ Downtown United Service at St. Paul's at 10:30am ~ Followed by lunch and a Downtown United Presentation

**November 28<sup>th</sup>** ~ St. Paul's Mans the Salvation Army Kettle at Regent Mall ~ 10am-8pm

**December 1<sup>st</sup>** ~ Carols by Glowstick at 6pm

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>** ~ Advent 1 Service with Communion ~ Fellowship Hour hosted by Brad & Erin Webb

**December 6<sup>th</sup>** ~ Advent Carol Festival at 7:30pm

**December 10<sup>th</sup>** ~ Advent 2 Service ~ Fellowship Hour hosted by Mel & Barb McGuigan & Debbie Allison

**December 10<sup>th</sup>** ~ Songs of Jubilee Organ Recital at 2pm

**December 17<sup>th</sup>** ~ Advent 3 Service ~ Fellowship Hour hosted by Rachel & Stephanie Lavigne & Beth & Shawn Meister



### ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

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

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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