

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

Fredericton, N.B.

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

June 9th, 2024

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S OWN

PRELUDE: The Fifers ~ Dandrieu

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

INTROIT: *Jesus, Stand among Us*

VU 396 vs 1&2

*Jesus, stand among us in your risen power;
let this time of worship be a hallowed hour.*

*Breathe the Holy Spirit into every heart;
bid the fears and sorrows from each soul depart.*

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Responsive)*

From deep soil comes bold and daring growth.

From the seeds of our past will come fresh new growth.

We come today to marvel at what has been harvested,

And prepare for what will come.

We come to celebrate where we are and where we have been,

With our ancestors in faith across generations,

we give thanks to God for the blessings of past, present and future.

And dare to plant these seeds of faith anew!

OPENING HYMN: *Make a Joyful Noise*

VU 820

Did you know that Psalm 100, on which this song is based, served as the introit to the inaugural service? Let us lift our voices with our spiritual ancestors.

*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*

CENTERING PRAYER

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

STORY TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(Responsive)*

Loving God, in the fields of our lives and the life of our church, not all of the ground is ready to receive your seeds of hope.

Let us make room for love.

There are places where the soil is so rocky that the good life you intended is choked.

Let us make room for love.

As we prepare for your new seeds, help us to clear the rocks and tend the ground on which we live.

Let us make room for love.

Receive our silent prayers as we confess our words, actions, and attitudes that have marred your good ground...
A time of silence

CLEARING OUT THE STONES:

We name some of the obstacles that have impeded/prevented the seeds of love from flourishing:

As we reflect on this pile of stones, may they serve as a marker of where we have been, a remembrance of the things we wish to change, and a signpost for the direction in which we wish to travel together further.

Gracious God, allow the fields of our hearts and lives to be gardens of your new hope and love. All of this we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Faced with this cairn of stones marking where we have been, may we remember, dear siblings, that God is slow to anger and full of compassion. Abounding in love, God offers forgiveness to all who humbly repent. Let us be confident of this: the Great Gardener who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Thanks be to God!

SUNG PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: *Holy Spirit, Hear Us*

VU 377 vs 2

*Holy Spirit, shine now on the book we read;
light its holy pages with the truth we need.*

SCRIPTURE READING: John 12:20-28

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: Come, Christians, Join to Sing ~ Mueller

MESSAGE

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

HYMN: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

VU 288

*Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.*

Refrain

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!*

*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. R*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. R*

THIS IS MY STORY ~ Barbara Cull Wilby

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS:

Offerings are collected at the door to the sanctuary, or via e-transfer to stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com. To set up Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) monthly contributions, please contact Meghan in the office.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

VU 541

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(In Unison)*

Gracious God, we believe that you are calling us forward into a new day.

We believe that you have a future for St Paul's, and The United Church of Canada, that is rooted in your abundant life, and we trust you with this future even though it's beyond the horizon of our dreams.

So, we offer you the blessings you have already given us—our time, our talents, our finances, and our hopes—so that you might use them and transform them for the good of your whole world. May these gifts be a blessing to the people of St Paul’s and beyond! All this we pray, in Jesus’ name. Amen!

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you!

Present your heart forth to God.

We open our hearts to God’s presence!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Creator God, we praise you for all the goodness you have sown in this world. From the beginning of time, you have planted love in your Creation in all of our relations: the rocks and trees, the skies and seas, the birds, the fish, the plants and the animals, and the people. We are in awe and wonder of all that you have done. But you didn’t stop there! Not only did you sow the seeds of love, you also tended the ground in which they grew.

Among the people, you raised up leaders who nurtured people through your dream. You anointed prophets and judges to hold out your dream and sought to pull the invasive weeds from our hearts. Yet we often left our gardens untended, forgetting your original call and hope. All that was created you intended and called to bear the fruit of life. In remembrance of this original call, our hearts cry out to you.

**Holy, Holy, Holy God,
God of majesty and life,
heaven and earth are full of your glory!
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Living God.**

SING: *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

VU 703 vs1

***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.***

Despite your tender care, we still didn’t get your dream, so in the fullness of time, you revealed yourself in the person of Jesus, who came into the garden of your world to grow among us. Jesus showed us what truly good fruit looked like, and he did something that no other had done before.

He loved so widely and fully that his life force spread out
like the sun's rays, nourishing life in all he touched.
Even though a bountiful harvest was freely given to all,
the parasites of fear and power rose in us, impeding our flourishing in your love.

On the night in which he was betrayed,
Jesus sat at the table with his followers and friends.
Celebrating the gifts of God's love and freedom, they shared a meal together.
As they ate, he took the bread of freedom and life,
gave thanks to God, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
"Take this bread and eat. This is my body which is given for you.
Whenever you eat, remember me."
And after supper, he took the cup of blessing, gave thanks to God,
and gave it to each of his disciples in turn, saying to them:
"Take this and drink. This is my life which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of all. Whenever you drink,
remember me."
In this simple meal, we see the full blossom of Jesus' life, lived boldly and given freely. Nothing could stop his
sharing of himself. Not even death could prevent love's fruit.

And so, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen,
and Christ will come again so that his life and love might bear fruit in us.**

SING: *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

VU 703 vs2

*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.*

And so we join our hearts together in a moment of silent prayer
as we remember all whom you would have us share this meal with and all that weighs on our hearts:
(*time of silence*)

Pour your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, O God,
that we might be transformed more and more into the likeness of Christ.
Dying to our old ways, may we rise to life anew.
Through your presence, may the garden of your Creation flourish and thrive,
and the fruits we bear nourish others.

**Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, God most holy,
now and forever. Amen**

*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.*

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP:

When we share the bread together, we remember that Jesus was strongest and most powerful in his weakest and most vulnerable moments.

This broken loaf is the bread of life.

When we fill this cup, we remember the common cup and the abundant blessings that have been entrusted to us. This is the cup of blessing.

The gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Gracious God, thank you for all the ways you nourish and replenish our lives! For time spent with others at this table, for the life and teachings of your Son, and for your hope that grows daily in our hearts—thank you! Today and always, may we follow in the Way of Jesus, sowing seeds of grace in deep, bold, and daring ways so that all Creation might be nourished by your love. All of this we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen!

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH:

God of the past, present, and future,
from this moment, we are on the threshold.

The church is almost, but not yet, 100 years old.

As we remember backward to dream forward, help us to go forth to prune—gathering in all that is good and lovely, repairing the damage we find, lamenting that which has died and is dying.

Guide us through this year, so that in one year, we will witness how the seeds of today have blossomed.

Let this year be a time of preparation so that what you will grow in the next 100 years can take root.

All of this we pray, in Jesus' name, Amen!

GOING FORTH WITH GOD

CLOSING HYMN: *Morning Has Broken*

*Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!*

*Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.*

*Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

CHORAL CLOSING: *Dance with the Spirit*

MV 156

*Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.*

POSTLUDE: Postlude on "Coronation" ~ Payne

Scripture Readers: Narrator – Brad Webb, Greeks/God – Andrew Steeves, Jesus - Greg Morton

Greeters: Lois & Bill Paterson 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



The next deadline for FundScrip gift cards is Sunday, **June 9th**, a week later than usual. This means you will have more time to think of all the events coming up in June that can be celebrated with a gift card... graduations, weddings, anniversaries and don't forget Father's Day! If you are travelling this summer or expecting family home for a visit, you may want to get a few extra gas cards or grocery cards. We will not have an order in July, but we'll be back on track on Sunday, August 4, the first Sunday of the month. Remember: Shopping is fundraising for St. Paul's.

INVITATION FROM SAINT ANDREW'S LADIES GROUP

The Ladies of the Tuesday Morning Ladies Group would like to welcome any interested Ladies of St. Paul's to join us for our potluck closing lunch, at 11am on Tuesday **June 11th** at Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Please RSVP and direct questions to: Watson.colleen459@gmail.com ~ Chairperson, Colleen Watson

BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

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

PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry program needs the following items this week: pudding cups, juice boxes, canned ham, sugar, icing, white & brown sugar, flour, tomatoes, litre juices, vinegar, Miracle Whip, relish, molasses, tin foil, waxed paper, cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix & syrup, ketchup, Cheez Whiz, tea, coffee, Comet, cookies, laundry & dish soap, rice, and toothbrushes. Thank you for your continued support of this increasingly busy outreach program!



SPECIAL BIRTHDAY REQUEST FROM ANNIE SIMPSON!

What do you get a 106-year-old for her birthday? A birthday card! Be a part of making Annie's wish to receive 106 birthday cards come true. Annie Simpson is turning 106 on July 27th! Cards for Annie can be dropped off to the church office or in the locked mailbox at the York Street entrance or mailed directly to Annie. Thank you!

BOOKING MEETING SPACE AT ST. PAUL'S

As the use of our space at St. Paul's gets busier, please remember to book your meetings space through the office. Drop by in person, call 458-1183 or email Meghan at stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com.



GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL THIS YEAR?

ALREADY IN UNIVERSITY?

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

Tuesdays from 10:45am-11:45am ~ Bible Study on Sunday Reading

Bible Study will run weekly until June 18th except for June 4th

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81736183320> Passcode: 750844

Thursdays from 6-7pm ~ Evening Small Group Faith Exploration

Thursday Evening Faith group will meet weekly until June 20th except for Thursday, May 30th

June 9th ~ Service at 10:30am ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Vee Mariner & Debbie West

June 16th ~ Service at 10:30am ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Mary Stickles & Chris Grant

June 23rd ~ Service at 10:30am ~ Fellowship Hour ~ Hosted by Beth & Shawn Meister & Debbie West

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Are you newer to the congregation, but feel you have found your church home? Have you been attending St. Paul's for a while and want to become a member of this congregation and ensure you have a voice in the changes we are navigating? Contact Rev. Michelle for information on how to officially become a member of St. Paul's.

DOWNTOWN UNITED SUMMER SCHEDULE

**Please join us this summer for
Downtown United +
*Everyone is welcome!***

SAINT ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & Via Zoom

512 Charlotte St. Fredericton | Tel.455-8220

Sunday Services at 10:30am

June 30th | July 7th | July 14th

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83673756287?pwd=RFhERHZiU0hHbVpYcjYxRFFNZWdlQT09>
Meeting ID: 836 7375 6287 Passcode: 839092

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH & Via Zoom

224 York St. Fredericton NB | Tel. 458-1183

Sunday Services at 10:30am

July 21st | July 28th | August 4th

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81834519740> Password: 657067

View later: [https://www.youtube.com/St. Paul's](https://www.youtube.com/St.Paul's)

WILMOT UNITED CHURCH & Via YouTube

473 King St. Fredericton | 458-1066

Sunday Services at 10:30am

August 11th | August 18th | August 25th

<https://www.youtube.com/c/WilmotUnitedChurch?app=desktop>



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

224 York St., Fredericton, NB E3B 3P1

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

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

Church Administrator: Meghan Roebuck | **Custodian:** Jaedyn Williams