

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

September 1st, 2024

15th Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM

GATHERING TOGETHER

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

GATHERING MUSIC: *As Those of Old Their First-fruits Brought*

VU 518 vs 3

*With gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best to you,
not just to serve your cause, but share
your love with neighbours too.
O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ, your son,
help us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.*

GREETING: *(Responsive)*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Responsive)* ¹

Look to the mountains; look to the hills!

Love comes to us with joy!

The world is filled with beauty.

Flowers appear on the earth, birdsong brightens the day.

Crops yield their produce in abundance, the air is filled with sweetness.

The summer of God's love is with us.

Let the oil of gladness anoint your souls.

Arise and sing for joy!

HYMN: *All Creatures of Our God and King*

VU 217 vs 1,3,5

*All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing:
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Bright burning sun with golden beam,
soft shining moon with silver gleam,
sing praises, sing praises,
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!*

*Earth, ever fertile, day by day
brings forth rich blessings on our way:
sing praises, hallelujah!
The flowers and fruits that verdant grow,
let them God's glory also show:
sing praises, hallelujah!
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!*

*Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness:
sing praises, hallelujah!
Praise God eternal, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one:
sing praises, hallelujah!
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!*

OPENING PRAYER ¹

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

SEEKING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: *(In Unison)*

As we approach our Holy Scriptures, we pray for open minds and hearts, for you O God speak to us still. Through ancient words, you call forth wisdom for today. Renew us in our hearing by the Spirit's power. Attune us to your voice, this we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Song of Solomon 2:8-1, James 1:17-25

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN: *For the Beauty of the Earth*

VU 226

*For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,*

Refrain:

*God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light, R*

*For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild, R*

*For each perfect gift sublime
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven, R*

MESSAGE

RESPONDING WITH PRAISE

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.*

DEDICATION VERSE: *As Those of Old Their First-fruits Brought*

VU 518 vs 1

*As those of old their first-fruits brought
of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good,
the source of bounteous yield;
so we today our first-fruits bring:
the wealth of this good land,
of farm and market, shop and home,
of mind and heart and hand.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(In Unison)*¹

**God of light and beauty,
every gift is from you.**

Even our ability to give
is a blessing of your love.
We offer you what we have
and what we are.
Use our gifts
to give birth to a world of righteousness
where none are in need
and where all draw close to your grace.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

WALKING TOGETHER IN THE WAY

HYMN: *I Feel the Winds of God*

VU 625

*I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift,
though heavy oft with drenching spray
and torn with many a rift;
if hope but light the water's crest,
and Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at his behest,
and brave another cruise.*

*It is the wind of God that dries
my vain regretful tears,
until with braver thoughts shall rise
the purer, brighter years;
if cast on shores of selfish ease
or pleasure I should be,
O let me feel your freshening breeze,
and I'll put back to sea.*

*If ever I forget your love
and how that love was shown,
lift high the blood-red flag above;
it bears your name alone.
Great pilot of my onward way,
you will not let me drift.
I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift.*

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

*A world in need now summons us
to labour, love, and give,
to make our life an offering
to God, that all may live.
The church of Christ is calling us
to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed, by Christ-like love,
all life in Christ made new.*

POSTLUDE

¹ Mary Boyd, Ministry Matters, Worship Elements: September 1, 2024

Scripture Readers: Voice 1 – Debbie West, Voice 2 – Kelly Simpson

Greeter: Mary Stickles **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.

OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

St. Paul’s office will be closed from **August 23rd through September 2nd**. On September 3rd, the office will return to the regular hours of Monday-Thursday from 8am-3pm, and Friday from 8am-1pm. Emails will be monitored and responded to when possible.



REV. MICHELLE’S VACATION & PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Michelle will be on vacation from **August 25th-31st**. For pastoral care emergencies, please call Rev. Richard Bowley at 506-262-2150.

BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACKS ~ THANK YOU!

We would like to extend sincere gratitude to everyone who supported the Back to Backpacks fundraiser. The 6 students are very pleased and thankful for the backpacks and supplies and are ready to head back to school. Many Thanks!



FUNDSCRIP

Are you ready for the approaching change of season? FundScrip gift cards can help you with all your shopping... school supplies, additions to your fall wardrobe, rakes and leaf bags to tidy up your lawn. We'll have two orders before our move to St. Andrew's. Deadlines are Sunday, **September 8th** and Sunday, October 6th. As usual, order forms are available in the office and the Narthex or print your own by clicking [here](#). Cards will be available on the Sunday after the deadline dates. We'll figure out more dates once we settle in at St. Andrew's. It's not too early to start your Christmas gift card list! Thank you for your continued support!



BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

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



PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry program needs the following items this week: macaroni, spaghetti, Kraft Dinner, tuna, canned meats, flour, white & icing sugars, peas, green beans, large juices, tomato pasta sauce, vinegar, mayo, jam, ketchup, cereal, granola bars, tea, cookies, Ritz, salt, soda, plastic wrap, tin foil, Comet, laundry & dish soap, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. Thank you for your continued support of this increasingly busy outreach program!

TRUSTEE UPDATE ON OUR MOVE

Last week, about 20 volunteer congregants gathered to discuss the inventory of church property and volunteer to lead or assist in disposing of items via auction, sale, or donation.

As a group, we identified items that we will take with us to our new home. These items **include** Pantry donations box, historic plaques, Rolls of Honour, wooden cross used at Easter, Yamaha grand piano, staging for choir performances, hymn books, music and stands, Communion table, 1804 Bible and stand, brass cross, baptismal font and silver pitcher, murals by Robert Benn and the oak cabinets in the Parlour.

It's not too late to volunteer! There are many tasks - large and small - that need to be done. Let Meghan in the office know how you can help or speak to one of the Trustees. Many hands make light work!

The teamwork and collaboration of everyone working together will ensure as smooth a transition as we can hope for. THANK YOU!! ~ Trustees

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

September 1st Worship starts up again in our building at 224 York Street. Our official fall kick-off Sunday will be September 8th. Plan to join us as we unveil this year's theme and hand out wallet cards, magnets, and bag tags to help keep this theme in the foreground of this coming program year.

The worship committee will be meeting next week to plan out the early fall. If you have questions, comments or suggestions about worship or for the committee reach out to Rev. Michelle, chair Debbie West or any member of the worship committee.

MODERATOR'S BOOK CLUB RETURNS

Over the last year our moderator has hosted a virtual book study exploring a wide range of books and topics. September the book club will be gathering again to explore and discuss the book *Maximus Canada* by Doug Saunders on September 26th. For more information and to sign up check out <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/organization-and-governance/moderator/right-rev-dr-carmen-lansdowne-44th-moderator/flourishing-project/mods-book-squad>



ST. THERESA'S TWILIGHT RETREAT

St. Theresa's Catholic Women's League, Fredericton, is hosting a Twilight Retreat on **September 9th** from 4:30-8:00 PM. Register by 4:15PM. It will be in the Church Hall at St. Theresa's Church, 1 William Street. It will involve a Potluck supper. We start the retreat at 4:30 PM for 45 minutes then break for supper then another 45 minutes after supper. We will be finished by 8:00 PM. Our Facilitator will be Jim Anderson, Director of Missionary Discipleship Formation for the Diocese of Saint John. All are welcome, Men and Women as it is opened to everyone. Thank you. Deborah Heustis / Odette Craine, St. Theresa's CWL

CANDLELIGHT CONCERT SERIES AT ST. PAUL'S

Fever is presenting a Candlelight Concert Series in the sanctuary at St. Paul's. Two Concerts on **September 27th** feature 1) Vivaldi's Four Seasons, 2) A Tribute to Taylor Swift, and two on **November 9th** featuring 1) A Tribute to Coldplay, and 2) A Tribute to Abba. Tickets are ONLY available online. For more information and to purchase tickets [CLICK HERE](#).

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH OF FREDERICTON

The Women's Inter-Church of Fredericton will be celebrating their 60th Anniversary on **September 28th** at Wilmot United Church, 473 King Street, Fredericton at 2:00 PM. The Theme is "Shining the Light". The entrance off Carlton Street has a lift device and fewer stairs and easier to get into the sanctuary. We will have the honour of Catherine MacKeil, Executive Director of the Women's Inter-Church of Canada and Shirley DeMerchant, Past President of the Women's Inter-Church of Canada present at our celebration. Following the Service there is a reception downstairs. All are welcome. Deborah Heustis, Publicity for the Women's Inter-Church of Fredericton.



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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:** Jaedyn Williams