

# 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*

October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Thanksgiving Sunday and Leaving Sunday

10:30 AM

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## GATHERING TOGETHER

**PRELUDE:** Jesus Loves Me ~ Payne

**WELCOME & LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE<sup>1</sup>**

**HYMN:** *Come, You Thankful People, Come*

VU 516

*Come, you thankful people, come,  
raise the song of harvest home!  
All is safely gathered in,  
safe before the storms begin;  
God, our maker, does provide  
for our needs to be supplied:  
come to God's own temple, come,  
raise the song of harvest home!*

*All the world is God's own field,  
harvests for God's praise to yield;  
wheat and weeds together sown,  
here for joy or sorrow grown;  
first the blade, and then the ear,  
then the full corn shall appear:  
Harvest-giver, grant that we  
wholesome grain and pure may be.*

*For our God, one day, shall come,  
and shall take this harvest home;  
from the field shall in that day  
all offences purge away;  
giving angels charge at last  
in the fire the weeds to cast;  
but the fruitful ears to store  
in the garner evermore.*

*Even so, God, quickly come  
to your final harvest home!  
Gather all your people in,  
free from sorrow, free from sin;  
there for ever purified,  
in your presence to abide:  
come, with all your angels, come,  
raise the glorious harvest home.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Responsive)* <sup>2</sup>

Thanksgiving.

**It's not just a moment.**

Thanksgiving.

**It's not just a day.**

Thanksgiving.

**It's not just a season.**

Thanksgiving!

**Is an action, to be lived always, and in all-ways.**

Thanksgiving!

**Is an attitude. Is a promise. Is a life.**

So, let us enter this time,

**Giving thanks to one another, to creation, and to the Creator of All!**

Come, let us worship God. Let us pray.

### OPENING PRAYER <sup>3</sup>

#### HYMN: *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*

VU 240 vs1-3,5

*Praise, my soul, the God of heaven,  
glad of heart your carols raise;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who, like me, should sing God's praise.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Praise the Maker all your days!*

*Praise God for the grace and favour  
shown our forebears in distress;  
God is still the same forever,  
slow to chide and swift to bless.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Sing our Maker's faithfulness!*

*Like a loving parent caring,  
God knows well our feeble frame;  
gladly all our burdens bearing,  
still to countless years the same.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
All within me, praise God's name!*

*Angels, teach us adoration,  
you behold God face to face;  
sun and moon and all creation,  
dwellers all in time and space.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Praise with us the God of grace!*

**TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART**

**SEEKING GOD'S WORD**

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Matthew 6:25-34, Acts: 1:6-11a

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** Song of Thanksgiving ~ Archer

**MESSAGE**

**RESPONDING WITH PRAISE**

**HYMN:** *Fairest Lord Jesus*

**VU 341**

*Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God to earth come down:  
thee will I cherish, thee will I honour,  
thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.*

*Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb of spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
who makes the troubled heart to sing.*

*Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,  
and fair the twinkling, starry host;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels heaven can boast.*

*All fairest beauty heavenly and earthly,  
wondrously, Jesus, is found in thee;  
none can be nearer, fairer or dearer  
than thou, my Saviour, art to me.*

**INVITATION TO TIME OF OFFERING**

**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)***

**It is with thanksgiving for your faithfulness that we make our offerings today. Take our offerings of time, talent, and treasure and bless them and us. May all we give be used to continue to illuminate your way in this world and inspire the continued spreading of your love. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING:**

The Pews - This worship space has been a blessing for us. It has been made holy by the presence of God through the Holy Spirit among us. The pews remind us of the those who have gathered faithfully over the decades. People who learned to love one another even as they loved God. Bound to God and each other they have been a true community of faith.

**Prayer: Holy God, we remember with thanksgiving all who have worshipped together and sought to be the body of Christ in this sanctuary. For elders, Session/Board/Council members, musicians, Sunday school teachers, bible study leaders, UCW members, and for all the men women and children who have been a part of this family, we give thanks, Lord God. Amen.**

The Pulpit – From this pulpit the biblical story has been read and interpreted. From it our horizons of faith and life have been widened and our souls stirred. From it our minds have been enlightened, hope encouraged, and our lives challenged. From this pulpit the tragedies of life and the joys of life have combined to challenge us to a larger measure of God’s abundant life for all. This pulpit has been a means of blessing for our community.

**Prayer: Your mighty Word breathed life into creation. Your incarnate Word, Jesus Christ, breathed salvation to all. Your Word proclaimed from this pulpit has challenged, healed and inspired faith. Thanks be to God. Amen**

The Baptismal Font - Through the water of this baptismal font and by prayer, infants, children and adults have become members of the church universal and have been welcomed into St. Paul’s United Church. In the waters of baptism, we have died and risen with Christ and received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Prayer: Holy Lord, through the waters of baptism in this place, Your people have been born to new life and have been commissioned for service in Christ’s name. May all the baptized continue to give witness to your saving grace locally and around the world. Amen.**

Communion Table - Around this table all have been welcomed. Here worshippers have been fed and nourished by the symbols of the faith and the presence of Christ mediated in and through them. At this table we have felt the presence of saints of the past in all times and places. This table has bound us together in a spirit of love which overrides differences and uncertainties.

**Prayer: Lord Jesus, You have sustained us, nourishing us with your very self as we remember how you gave us our very body and blood. May we, who have eaten at this table, continue to welcome others to the banquet of salvation. Amen.**

The Organ/Piano - Music has also been a means of blessing for us. With the help of musical instruments, we have learned the faith through praising God. The gifts of music have helped us to experience God in this place.

**Prayer: Spirit of God, You have filled our hearts with praise and we have worshipped you in song. The sounds of our faith have echoed off the walls and into the streets. May we continue to hear the music playing in our hearts and minds drawing us into the world to sing of your presences and grace. Amen.**

The Stained Glass and Bible - This bible and the images that surround us tell the story of God's love and presence through Jesus Christ. They have comforted us, challenged us and inspired us to live the way of Christ. They have fueled our imagination and inspired us to live faithfully.

**Prayer: Creative God, through image and word your story has been told to countless people who have walked through our doors. May we not only carry the story that they tell, but also be a visual symbol of your love in action in the world. Amen.**

The Cross - This cross has been a visible reminder of our faith. It has been a symbol of the suffering of Christ, the source and inspiration of our community. It is also a reminder that death is a part of life and that the Christian hope that is ours transcends that experience. It has been a symbol to all who have worshipped God here, of his promise of a new life in the here and now. It has reminded us of the ministry to which we all are called.

**Prayer: Redeeming God, you bring life out of death in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Help us to live in the hope of resurrection. In the name of the risen Lord, Amen.**

Compassionate God, hold us in this tender time, and inspire us to take with us in Spirit all that this sanctuary has represented for us. Like a bird who is leaving its nest, grant to us the ability to take the faith that we have been given and fly. Amen

### **WALKING TOGETHER IN THE WAY**

**HYMN: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

**VU 220**

***Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;  
O my soul, praise him, at all times your health  
and salvation.***

***Come, all who hear:  
brothers and sisters draw near,  
joining in glad adoration.***

***Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,  
keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.***

***Have you not seen  
how all you needed has been  
met by God's gracious ordaining?***

***Praise to the Lord who will prosper our work  
and defend us;  
surely his goodness and mercy will daily attend us:***

***ponder anew  
what the Almighty can do,  
who out of love will befriend us.***

***Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath come now with praises before him!***

***Let the Amen  
sound from God's people again:  
gladly with praise we adore him.***

## **THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION:**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, gracious God,  
Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love.  
You guide the sun, cradle the moon, and toss the stars.  
At your word the earth was made  
and spun on its course among the planets.  
You breathe life into us  
and set us among all your creatures,  
in a covenant of love and service.

Even when we turn away from you, you do not forsake us.  
You send your prophets to proclaim your justice,  
to remind us of your promise of peace,  
and to call us back to you.  
And you continue to reveal your love for us in Jesus,  
who walks with us, our Wisdom and our Way,  
sharing our sorrow and joy.  
So it is that we join the song of all creation to  
proclaim your goodness:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Mighty and tender God, in Jesus of Nazareth  
we recognize the fullness of your grace:  
light, life, and love, revealed  
in words that confront and comfort us,  
in teachings that challenge and change us,  
in compassion that heals and frees us.

**And now we gather at this table to share his teachings  
and to be filled with such longing for your realm  
that we may rise together  
to turn our worship into witness  
and to follow in your way.**

We remember that when Jesus ate with his friends,  
he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it,

he broke it and gave it to them, saying:  
“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.  
Each time you do this, remember me.”  
Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks,  
passed it to his friends, saying:  
“Drink. This cup that is poured out for you  
is the promise of God, made in my blood.  
Whenever you drink it, remember me.”

At this time, we also remember  
all with whom you would have us share your feast.  
We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain...  
all who are ill or alone...  
for those who face the horrors of war...  
for all who are grieving the death of loved ones...  
for those who are imprisoned...  
for all our families and friends...

We offer all these prayers through the words that your Son taught us to pray, for you are like a loving parent holding us tenderly so we pray together...

#### **THE 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.**

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts,  
that all who share in this loaf and cup  
may be the body of Christ:  
light, life, and love in the world.  
In this hope and as your people, we praise you.  
**Thanks be to you, O God! Amen.**

#### **SHARING OF COMMUNION**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:** *(In Unison)*

**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.

**HYMN: *We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection***

**VU 586 vs1**

*We shall go out with hope of resurrection;  
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;  
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;  
tales of a love that will not let us go.  
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;  
we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;  
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
within the vision of new life in Christ.*

**COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION**

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

**VU 518 vs 2**

*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: Toccata from Suite Gothique ~ Boellman**

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Bob Root, Peterborough, ON. From *The Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2024*, pg. 28

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Richard Bott, *The Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2017*, pg. 43

<sup>3</sup> Adapted from Richard Bott, *The Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2020*, pg. 46.

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**Scripture Readers:** Voice 1 & Narrator – Barbara Cull-Wilby, Voice 2 & Disciple – Debbie West,  
Voice 3 & Jesus – Lois Walker, Voice 4 & Angels – Cathy Davis  
**Greeter:** Bill Paterson     **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.

### PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry Items needed this week are laundry & dish soap, Comet, Mr. Clean, foil, plastic wrap & waxed paper, white sugar, tea, cereal, pancake mix, peanut butter, crackers, cookies, Jello, salmon, apple sauce, baking soda, Miracle Whip, jam and un-spiced tomatoes. Thank you for your continued support of this increasingly busy outreach program! Reminder: we are now located at 512 Charlotte Street!

### 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.





## OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup>

The office will be closed on Monday October 14<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving Stat holiday.

### UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

**October 13<sup>th</sup>** ~ Thanksgiving Sunday & Communion Service at 10:30 ~ Fellowship Potluck hosted by Carole Peacock

**October 14<sup>th</sup>** ~ Office Closed for Thanksgiving Stat Holiday

**October 20<sup>th</sup>** ~ Services start at St. Andrew's, Our new location, at 10:30

### TAKE-OUT SALMON SUPPER

New Maryland United Church is hosting a Take-Out Salmon Supper at the New Maryland Centre (754 New Maryland Hwy.) on Sunday, **October 20<sup>th</sup>**, 2024. Pick up times are: 4:00, 4:30, 5:00 or 5:30pm. Cost is \$20. Menu: BBQ Salmon, baked potato, peas, carrots, rolls, and apple crisp. Advance tickets only by calling (506) 459-3313 or (506) 455-1948.

### TURKEY DINNER AT GIBSON MEMORIAL

Gibson Memorial United Church, 183 Gibson Street, will be hosting a "Turkey Dinner" on Wednesday, **Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>**, 4-6p.m. Menu: Turkey, potatoes, turnip, carrots, peas, dressing, gravy, coleslaw, rolls and dessert! Tickets: \$20/adult. To book your tickets please call 457-1951.

### THE MODERATOR IS COMING TO NEW BRUNSWICK

Mark your calendars because The Right Reverend Carmen Lansdown our current moderator will be hosting an event in Moncton on **November 9<sup>th</sup>**. More information to come.



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#### CONTACT INFORMATION

224 York St., Fredericton, NB E3B 3P1

Web: [www.stpaulsunited.ca](http://www.stpaulsunited.ca) | Tel: 506-458-1183 | Email: [stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com)

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

**Church Administrator:** Meghan Roebuck