

SAINT ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN & ST. PAUL'S UNITED

Fredericton, N.B.

December 1st, 2024

Advent 1

10:30 AM

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik Peoples. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Wolastoqiyik, Mi'kmaq, and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

GATHERING TOGETHER

PRELUDE: Sleepers Wake, A Voice is Calling

~ Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God.

In the beginning is our hope, and hope is in God.

The Advent season begins with hope,

hope that justice will reign,

hope that suffering will end and all will thrive,

hope that the short days and long nights are not all that we will have.

We hope that the world will finally turn and change,

A new hope is born with the baby we await.

Light Purple Candle

SUNG RESPONSE: *Hope is a Star*

TBoP 119 vs 1

Hope is a star that shines in the night,

leading us on till the morning is bright.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,

and none shall be afraid.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Responsive)* ¹

In public and in private,

we trust in God.

In the long term and in the moment,

we trust in God.

In the hard times and the good times,

we trust in God.

So we come to worship, to give praise, and to remember,

We can truly trust in the Holy One, who ignites our hope and holds us close.

HYMN: *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

TBoP 110

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,

born to set thy people free;

from our fears and sins release us;

let us find our rest in thee.

*Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.*

PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION: (Responsive) ²

God of love,
you come to your people to dwell with us.
You come with power to transform all things.
You come with promises to make all things new.
You come with signs of your deep love for the world.
You come, and your truth breaks into our lives
shattering lies and half-truths, setting your people free.
Your coming is our hope,
so we offer you our praise and prayers in gratitude and anticipation.
Come into our lives again, O God,
show us how to hope in the face of all that is discouraging,
how to persist in your way when hard days come,
and how to focus on your love, grace, and mercy over all that seeks to draw our attention.

Merciful God,
in your gracious presence
we confess our sins
and the sins of this world.

**Holy One from whom hope flows,
in this time of Advent, we prepare for your coming yet again.
You call us to live in you and the hope you provide,
yet too often we turn from the light of hope into darkness.
Forgive our slowness in responding and the indifference we display
to the ways you are already breaking into the world.
Forgive us when we insist that change is impossible
and look for and expect the same old thing in the same old way.
Forgive us our silence when we ought to have spoken up
and our carelessness with your world and each other.
When we have let the promise of power, perfection, or protection drive our actions,
Awaken us to your holy, hopeful presence that seeks to ground us and hold us.
Turn us around yet again of God, as we may watch and wait for you, Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

SEEKING GOD'S WORD

SUNG PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: *O Christ, the Word Incarnate*

VU 499 vs 1

*O Christ, the Word incarnate,
O wisdom from on high,
O truth unchanged, unchanging,
O light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance
that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps,
shines on from age to age.*

GOSPEL READING: Luke 3:2-5

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 25

VU 752

To you, O God, I lift my soul; my God, in you I trust.
Let me not be put to shame, nor let my foes gloat over me.

**Let none who wait for you be shamed;
let them be shamed who wantonly break faith.**

Show me your ways; teach me your paths.

**Lead me in your truth and teach me;
for you are God my saviour.
For you I wait all the day long.**

Remember your mercy, O God, and your steadfast love,
for they are as old as time.

**Do not remember the sins and offences of my youth.
According to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O God!**

You are upright and good, O God,
therefore you show the path to those who go astray.

**You guide the humble to do what is right,
and teach the lowly your way.**

All your ways are loving and sure
**for those who keep your covenant
and commandments.**

THE STORY BEFORE THE STORY

FOCAL SCRIPTURE READING: Daniel 6:6-27

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: Be a Candle of Hope

~ Becki Slagle Mayo

MESSAGE

RESPONDING WITH PRAISE

INVITATION TO OFFERING

DOXOLOGY: *(In Unison)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(In Unison)*

Holy and Righteous God, we offer our gifts with humble hearts, knowing the needs in your world are greater than our gifts alone could ever fill. We offer our gifts in the hope that you will bless them and use them towards the fulfillment of our purpose revealed in Christ's love, justice, and mercy. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION³

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

TBoP 539

I Believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried: he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

HYMN: *All who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

TBoP 534

*All who hunger, gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.*

*All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.*

*All who hunger, sing together;
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table
live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: *(Responsive)*

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 God thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God,
Creator of light, Giver of life, Source of love.
Your song of wisdom rang out before the world began;
your ancient love still touches us and stirs within us.
Even when we turned away from you, you kept faith with us.
You sent your messengers
to prepare the ways through the wilderness of our living,
to guide us in the path of wholeness,
to call us to repent.
In Mary, women of your promise, you showed us courage and faith,
as she said yes to bearing for us the greatest of gifts;
Jesus, the Christ, our prince of peace and herald of hope.
So it that we join in the Advent prayer of all your people
"O come, Emmanuel" and as we wait and watch for your coming
we 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 the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the Highest!**

Blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whose advent we expectantly wait.
In the fullness of time, Jesus came into this world to walk among us,
and as he grew, he showed us what it means to live in your way.

In his life, we heard and saw the Good News:
he preached reconciliation and the kingdom of God
he healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners proclaiming your love and mercy.

He showed us what abundant living means, sought justice for the oppressed, and proclaimed that true power and wisdom were not of this world but found only in you. This drew the attention of those with worldly power and made them anxious. From the place of fear, they lashed out vowing to extinguish Christ's light of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Jesus on the night in which he was betrayed, had gathered with his closest friends, to share in a meal commemorating and reliving the ways that you provided in unexpected ways. As they ate, 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."

As we come to this table to share in this meal with Christ, 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,
all who live with fear, oppression or hunger,
for all who the world counts as least and last,
we pray for the church and its varied ministries,
for every nation and person who strives for peace and justice,
and for all who we disagree with and those we call family.

Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace,
that in Jesus life, death, and resurrection, you delivered us from sin and death,
and revealed your living and redeeming hope for all people.
Empowered by your Holy Spirit, our Counsellor and Comforter,
we wait the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to come again
not passively but with praise and thanksgiving,
and we offer ourselves to you.

Through grace, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died
Christ has risen
Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we share may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. May the body of Christ; light, life, and love be lived in the world by all who share this meal. In this hope and as your people we praise you. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, almighty God, world without end.

As Christ taught his disciples we now pray.

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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

PARTAKING OF COMMUNION (*Bread is Gluten-free*)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER: (*In Unison*)

Eternal God,
we thank you for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us
and we praise you for breaking into the world.
Send us out in peace
for we have seen,
have heard,
and been fed by your grace.
Keep us faithful and alert
for signs of Christ's coming
and lead us to live lives marked by truth and light, in the name of Jesus we pray.
Amen.

WALKING TOGETHER IN THE WAY

HYMN: *There's a Voice in the Wilderness*

VU 18

*There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go!*

*O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay;
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass, like a dream, away.*

*But the word of our God endureth,
whose arm is ever strong;
God stands in the midst of nations,
and soon will right the wrong.
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
the lambs so gently hold;
to pastures of peace will lead them,
and bring them safe to fold.*

*There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go!*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

CLOSING MUSIC: "Take Up His Song"

MV 213

*Take up his song of love and go into the world
take up his song of love in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives
lay them down, in hope, lay them down, and take up his song.*

POSTLUDE: Postlude on "Gloria"

~ Payne

¹ Adapted from Teri Peterson, BibleWorm Liturgy, December 1, 2024

² Adapted from the Presbyterian Church in Canada Worship Planner, Dec 1, 2024

³ Liturgy developed using and adapted the Advent Communion Prayer from The Presbyterian Church in Canada and Celebrate God's Presence United Church of Canada.

Thank you to our Volunteers today!

Scripture Readers: Narrator – Rose Carolyn Smith, John & King – Kendall Wright, Administrators & Daniel – Beth Meister

Greeters: Heather & Kendall Wright & Lois Walker

Audio Visual: Glynis Martin & Beth & Shawn Meister

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.

Can't make it in person, join via **Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83673756287> Passcode: 2023

View anytime on **YouTube** here: <https://www.youtube.com/@st.paulsunitedchurch984/videos>

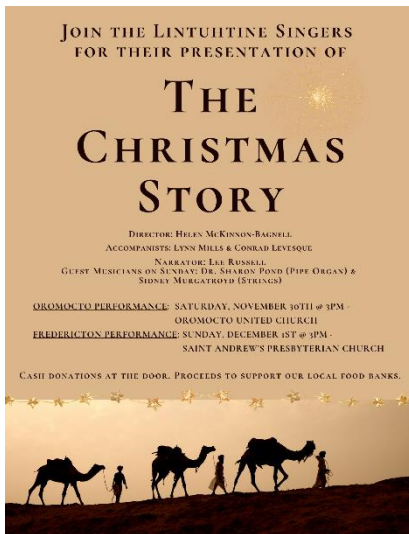
MISSION GIFTS

Want to give a gift that changes lives? What do you get the person who has everything? Both the Presbyterians and United Church have mission gift catalogues. Check out Gifts of Change

<https://presbyterian.ca/donate/gifts-of-change/> and Gifts with Vision <https://giftswithvision.ca/> and make a difference this season.

FUNDSCRIP ~ COUNTDOWN FOR CHRISTMAS!

The deadline for our next gift card order... and the last before Christmas... is **Sunday, December 1st**. FundScrip offers gift cards from over 200 retailers and many of them have increased the value of their donations to St. Paul's for December orders. The cards are especially convenient at this time of year 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 as there will not be an order in January. Order forms are available in the church office or click here [December 1st FundScrip Order Form.pdf](#) . Thank you for your ongoing support of this program and Merry Christmas!



LINTUHTINE SINGERS ANNUAL "THE CHRISTMAS STORY"

Lintuhtine Singers & guest musicians present their annual "The Christmas Story" with Narrator - Lee Russell, Accompanists - Lynn Mills (piano), Conrad Levesque (bass guitar) by Director- Helen McKinnon-Bagnell. Sat. **Nov 30th** at 3pm at Oromocto United Church and Sun. **Dec. 1st** at 3pm at Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church, with concert guest musicians Dr. Sharon Pond on pipe organ and Sidney Murgatroyd on strings. Freewill offering at the door with proceeds to the Fredericton & Oromocto Food Banks.

SAINT ANDREW'S MISSION TREE UPDATE

Once again, the Mission Committee is supporting a family from Liberty Lane this Christmas. Liberty Lane Inc. is a charitable organization located in Fredericton that offers Second Stage Housing to female identified individuals (and their children) who have left family violence, and Domestic Violence Outreach services to people of all gender identities. We are sponsoring two families this year and the angels include toys, clothing and gift cards. Items for the mom may be gift wrapped but we will provide wrapping supplies so the mom can wrap the children's gifts. The angels will be available to choose from on Sunday, Nov 24th. I am asking anyone who takes an angel to write their contact information on the sheet at the back of the church. This will ensure that all angels are received before the delivery deadline. **All gifts need to be returned to the church by Dec 8th**, and you can contact Heather Rutherford at rutherford_h@live.com or 454-9817 if you need your gift picked up outside of church hours. Thank you in advance from the Mission and Outreach Committee for your continuous generosity.

32ND ADVENT CAROL FESTIVAL

Brunswick Street Baptist Church presents the 32nd Advent Carol Festival on Wednesday **December 4th** at 7:30pm. 161 York St, Fredericton. Featuring local church and community choirs with congregational singing. Freewill offering kindly welcome for CBC Feed a Family Campaign to support local food banks. Sponsored by the Fredericton Organists' Association.

CONNECTING WITH REV. MICHELLE

You can reach Rev. Michelle on the main office lines, call her office directly at 506-455-0639, text or call her cell at 506-259-7602 or via email at michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com.

REV. MICHELLE'S OFFICE DROP-IN HOURS

Rev. Michelle has office hours available for drop-in on Sundays between 1-2:30pm and Monday from 1-2:30pm. Appointments are preferred to ensure the time you need to connect.





St. Paul's United & Saint Andrew's Presbyterian
@ 512 Charlotte Street, Fredericton



SAINT ANDREW'S & ST. PAUL'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Our churches will be holding a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday **December 7th** from 10am-1pm. Come and check out the crafts, baking, puzzles and books. Donations of baking can be dropped off at the church on Friday December 6th between 9am and noon.

ADVENT STUDY

Numbers didn't warrant a group Advent study on the book "Ponder These Things" by the Rt. Rev. and Rt. Hon. Prof. Rowan Williams but those who expressed interest are invited to purchase the paperback or eBook version and follow the study sessions hosted by Dr. Emily Bisset online at <https://presbyterian.ca/canadian-ministries/presbyterians-read/> and online discussion in the Presbyterians Read Facebook group.

CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

Delacroix Classix Presents and Advent Candlelight Concert featuring Natalia Delacroix on Viola, Yunjia Dai on Flute and Conor Britt on cello. Saint Andrew's on **December 7th** at 7:30pm. Tickets available at the door \$25 or in advance at the from Meghan \$20.

ST. PAUL'S PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry items needed this week are flour, salt, laundry and dish soap, coffee, tea, apple juice, cookies, plastic wrap, tin foil, Mr. Clean, icing sugar, juice boxes, pancake mix, syrup, vinegar and ketchup. Thank you for your continued support of this increasingly busy outreach program!

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.

FREDERICTON LADIES CHOIR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT



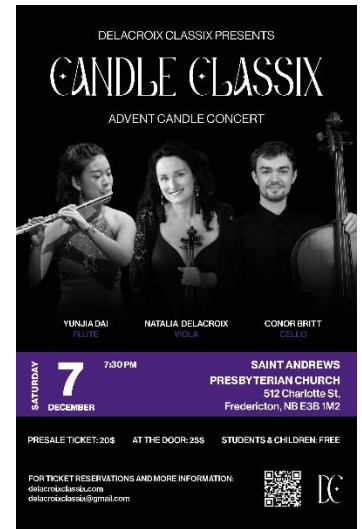
The Fredericton Ladies Choir presents their Annual Christmas Concert at St. Dunstan's Roman Catholic Church on **December 10th** at 7pm, with special guest, Don Bozze Jazz. Doors open at 6:15pm. Tickets are \$20, available at Westminster Bookmark, at the door or from choir members, Patty Trail and Debbie Seymour.

BULLETIN & ANNOUNCEMENT SUBMISSIONS

Those wanting to add an announcement to the bulletin and/or eNews, please send an email to Meghan at stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com by Wednesday at noon. Announcements will run for a 2-week period unless otherwise requested.

PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT AS OF DEC. 1ST

A reminder that Winter Parking Restriction takes effect on Dec. 1st. Parking is not allowed on the side of Carleton St. (between George and Charlotte Streets) facing the church. For more detail re: parking availability, including handicapped parking, see the poster on the Hall bulletin board or those at each entrance to the Church.



VIVALDI'S GLORIA AND CHRISTMAS CHORAL TREATS

The Fredericton Choral Society presents Vivaldi's Gloria and Christmas choral treats on Saturday **December 14th** at 7:30pm at Christ Church parish Church – 245 Westmorland Street. Admission: \$25 general & \$10 student. Tickets available at the door and from choir members and Debbie West.

BREAKFAST 2 GO

New Hours: 8:30-10am. If you are interested in baking muffins for this Friday morning program, please contact Bev Bramble at bbramble1@gmail.com to be added to the muffin baking list.



CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Ongoing Activities

Monday – Friday ~ Community Outreach ~ Brown Bag Lunch Program in St. Paul's Office during regular office hours

Tuesdays ~ Tuesday Morning Ladies Group at 9:30am ~ *All are welcome!*

Tuesdays & Thursdays ~ Quilting from 1-4pm ~ *All are welcome!*

Wednesdays ~ Community Outreach ~ Pantry Program from 9-11am

Thursdays ~ Choir Practice from 7-8pm ~ *All are welcome!*

Fridays ~ Community Outreach ~ Breakfast 2 Go from 8:30-10am

Upcoming Dates to Remember

December 1st ~ Advent 1 ~ Service at 10:30 ~ Fellowship hosted by Mary Leonard

December 1st ~ FundScrip Orders Due

December 7th ~ St. Paul's & Saint Andrew's Christmas Bazaar ~ 10am-1pm

December 8th ~ Advent 2 ~ Services at 10:30 ~ Fellowship hosted by Mission & Outreach

December 8th ~ Mission Tree Gift Return Deadline

December 15th ~ Advent 3 ~ Service at 10:30 ~ Fellowship hosted by Shawn & Beth Meister & Kim Keech

December 22nd ~ Advent 4 ~ Service at 10:30 ~ Alanna Palmer & Cathy Davis

December 21st ~ Longest Night Service

December 24th ~ Family Christmas Eve Service at 3pm

December 24th ~ Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Communion at 7pm

LISTEN, LOVE AND PRAY: GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT

Growing in faith, grace, gratitude, hope, and love - holding space for being together with loss. People feeling grief and loss of all types will gather to reflect and support each other's experiences. Anyone from the community is welcome to attend. Hosted by Deacons Isabel Cutler and Debbie Edmondson. Second Monday of each month, 7-9p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, Memorial Hall Lounge, 168 Church Street, Fredericton.



CONTACT INFORMATION

St. Andrew's Presbyterian & St. Paul's United

512 Charlotte Street, Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 1M2

Saint Andrew's: Tel: 506.455.8220 | Email: sapcfred@gmail.com | Website: <https://sapc.ca/>

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 2pm-6pm

St. Paul's: Tel: 506.458.1183 | E-mail: stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com | Website: www.stpaulsunited.ca

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8am-3pm and Friday 8am-1pm

Minster: Rev. Michelle Armstrong | **Organist:** Dr. Sharon Pond

Church Administrators: Meghan Roebuck & Joanna Price

Custodian: Doug Newman | **Clerk of Session:** Janet Higgins

Ministers Emeriti: Rev. Doug Blaikie & Rev. Dr. Basil Lowery