

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

Fredericton, N.B.

December 15th, 2024

Advent 3

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: In Dulci Jubilo

~ Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY: *(Responsive)*

God delights us with the wonder and blessing each morning.

God brings smiles to our faces and joy to our sleepy souls.

On this third Sunday of Advent we seek joy.

**We seek joy that is not bought at a store or tied to possessions,
joy that stems from gratitude that we are simply alive and held by God,
joy that flows from our hearts even in the face of challenges.**

We seek the joy that nothing in this world can take away,

joy that bursts forth when we glimpse the baby we await.

Light Purple HOPE Candle

Light Purple PEACE Candle

Light Pink JOY Candle

SUNG RESPONSE: *Hope is a Star*

TBoP 119 vs 3

*Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
Telling the world that the Saviour is born.*

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

The Lord, your God, is in your midst

Let us sing with loud shout of praises!

God rejoices over you with gladness and renews you with love

We rejoice with all our hearts at what the Lord has done!

With joy, draw water from the well of salvation in this time of worship

God is our Saviour; we will trust and have no fear.

HYMN: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VU 1

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.*

Refrain:

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

***O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go. R***

***O come, O come, great God of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. R***

***O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. R***

***O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. R***

***O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. R***

***O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us the Prince of Peace. R***

PRAYERS OF ADORATION & CONFESSION: (Responsive) ²

God of joy

you are our strength and our song.

You gather those who have strayed from you
and welcome them back to your side.

You bring healing to those who are broken in body and spirit,
and accompany those who walk alone.

Through your great love and mercy,
you transform us all into more than we ever thought we could be.

We will trust in you and not be afraid.

With joy, we sing of your glory
and proclaim your saving power to those near and far
as our Creating Father, the redeeming Christ and guiding Holy Spirit.

Merciful God,

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

All knowing God,
We know perfect joy only comes through faith in you,
yet we seek it elsewhere.
In search of comfort, we indulge our desires.
In search of love, we hide from our faults.
In search of approval, we spend beyond our means.
Forgive us, O God, for seeking satisfaction in the wrong places.
Help us turn again to you, our true source of joy,
Remind us who you are, and who we are,
that we might once again take up the robe of righteousness and the garland of gladness,
revealing your care and your joy to all the earth.
We ask in the name of the coming Christ,
whose Spirit fills us and sets us to your kingdom work.
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 4:16-21

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 23 (*Responsive*)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside still waters;
He restores my soul.

**He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.**

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,

**For you are with me;
Your rod and your staff,
They comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me
In the presence of my enemies;
**you anoint my head with oil;
My cup overflows.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

THE STORY BEFORE THE STORY

FOCAL SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 61:1-11

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine

~ Kirkby

MESSAGE

RESPONDING WITH PRAISE

HYMN: *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

VU 31

*O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, then, most holy,
a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.*

*Love caused your incarnation,
love brought you here to me;
your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love all loves excelling
our lost and fallen race.*

*A glorious crown you give me,
a treasure safe on high,
that will not fail nor leave me
as earthly riches fly.
My heart shall bloom forever
for you with praises new,
and from your name shall never
withhold the honour due.*

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) ¹

Just and joyful God, we bring our gifts with hearts that rejoice in your goodness to us, in Christ and in creation. Send your Holy Spirit to bless them and us with the power to shine the light of Christ into lives where Jesus can turn despair into joy. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

(We recognize a variety of ways to pray the Lord's Prayer. You are invited to pray using the words that speak to you and the language of your choice.)

WALKING TOGETHER IN THE WAY

HYMN: *In the Bleak Midwinter*

TBoP 145

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall welcome him when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

CLOSING MUSIC: "Take Up His Song"

MV 213

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

POSTLUDE: Toccata on "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

~ Payne

¹ Presbyterian Church in Canada, Worship Planner, December 15, 2024.

² Presbyterian Church in Canada Worship Planner December 15, 2024, and Teri Peterson BibleWorm Liturgy, December 15, 2024.

Thank you to our Volunteers today!

Scripture Readers: Narrator/Narrator 1 – Rick Gremm, Jesus/Narrator 2 – Barbara Cull-Wilby,
Others/Psalm Leader - Alanna Palmer

Greeters: David Charters & Carole Peacock

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>

NOTICE OF ST. PAUL'S HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE

St. Paul's Office will be closed for the holidays from Friday December 20th at noon until Sunday January 5th. End of year contributions can be dropped in the church mail slot at the main entrance, left in an envelope at the office, sent via etransfer to stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com or placed in the offering plate during services. Wishing everyone a Very Merry holiday!



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 [here](#) and Gifts with Vision [here](#) and make a difference this season.



ST. PAUL'S 2025 ENVELOPES READY FOR PICK UP!

St. Paul's 2025 Offering Envelopes are ready! Some envelope numbers have been reassigned for the new year. If your name is in blue, please take note of your new number! Envelopes will be placed at the back of the sanctuary on Sundays until the new year, after which time you can pick them up in the office.

CONNECTING WITH REV. MICHELLE

Rev. Michelle can be reached on the main office phone lines, her office directly at 506-455-0639, by text or call to her cell at 506-259-7602 or via email at michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com. Drop-in office hours are available Sundays between 1-2:30pm and Mondays from 1-2:30pm. Appointments are preferred to ensure the time you need to connect.

ST. PAUL'S PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry items needed this week are salt, ketchup, coffee, cookies, relish, mayo, jam, pasta sauce, canned fruit, large juice, white sugar, flour, juice boxes, fruit cups, rice, macaroni, spaghetti, Stove Top, oatmeal individuals, laundry and dish soap, Mr. Clean, Comet, hand soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper, paper towel, Kleenex, and plastic wrap. 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.

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.

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.

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 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 at Wilmot United at 7pm

December 24th ~ Family Christmas Eve Service at 3pm

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

December 29th ~ Service at 10:30

January 5th ~ Service at 10:30



CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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