

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

Fredericton, N.B.

December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

Advent 4

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:** Silent Night

~ Payne

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY:** *(Responsive)*

Isaiah spoke of the Wonderful Counsellor, the Prince of Peace.

**His Authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace.**

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we position ourselves to experience love,

**Love that is not conditional,**

**love that can never be lost,**

**love that moves beyond ourselves and seeks to uphold others.**

We seek to live securely in this kind of love,

**true love is found in the baby we await.**

*Light Purple HOPE Candle*

*Light Purple PEACE Candle*

*Light Pink JOY Candle*

*Light Purple LOVE Candle*

#### **SUNG RESPONSE:** *Hope is a Star*

TBoP 119 vs 4

*Love is a flame that burns in our heart.*

*Jesus has come and will never depart.*

*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)* <sup>1</sup>

Look! Not with the world's eyes, but with the Holy Spirit's.

**God is in the business of transforming the world!**

Not in the ways we expect or have planned for ourselves,

**but from the edges and the obscure.**

Younglings and elders, well-heeled and unknown,

**God's work is seen through us.**

God is transforming the world,

**Transforming the world with almighty love.**

#### **HYMN:** *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

TBoP 115

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son;  
hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.*

*He brings salvation speedy to those who suffer wrong;  
to saves the poor and needy, and helps the weak be strong;  
they sing who once were sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
for they, who once were dying, are precious in his sight.*

*He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.  
Before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald go,  
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.*

*All powers shall bow before him, and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing,  
for he shall have dominion o'er river, sea and shore,  
far as the eagle's pinion or dove's light wing can soar.*

*O'er every foe victorious, Christ on his throne shall rest,  
from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all blest:  
the tide of time shall never his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand forever that name to us is Love.*

**PRAYERS OF ADORATION & CONFESSION: (Responsive) <sup>2</sup>**

O God, our Saviour,  
with Mary, our spirits rejoice in you this day,  
for you look with favour on your people.  
You have done great things for us.  
You have scattered the proud and lifted up the lowly.  
You have filled the hungry with good things,  
and kept the promises made to our ancestors.  
Your mercy is known from generation to generation.  
And so, we praise and magnify your holy name and worship you  
as Creator, Christ and Spirit.

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

**Although we have found love in Christ,  
we are a people divided against ourselves  
and against one another.**

**We have not loved as you love us,  
and we have too often been careless  
with our words, our bodies,  
and how we treat others and your world.**

**We abuse your good gifts  
of imagination and freedom,  
intellect and reason,  
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.**

Lord have mercy upon us.  
Heal us, forgive us and set us free  
to serve you in the world  
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

## 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.*

OLD TESTAMENT: Joel 2:12-13, 28-29

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 113 (*Responsive*)

Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.

**Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.**

Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high,

**who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?**

He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

**to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.**

He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children.

**Praise the Lord!**

## THE STORY BEFORE THE STORY

FOCAL SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:26-56

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR ANTHEM: Sans Day Carol

~ Higginson

## MESSAGE

### RESPONDING WITH PRAISE

HYMN: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

TBoP 143

*Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing,  
No wells ringing, tidings bringing:*

*Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.*

*Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new,  
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you.  
Christ the babe was born for you!*

## **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)* <sup>2</sup>

God of life and love, receive our gifts as tokens of our love for you and signs of our willingness to share that love in the world around us. Bless our lives as well as our gifts, so that we may be a blessing to others for the sake of the Christ Child, our Saviour and our friend. 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:** *Once in Royal David's City*

VU 62

*Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattleshed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed.  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven  
who, with God, is over all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall.  
There among the poor and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.*

*For he is our lifelong pattern;  
daily, when on earth he grew,  
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,  
tears and smiles like us he knew.  
Thus he feels for all our sadness,  
and he shares in all our gladness.*

*And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love;  
for that child who seemed so helpless  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.*

## 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 Love, lay them down, and take up his song.*

POSTLUDE: Swiss Noel

~ D'Aquin

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Teri Peterson, BibleWorm Liturgy, December 22, 2024

<sup>2</sup> Presbyterian Church in Canada, Worship Planner, December 22, 2024.

## Thank you to our Volunteers today!

*Scripture Readers: Old Testament & Gabriel – Alanna Palmer, Responsive Psalm Leader & Narrator – Cathy Davis,  
Mary & Elizabeth – Chris Grant*

*Greeters: Heather & Kendall Wright & Mary Stickles*

*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 HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

**St. Paul's office** will be closed for the holidays from Friday December 20<sup>th</sup> at noon until Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Saint Andrew's office** will be closed from December 21<sup>st</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup>. Joanna will be in the SAPC office the week of Dec 30<sup>th</sup> – Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> but will not be keeping regular hours. You may leave an email or voicemail for her.

*Holiday Hours...*



## END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

End of year contributions can be dropped in the church mail slot at the main entrance, left in an envelope at either office, sent via etransfer to [stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com) or placed in the offering plate during services. Wishing everyone a Very Merry holiday!



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

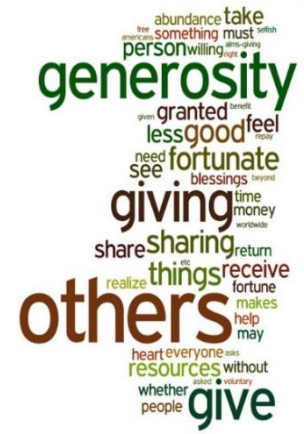
St. Paul's 2025 Offering Envelopes are ready! Some envelope numbers have been reassigned for the new year. If your name is in blue, please take note of your new number! Envelopes will be placed at the back of the sanctuary on Sundays until the new year, after which time you can pick them up in the office.

## ST. PAUL'S PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry will be close December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> but will reopen on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Thank you to everyone who has graciously supported this vital program throughout 2024!

### 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](mailto: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.



### UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>** ~ Advent 4 ~ Service at 10:30 ~ Alanna Palmer & Cathy Davis

**December 21<sup>st</sup>** ~ Longest Night Service at Wilmot United at 7pm

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** ~ Family Christmas Eve Service at 3pm

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** ~ Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Communion at 7pm

**December 29<sup>th</sup>** ~ Service at 10:30

**January 5<sup>th</sup>** ~ 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](mailto:sapcfred@gmail.com) | Website: <https://sapc.ca/>

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 2pm-6pm

St. Paul's: Tel: 506.458.1183 | E-mail: [stpauloffice224@gmail.com](mailto:stpauloffice224@gmail.com) | Website: [www.stpaulsunited.ca](http://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