

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

Fredericton, N.B.

December 24th, 2024

Christmas Eve

3 PM

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

Welcome to the first Christmas Service of the St. Andrew's and St. Paul's shared ministry. Thank you for choosing to include us in your Christmas celebrations. This service is a family-friendly service and while it will follow some of our regular liturgy, this afternoon's service will involve participation and a lot of singing as we share the story of Jesus' birth. While this is a Holy Night, we do not expect it to be a silent night or for all to be still. If your child needs to move around, we just ask that you stay with them and help them engage as much as possible. If you need a bathroom, a gender-neutral one can be found in the vestibule on the left. Rocking chairs are also available at the back of the sanctuary if you need them. As you follow the order of service the bolded words are responses for you and the rest of the congregation to join in. We hope this service will be a blessing to you we are so glad you are here!

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY: (Responsive)¹

~ Green Family

Lighting the candles of the Advent Wreath has been a tradition that has been around for a very long time. Some believe the tradition began in the Middle Ages and others point towards evidence from the early 1800's.

The lights might be new, but the tradition is old.

The Candle for Hope. A light that reminds us to keep moving forward, even when we feel discouraged.

Light Purple HOPE Candle

A light to remind us that treating others with kindness means that there is always a chance that we will be treated with kindness too.

The Candle for Peace. A light to remind us that peace begins with us and our desire to be peace-filled people.

Light Purple PEACE Candle

A light to remind us that speaking peace makes room for listening in peace.

The Candle for Joy. A light to remind us that joy is our decision, each of us decides what to take delight in. True joy is defiant and not easily controlled.

Light Pink JOY Candle

A light to remind us that when we choose joy, it is not easily broken, misplaced, or damaged and neither are we.

The Candle for Love. A candle to remind us that before we can love others, we must love ourselves.

Light Purple LOVE Candle

A light to remind us that love existed before anything else existed and will continue to exist long after everything else has faded away.

The Candle for the Christ Child. A light to remind us that Jesus showed us the way to Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love during a time when everything felt very broken.

Light Christ Candle

A light to remind us that we will not only make it through hard times but thrive if we keep our purpose moving with Hope, if we keep listening with Peace, if we keep choosing Joy, and living Love. By doing this we become reflections of Christ's glorious light.

*Christ is the light we have been waiting for
Come to the stable and look in the door.
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 time is now! Tonight is the night!

We come excited for what tonight brings.

We travel back in time, to a land far from this one,

but we here familiar songs and the story told is known by heart.

The angels call us.

A star leads us.

To the manger we come.

To meet a very special little One.

HYMN: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

VU 60 vs1

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

OPENING PRAYER

SEEKING GOD'S WORD

HYMN: *Away in a Manger*

TBoP 149 vs 1-2

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

THE PEOPLE WE MEET TONIGHT

HYMN: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

VU 38 vs 1-3

*Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.*

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

*Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. R*

TELLING THE STORY FOUND IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE ¹

RESPONDING WITH PRAISE

HYMN: *Joy to the World*

TBoP 153 vs 1&4

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.*

THE STORY FOR TODAY

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *In the Bleak Midwinter*

VU 55 vs 4

*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.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN: *We Three Kings*

TBoP 173

*We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, morn and mountain,
Following yonder star.*

*Refrain:
O, star of wonder, star of light,
Star of royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to the perfect light.*

*Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign. R*

*Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh,
Prayer and praising, voices raising,
Worshipping God on high. R*

*Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom,
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone cold tomb. R*

*Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice:
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Sounds through the earth and skies. R*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ¹

SPREADING THE LIGHT

HYMN: *Silent Night, Holy Night*

TBoP 154

*Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.*

*Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

CHORAL CLOSING: *Go, Tell it on the Mountain* ~ Chorus

VU 43

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.*

POSTLUDE

¹ Adapted from Anika Sangster, *The Traditions we Love become the Stories we Tell, Christmas 2024*

Thank you to our Volunteers today!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 20th at noon until Sunday January 5th.

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

Rev. Michelle will be available for Emergency Pastoral Care and Services over the holidays. Please contact her cell at 506.259.7602 or email michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com.



END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

For those wishing to make an end of year contribution, envelopes with your name can be placed in the offering plate, dropped in the mailbox or sent via e-transfer to stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com. Wishing everyone a Very Merry holiday!



2025 ENVELOPES READY FOR PICK UP!

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 until the new year.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

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