

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

Fredericton, N.B.

December 24th, 2024

Christmas Eve

7 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

PRELUDE: O Holy Night

~ Bish

GREETINGS

HYMN: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

VU 36 vs 1-3

*Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:*

Refrain:

*come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

*Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light: R*

*Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: R*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY: *(Responsive)*

Where hope once sputtered dimly,

Now it blazes, for tonight, hope is born anew.

Light Purple HOPE Candle

We searched the whole world for peace and were left wanting,

Tonight, true peace comes to us in a child, a prince, a king!

Light Purple PEACE Candle

Brought low by the world's problems, we were overwhelmed with despair and frozen by fear,

Then joy for all the world is found, in a lowly manger accessible to everyone, and our hearts dance.

Light Pink JOY Candle

Bound by not feeling like we are enough, worried that nobody cares, feeling lost and alone, we wandered looking for a place to belong

In a baby's cry, we hear a love that has echoed through creation, telling us we are beloved, and we belong to one who will not ever let us go.

Light Purple LOVE Candle

We have waited for this night, and it is finally here, Christ is Born

To live with us, to laugh with us, to support us, to save us.

Light Christ Candle

*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

In this silent night,
We ponder your mystery with Mary and Joseph.
On this holy night,
We come with the shepherds to worship.
on this night of joy for the world,
We sing praises with choirs of angels.
In the darkness of this night,
We celebrate the Light of the World.

HYMN: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!'
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'*

Refrain:

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! R*

*Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. R*

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.*

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:1-20

MESSAGE

RESPONDING WITH PRAISE

HYMN: *Joy to the World*

VU 59 vs 1-2, 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.*

*Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*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.*

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.*

DEDICATION OF OFFERING: (In Unison) ¹

Generous and loving God, your gift to us in Christ Jesus still draws us to the manger and opens our hearts with wonder. Bless our gifts in his name, so that they may draw others to your love and the blessing we have found in the One born for us. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN: *All Poor Ones and Humble*

VU 68

*All poor ones and humble and all those who stumble,
come hastening, and feel not afraid;
for Jesus, our treasure, with love past all measure,
in lowly poor manger was laid.
Though wise men who found him
laid rich gifts around him,
yet oxen they gave him their hay,
and Jesus in beauty accepted their duty;
contented in manger he lay.*

Refrain:

*Then haste we to show him the praises we owe him;
our service he ne'er can despise;
whose love still is able to show us that stable,
where softly in manger he lies.*

*The Christ Child will lead us, the Good Shepherd feed us
and with us abide till his day.
Then hatred he'll banish; then sorrow will vanish,
and death and despair flee away.
And he shall reign ever, and nothing shall sever
from us the great love of our King;
his peace and his pity shall bless his fair city;
his praises we ever shall sing. R*

WALKING TOGETHER IN THE WAY

THE INVITATION ²

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: (Responsive) ³

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them 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.

We bless you for all your gifts.

For you created order out of chaos and formed us in your image,

calling us to love and serve you,

and live in peace in the world you love.

When we turned from you, you did not turn from us;

You offered us a word of liberation through the prophets,
guiding us back to follow your way.
And so with choirs of angels and archangels,
with shepherds and saints, prophets and disciples in every age,
with your people from every time and place,
we join the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise:

**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.**

We Praise you for that holy night of hope
when you sent your beloved Son Jesus, into the world.
Born in darkness of night, he is the light of the world,
Born in the humility of a stable, he is filled with majesty.
Though poor, he is rich in mercy and grace.
Though rejected by the world, he welcomes all to his side.
Though dying on the cross, he brings new life.
In rising from the grave, he promises to be with us always.
And when he was raised to your glory, you sent your Holy Spirit
to keep us united with him and one another.
Remembering these wondrous things, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.**

On the night Jesus was arrested, knowing that death was at hand,
he first gathered and ate with his closest friends
and at that meal he took bread,
and after giving thanks to God he broke it and said
“This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me”

In the same way, he took the cup after supper, saying
“this is the new covenant sealed in my blood.
Whenever you drink it, do it in remembrance of me”

Every time we remember Christ with bread and cup,
we proclaim the birth, death and resurrection of our Lord.

On this night at this table, we remember all who you would have us share this feast with.
We thank you for those who, like Mary,
have the strength and courage
to give birth to your love in the world;
for those who, like the shepherds,
dare to seek out the Child of Bethlehem.
We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us
in womb and tomb
cradle and cross

in righteous anger and tender compassion,
so that regardless of our experience we can know your love and presence.

Bread of heaven, let us not be unchanged by tonight.
Let us not pass by the stable in silence; let us not leave the table empty.
Dwell in our hearts, and shine in our lives,
that we might know your deep, deep peace, and share it with the world.
Fill us with your love, that we might walk hand in hand with you all our days.
We pray in the holy name of the Christ-child, born for us this night.

Merciful God,
pour out your Holy Spirit us gathered at this holy table,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
May they be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus.
Nourished by them, may we be the body of Christ at work in the world,
made new and redeemed in his unflinching love.

Through Christ, with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory are yours now and forever.
Amen, Amen, Amen!

As Jesus our Lord, taught us to 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 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, for ever and ever.
Amen.**

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: *(In Unison)*

**Eternal and ever present God,
in deep gratitude for this meal in which you have given yourself to us,
we give ourselves to you.
Take us out this night to be guided by your light,
to follow the Prince of Peace,
to lead lives filled with your love,
feeding a hungry world,
and sharing your Good News with those we meet
for the sake of Jesus Christ,
born in wonder for the sake of the world you love.**

SHARING OF THE LIGHT

*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: Tocatta on “Mendelssohn

~ Long

¹ The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Worship Planner Dec 24/25, 2024

² Carol Halbrook Prickett December 24. 2016

Thank you to our Volunteers today!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOOD EVENING 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 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.



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 stpauloffice224@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 until the new year.

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 available Sundays from 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 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: stpauloffice224@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