

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

Fredericton, N.B.

December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Christmas 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**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CANDLE LIGHTING**

**INTROIT: *Joy to the World***

**TBoP 153 vs1**

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsive) <sup>1</sup>**

Sometimes it feels like we are waiting forever and nothing happens,

**and sometimes it feels like everything happens at once.**

Looking back over the year,

**Looking forward to the coming year,**

We attune our senses to detect God,

**For God is moving day in and day out doing things to further the kingdom.**

We come together seeking clarity of God's actions,

**and in our worship, we gain courage to follow Christ's path.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**HYMN: *O Come, All Ye Faithful***

**VU 60**

*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;*

*Refrain:*

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*God of God, light of light,  
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten, not created: R*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest: R*

*See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; R*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: R*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (In Unison) <sup>2</sup>**

God of our lives and the time in which we live,  
we confess that we prefer our fantasy to your truth,  
and our plans to your purposes for us and the world.  
We shrink from costly discipleship,  
and we seek cheap grace.  
Forgive our fleeting enthusiasms,  
and our shallow commitments,  
and guide us always  
so that we might walk in your way,  
and follow the way of your son now and always;  
through the steadfast grace of Christ, 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.*

**RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 131 (Responsive)**

O God, my heart is not proud;  
my eyes are not raised too high.

**I do not occupy myself with matters too great for me,  
with marvels that are beyond me.**

But I have stilled and quieted my soul  
like a weaned child nestling to its mother;  
like a child is my soul within me.

**O Israel, hope in God,  
from this time forth and forevermore.**

**THE STORY BEFORE THE STORY**

**FOCAL SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2:21-38

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN:** *Unto Us a Child is Born*

**TBoP 160**

*Unto us a boy is born!  
Sovereign of creation,  
came once to a world forlorn,  
the Lord of every nation,  
the Lord of every nation.*

*Cradled in a cattle stall,  
held by love maternal,  
See the Sovereign of us all,  
Our Lord of lords eternal,  
Our Lord of lords eternal.*

*Now may Mary's son,  
who came so long ago to love us,  
lead us all with hearts aflame  
unto the joys above us,  
unto the joys above us.*

***"Christ the Source and Christ the End!"***

*Let the organ thunder  
while our happy voices rend  
the joyful air asunder,  
the joyful air asunder!*

**MESSAGE**

### **RESPONDING WITH PRAISE**

**HYMN:** *Will You Come and See the Light*

**VU 96**

*Will you come and see the light from the stable door?  
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.  
It will be your guiding star,  
it will show you who you are;  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?*

*Will you step into the light that can free the slave?  
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.  
By the pyramids of greed  
there's a longing to be freed;  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?*

*Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?  
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.  
When the truth is cut and bruised,  
and the innocent abused,  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?*

*Will you join the hope, alight in the young girl's eyes,  
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?  
When the lowest and the least  
are the foremost at the feast,  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?*

*Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?  
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,  
and the darkness all about  
is too dim to put it out:  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?*

## 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 love, we give thanks for the many blessings you have given us throughout our lives. We are grateful to celebrate the birth of your greatest gift, our Saviour Jesus, once again. Bless the offerings we make in his name, and use them and us to serve you well in the coming year. 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:** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

TBoP 147

*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!*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song? R*

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

*See him in a manger laid,  
whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while our hearts in love we raise. R*

## COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

**CLOSING MUSIC:** *Herald! Sound the Note of Judgement*

TBoP 117 vs 4

*Herald! Sound the note of triumph!  
Christ has come to share our life,  
bringing God's own love and power,  
granting victory in our strife.  
Sound the trumpet!  
Tell the message!  
Christ the Saviour King has Come!*

## POSTLUDE

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Teri Peterson, BibleWorm Liturgy, December 29, 2024

<sup>2</sup> Presbyterian Church in Canada, Worship Planner, December 29, 2024.

***Thank you to our Volunteers today!***

## 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 e-transfer to [stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com) or placed in the offering plate during services. 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 on Sundays until the new year, after which time you can pick them up in the offices.

## 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 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Christmas 1 Service at 10:30

January 5<sup>th</sup> ~ Epiphany Service at 10:30



### 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](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