

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

Fredericton, N.B.

January 5th, 2025

Epiphany

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 OF THE SEASON

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)*

Arise, Shine, for your light has come

and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Come into the light and be unafraid,

for love, joy, peace, and hope are revealed to us in Christ's light.

Together we come, expecting revelation,

Together we come, to worship our God.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: *What Child Is This*

TBoP 161

*What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

*Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary.*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high;
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The baby, the son of Mary.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(In Unison)* ¹

God of goodness and guidance,
In Christ you sent us light to live by,
yet we seek shadows in which to hide.
In him, you promise new life,
but we prefer with old habits,
nursing grievances and clinging to familiar opinions.
You are generous with your love,
but we reject neighbors and fear strangers who differ from us.
Remake us in the image of your Son with your mercy,
and teach us how to follow him in the year ahead.

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 72:1-7 *(Responsive)*

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
May he judge your people with righteousness
and your poor with justice.
May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
**give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.**
May he live while the sun endures
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.

In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

THE STORY BEFORE THE STORY

FOCAL SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:41-52

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: Huron Carol

~ arr. Lehman

MESSAGE

RESPONDING WITH PRAISE

HYMN: *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

VU 101

*Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus Christ, to you we raise,
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem
in your birth at Bethlehem;
anthems be to you addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.*

*Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
and at Cana wedding guest,
in your Godhead manifest;
manifest in power divine,
changing water into wine;
anthems be to you addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.*

*Manifest in making whole
palsied limbs and fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight,
quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will,
ever bringing good from ill;
anthems be to you addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.*

*Grant us grace to see you, Lord,
mirrored in your holy Word;
with your grace our lives endow,
grace to imitate you now,
that we like to you may be
at your great epiphany,
anthems be to you addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.*

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

God of majesty and mystery, we bring our gifts to you, grateful that you are with us in good times and hard times. We do not know what the year ahead will hold but your love shines like a star to guide us. Bless these gifts that they may keep the light of Christ shining through the church to offer the world truth and wisdom, healing and hope in Jesus' name. 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: *I Am the Light of the World*

VU 87

*'I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!'
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.*

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun: R*

*To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above! R
To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see God's children everywhere! R*

*To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth! 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

¹ Presbyterian Church in Canada, Worship Planner, January 5, 2025

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 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.



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.



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 | 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