

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

Fredericton, N.B.

December 8th, 2024

Advent 2

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

WELCOME TO TODAY'S GUEST MINISTER, REV. DR. PHILIP LEE

PRELUDE: Basque Carol

~ Tucker

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 second Sunday of Advent, we turn toward peace,

peace that is more than an absence of conflict,

peace that is all creation in balance,

inner peace that guides us through life and calms our fear.

We seek to live in that kind of peace.

The peace experienced in the presence of the baby we await.

Light HOPE Candle

Light PEACE Candle

SUNG RESPONSE: *Hope is a Star*

TBoP 119 vs 2

*Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.*

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

A voice in the wilderness cries out:

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill be made low.

The crooked shall be made straight, and rough places, smooth.

A voice in the wilderness cries out:

All people shall see the salvation of God!

Lift up your hearts in expectation!

We will lift up our praises to the One who is coming into the world once more.

HYMN: *Hark the Glad Sound*

TBoP 118

*Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song!*

*You come the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before you burst,
the iron fetters yield.*

*You come the broken heart to bind,
the wounded soul to cure,
to bring the treasures of God's grace,
good tidings for the poor.*

*Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your most honoured name.*

PRAYER OF ADORATION ²

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Responsive) ²

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

Lord, you know how hard it is for us to hold onto hope and live in peace,
**when all we see is the loss and hurt in the world,
when we are overwhelmed by the to-do lists and expectations that never end,
when worries and feelings of not enough invade our souls.**
When it all seems too much we get lost in our doubts, our sorrow, and the challenges of this world.
When we are paralyzed by what we have done and what we have failed to do, God of new beginnings,
come to us again and call us forward.

Sound your trumpet today,
draw our hearts near to you,
that we might be held safe while we come undone and put our trust in you.

**We confess we have tried to hold it together, O God,
instead of acknowledging our part in the problem and seeking your wisdom and answers.
We admit we have gone round in circles trying to figure out what to do,
but we have not yet simply torn open our hearts and cried out to you.
Our prayers often involve advising you on how to solve the problems for us,
and we would rather sink in despair when things do not go our way than let go of our desire for control and
power.**

When we start to believe that the way is impossible, help us to remember that you are the way maker.
You hold our torn hearts with compassion, offering restoration and healing.

**So acknowledging we have all sinned and failed to follow your example,
we humbly turn to you, and the peace you offer us.**

Your peace is not a simple easy peace,
not a painless peace,
but a peace beyond understanding,
that will be born again, even now, within those who ask.

**So, we beg today that your forgiveness, your healing, and your Spirit poured out,
that we might receive the peace you offer and be ready when your day of peace arrives,
we ask this in the name of the coming Prince of Peace, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

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.*

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

SUNG PSALM 27: *The Lord's my Light*

TBoP 15

*The Lord's my light and saving health;
who shall make me dismayed?
God is the stronghold of my life:
who shall make me afraid?*

*Through wars arise and armies camp
against me, I'll not fear;
I will stand firm and confident:
I know that God is near.*

*One thing I asked of God the Lord,
And will seek to obtain,
That all days of my life
I may within God's house remain;*

*The I the beauty of the Lord
May worship and admire,
That I in God's most holy place
May reverently enquire.*

*In evil, troubled days, my God
Will hide and shelter me,
And rise me high upon a rock
above my enemy.*

*Now I will offer sacrifice
For all God's saving grace,
With melody unto the Lord
And joyful shouts of praise!*

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 3:7-18

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: All on a Silent Night

~ Mayo

MESSAGE: "He Will Baptize You with the Holy Spirit and With Fire"

~ Luke 3:16

RESPONDING WITH PRAISE

HYMN: *People, Look East*

VU 9

*People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.*

*Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the rose is on the way.*

*Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the bird is on the way.*

*Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the star is on the way.*

*Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.*

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

Mighty and merciful God, we bring our gifts to you, trusting that your blessing will multiply their transformative power and use in the world. Use them and us to prepare the way for Christ to enter lives with his compassion and courage, so that the world will know his peace and trust his name.

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: *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

TBoP 148

*It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold,
"To all the earth good-will and peace,
from heaven's all gracious King";
the world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.*

*Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.*

*But with the woes of sin and strife,
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong,
but we, through din of war,
hear not the love song which they bring.
Oh hush the noise, Oh still the strife,
and hear the angels sing.*

*And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! For glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
Oh rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing.*

*For lo! The days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
God's promised splendours fling,
and all the world take up the song,
which now the angels sing.*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

CLOSING MUSIC: "Take Up His Song "

MV 213

*Take up his song of Peace and go into the world
take up his song of Peace in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives
lay them down, in Peace, lay them down, and take up his song.*

POSTLUDE: Echo Noel

~ D'Aquin

¹ Worship Planner December 8, 2024, The Presbyterian Church in Canada

² Sourced and adapted by Rev. Michelle Armstrong from Worship Planner December 8, 2024, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and Teri Peterson BibleWorm Liturgy December 8, 2024.

Thank you to our Volunteers today!

Scripture Readers: Isaiah - Rose Carolyn Smith, Luke - Cathy Davis

Greeters: Rose Carolyn Smith & 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>

SAINT ANDREW'S MISSION TREE UPDATE

Once again, the Mission Committee is supporting a family from Liberty Lane this Christmas. Liberty Lane Inc. is a charitable organization located in Fredericton that offers Second Stage Housing to female identified individuals (and their children) who have left family violence, and Domestic Violence Outreach services to people of all gender identities. We are sponsoring two families this year and the angels include toys, clothing and gift cards. Items for the mom may be gift wrapped but we will provide wrapping supplies so the mom can wrap the children's gifts. The angels will be available to choose from on Sunday, Nov 24th. I am asking anyone who takes an angel to write their contact information on the sheet at the back of the church. This will ensure that all angels are received before the delivery deadline. **All gifts need to be returned to the church by Dec 8th**, and you can contact Heather Rutherford at rutherford_h@live.com or 454-9817 if you need your gift picked up outside of church hours. Thank you in advance from the Mission and Outreach Committee for your continuous generosity.

MISSION GIFTS

Want to give a gift that changes lives? What do you get the person who has everything? Both the Presbyterians and United Church have mission gift catalogues. Check out Gifts of Change [here](#) and Gifts with Vision [here](#) and make a difference this season.

REV. MICHELLE'S OFFICE DROP-IN HOURS

Rev. Michelle has office hours available for drop-in on Sundays between 1-2:30pm and Monday from 1-2:30pm. Appointments are preferred to ensure the time you need to connect.

WINTER PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT AS OF DEC. 1ST

A reminder that Winter Parking Restriction takes effect on Dec. 1st. Parking is not allowed on the side of Carleton St. (between George and Charlotte Streets) facing the church. For more detail re: parking availability, including handicapped parking, see the poster on the Hall bulletin board or those at each entrance to the Church.

ST. PAUL'S PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry items needed this week salt, laundry soap, crackers, white sugar, baking soda, tea, pancake mix, syrup, granola bars, apple & orange juice, mustard, relish, Miracle Whip, jam, vinegar, sardines, cake mix frosting, rice, and fruit cups. Thank you for your continued support of this increasingly busy outreach program!

LINTUHTINE SINGERS HOLIDAY CHEER

Come out for a really fun concert. You will even get chances to sing favourite Christmas songs!!!!!! Hope to see you there. LINTUHTINE SINGERS with guests Sidney Murgatroyd (strings) Sophia & Katie (vocals) present HOLIDAY CHEER Sunday, **December 8th** at 3pm Oromocto United Church. Cash donation at door to cover choir expenses.

BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

This week, the program needs proteins with flip top lids. Thank you for your continued support and generosity of this program.

BREAKFAST 2 GO

New Hours: 8:30-10am. If you are interested in baking muffins for this Friday morning program, please contact Bev Bramble at bbramble1@gmail.com to be added to the muffin baking list.

SIMPLY COUNTRY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

You are invited to a lovely afternoon of music. The Nashwaaksis United Church, 46 Main Street, presents "Simply Country Christmas Concert", this Sunday, **Dec. 8th** from 2-4 pm. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Treats and refreshments will be available at a small cost. Hope to see you there!

FREDERICTON LADIES CHOIR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Fredericton Ladies Choir presents their Annual Christmas Concert at St. Dunstan's Roman Catholic Church on **December 10th** at 7pm, with special guest, Don Bozze Jazz. Doors open at 6:15pm. Tickets are \$20, available at Westminster Bookmark, at the door or from choir members, Patty Trail and Debbie Seymour.

CONNECTING WITH REV. MICHELLE

You can reach Rev. Michelle on the main office lines, call her office directly at 506-455-0639, text or call her cell at 506-259-7602 or via email at michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com.

BULLETIN & ANNOUNCEMENT SUBMISSIONS

Those wanting to add an announcement to the bulletin and/or eNews, please send an email to Meghan at stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com by Wednesday at noon. Announcements will run for a 2-week period unless otherwise requested.



VIVALDI'S GLORIA AND CHRISTMAS CHORAL TREATS

The Fredericton Choral Society presents Vivaldi's Gloria and Christmas choral treats on Saturday **December 14th** at 7:30pm at Christ Church parish Church – 245 Westmorland Street. Admission: \$25 general & \$10 student. Tickets available at the door and from choir members and Debbie West.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Ongoing Activities

Monday – Friday ~ Community Outreach ~ Brown Bag Lunch Program in St. Paul's Office during regular office hours

Tuesdays ~ Tuesday Morning Ladies Group at 9:30am ~ *All are welcome!*

Tuesdays & Thursdays ~ Quilting from 1-4pm ~ *All are welcome!*

Wednesdays ~ Community Outreach ~ Pantry Program from 9-11am

Thursdays ~ Choir Practice from 7-8pm ~ *All are welcome!*

Fridays ~ Community Outreach ~ Breakfast 2 Go from 8:30-10am

Upcoming Dates to Remember

December 8th ~ Advent 2 ~ Services at 10:30 ~ Fellowship hosted by Mission & Outreach

December 8th ~ *Mission Tree Gift Return Deadline*

December 15th ~ Advent 3 ~ Service at 10:30 ~ Fellowship hosted by Shawn & Beth Meister & Kim Keech

December 22nd ~ Advent 4 ~ Service at 10:30 ~ Alanna Palmer & Cathy Davis

December 21st ~ Longest Night Service at Wilmot United at 7pm

December 24th ~ Family Christmas Eve Service at 3pm

December 24th ~ Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Communion at 7pm



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.stpaulsunityed.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