

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

Fredericton, N.B.

January 12th, 2025

The Season after 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.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

PRELUDE: Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

~ Berry

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

INTROIT: *Open our Hearts*

MV 21

*Open our hearts, open our minds.
Open our lives to you O loving God.
Open our hearts, open our minds.
Open our lives to you O loving God.*

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Responsive)*¹

Come gather around this fount you people of God.

In these waters, we experience God's grace.

Remember your baptism!

A sign of God's love for us that never ends.

Remember your baptism!

A sign of our belonging in the community of God's people.

Remember your baptism!

A call from God to change our hearts and lives.

Remembering and with thanks we come,

to worship the One we see revealed in these waters.

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: *God Is Here! As We Your People Meet*

TBoP 799

*God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.*

*Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.*

*Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.*

*Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us, as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.*

*Sovereign God of Church and Kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (In Unison) ²

Merciful God,
in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,
but we confess that we prefer our old, familiar ways.
We cling to destructive habits,
we harbor grudges,
and we are reluctant to welcome a stranger or forgive one another.
Nostalgia for the past prevents us from exploring new possibilities.
In your loving kindness, forgive us.
Have mercy upon us and move among us
so that we might pursue new life in Christ together.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

CHILDREN'S HYMN: *I Can Feel You Near Me God*

MV 48

*I can feel you near me God I can feel you near
Yes I know you're with me God I feel you here
I can feel you near me God I can feel you near
Yes I know you're with me God Heaven is here.*

Refrain:

*And I'll jump for joy I'm singing Alleluia
Jump for joy for you I will jump for joy
I'm singing Alleluia Jump for joy for you. R*

*I can feel you loving me yes I know you care
God I know you're loving me always everywhere
I can feel you loving me yes I know you care
God I know you're loving me I know you're there.*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

THE STORY BEFORE THE STORY

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: *(In Unison)* ²

**Holy Spirit, you blessed Jesus in his baptism, proclaiming him beloved of God.
As we give our attention to God's holy Word, descend on us, we pray.
Speak to us of God's love for us,
and renew our faith and commitment to follow Jesus,
God's living Word. Amen.**

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 51:6-17

You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.
Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
**O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

FOCAL GOSPEL READING: Luke 3:1-22 *(Responsive)*

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *On Jordan's Bank*

VU20 vs 1-4

*On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lamb is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of Kings.*

*Then cleansed be every life from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.*

*In you, we find abundant life,
our refuge in the midst of strife;
without your grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.*

*Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and help us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine,
and fill the world with love divine.*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM ³

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

BAPTISM HYMN: *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

TBoP 521

*Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.*

*Child of love, our love's expression,
love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits,
into joy and laughter lead.*

*Child of joy, our dearest treasure,
God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you;
live as one who bears Christ's name.*

*Child of God, your loving Parent,
learn to know whose child you are;
grow to laugh and sing and worship,
trust and love God more than all.*

THE PRESENTATION:

On behalf of Session, I present Susie Akwar, child of Catherine Elizabeth and Humphrey Atacheck Akwar, to receive the sacrament of baptism.

RENUNCIATION AND AFFIRMATION: *(Responsive)*

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God
who has been faithful to us in all generations,
do you turn away from sin,
renounce all evil powers in the world
which rebel against God
or oppose God's rule of justice and love?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin which separate you from the love of God?

I renounce them.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ,
accepting him as Lord and Saviour,
trusting in his grace and love?

I do.

Do you desire, in dependence on the Holy Spirit,
to mature as a Christian in the church,
to seek the guidance of Christ as you listen for his Word,
to celebrate his death and life at the table he provides,
and to engage in his mission to the world?

I do.

Do you promise to raise Susie in the love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ within the home and the fellowship of the church?

I do.

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ,
promise to guide and nurture Susie
by word and deed,
with love and in prayer,
encouraging her to follow the way of Christ
and to be a faithful member of his church?

We do.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(Responsive)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

...

and continue forever as a servant of Christ
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honour and glory
now and forever.

Amen.

THE ACT OF BAPTIZING

Susie, I baptize you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

DECLARATION AND WELCOME *(In Unison)*

...

Come, grow with us into Christ who is our head.

**"There is one body and one Spirit,
just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of us all,
who is above all and through all and in all."**

SUNG BLESSING: *The Lord Bless You/Aaronic Blessing*

TBoP 832

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you his peace, give you his peace.
Amen*

CHOIR ANTHEM: God of Mercy, God of Grace

~ Davidson

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)²

God our Maker, we bring our gifts to you in thanksgiving for your gifts to us in Christ and in creation. Bless what we bring and who we are, so that our gifts will bless the world you love in Christ's name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER: (In Unison)

(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: Go to the World

VU 420

***Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptising as the sign of our rebirth.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!***

***Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the Word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!***

***Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant Church, you follow Christ's own way.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!***

***Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you 'til the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry 'Amen!'
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!***

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

CLOSING MUSIC: When Jesus Came to be Baptized

VU 100 vs 4

***O Spirit help us be like Christ:
to live in love and charity,
to walk in truth and justice now,
and grow in Christian dignity.***

POSTLUDE: Toccata Gloriosa

~ Brauer

¹ Adapted Teri Peterson, BibleWorm Liturgy January 12, 2025

² Presbyterian Church in Canada, Worship Planner Resource, January 12, 2025

³ Liturgy from the Book of Common Worship – Presbyterian Church of Canada

Thank you to our Volunteers today!

Scripture Readers: Narrator & Psalm Leader – Jane Banks, Crowds, Tax Collectors & Soldiers – Magenta Watson,
John – Ron Naugler, Voice – Rev. Michelle

Greeters: Arlene MacDonald & Mary Stickles

Audio/Visual: Beth & Shawn Meister & Glynis Martin

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>

TODAY FOLLOWING SERVICE, YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US IN THE HALL FOR REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP, AND TO GREET SUSIE AND HER PARENTS, HUMPHREY AND CAT AKWAR.

2024 DONATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

The Government of Canada has announced an extension for making charitable donations eligible for the 2024 tax year until February 28, 2025. This measure ensures donors have additional time to support their favorite causes, such as our churches. Anyone wishing to still make a contribution for 2024, please speak with Meghan or Joanna or place it in the offering plate on Sunday with a *2024* note.

ST. PAUL'S PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry items needed this week are laundry & dish soap, Mr. Clean, Comet, plastic wrap, pancake mix & syrup, oatmeal, vinegar, tea, coffee, molasses, Miracle Whip, jam, tomatoes, sardines, canned corn, spaghetti, macaroni, large apple & orange juice, white sugar, and flour. Thank you for your ongoing support!

EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Michelle will be attending the (Re)Generate leadership program the week of January 18th-25th. Emergency pastoral care can be obtained from Ellen Beairsto by calling 506-206-1943. This number is a landline so please leave a message if you do not get an answer. Rose-Carolynn will also be available to support ongoing needs.

2025 ENVELOPES READY FOR PICK UP!

2025 Offering Envelopes are available at the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to drop off a neighbour's box set!

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Bible study will start on Feb 6th from 6-7pm. This will be a Lectio Divina style engagement with the scripture reading for the coming Sunday.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

January 12th ~ Service at 10:30am ~ Fellowship Hosted by the Ladies Group
January 19th ~ Service at 10:30am ~ Fellowship Hosts Needed!
January 26th ~ Service at 10:30am ~ Fellowship Hosts Needed!

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.

THE WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH OF FREDERICTON

The Women's Inter-Church of Fredericton is having the World Day of Prayer Planning Meeting on Monday, **January 13th** at 10am at St. Theresa's Catholic Church Hall (downstairs), 1 William Street, Fredericton. If anyone is interested in helping plan for the World Day of Prayer which will take place in March, you are invited to come. Thank you. ~ Debbie Heustis, Publicity for the Women's Inter-Church of Fredericton.

CHILI TAKE-OUT SUPPER

Nashwaaksis United Church, 46 Main Street, is offering a delicious Chili Take-out on Friday, **January 17th**. Pick up will be at the church, from 4-5:30pm. The menu includes mild chili, roll, Caesar salad, and apple crumble tart for

dessert. To reserve your meal, please contact Judy at 506-458-9452 or admin@nashwaaksisunited.ca by 2pm, Wednesday, January 15th.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is the Week of January 18 to 25, 2025. The Theme is "Do you believe this?" (John 11:26). There is a Service being held in the Fredericton Area at St. Dunstan Roman Catholic Church, 120 Regent Street on Thursday, **January 23rd**, 2025 at 1:15 PM with Coffee/Tea and sweets after the service. All are invited to attend Women and Men. Please use the entrance off King Street by the Tim Horton. Thank you. Deborah Heustis, Publicity for the Women's Inter-Church of Fredericton.

ONGOING CHURCH ACTIVITIES

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

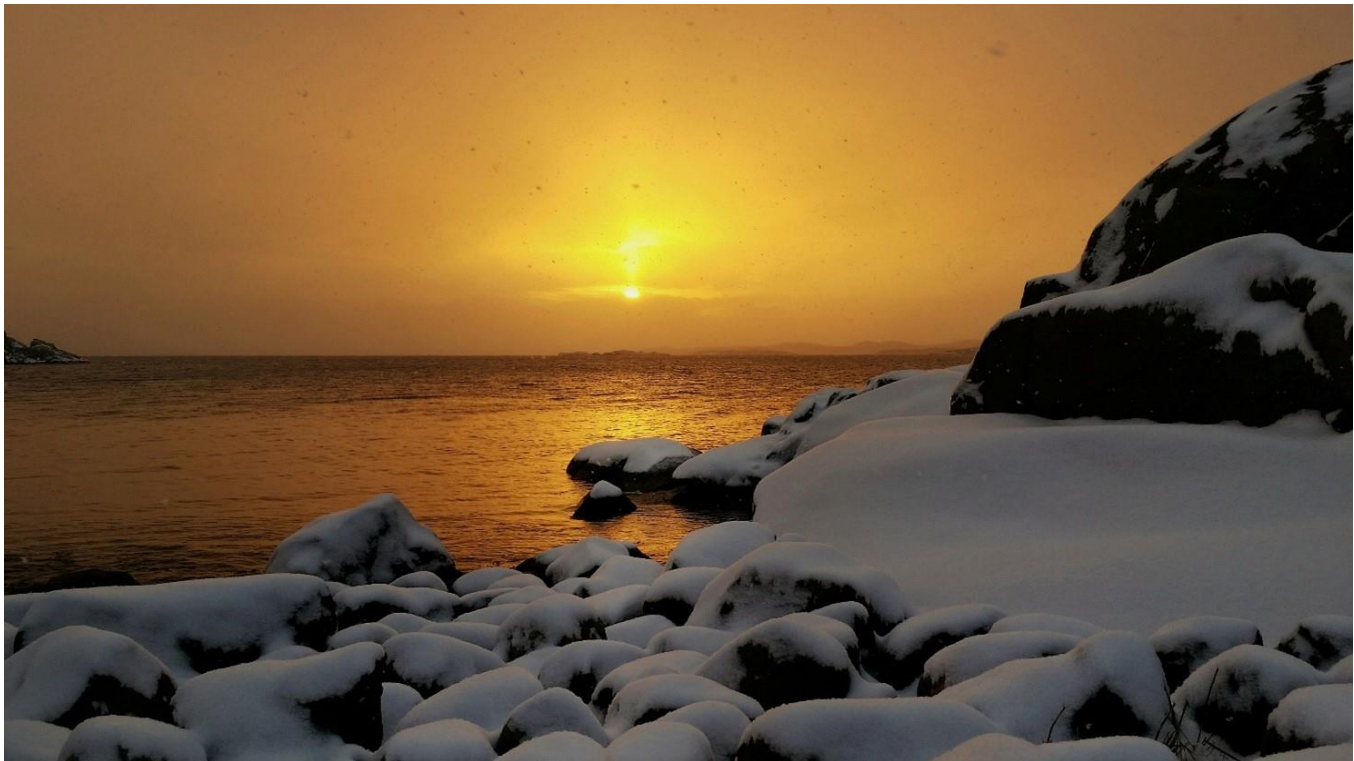
Tuesdays ~ Tuesday Morning Ladies Group at 9:30am ~ *All are welcome!*

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



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 Administrator: Joanna Price | Office Hours: Monday-Friday 2pm-6pm

St. Paul's: Tel: 506.458.1183 | E-mail: stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com | Website: www.stpaulsunited.ca

Office Administrator/Bookkeeper: Meghan Roebuck | Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8am-3pm

Minster: Rev. Michelle Armstrong | **Organist:** Dr. Sharon Pond

Custodian: Doug Newman | **Ministers Emeriti:** Rev. Doug Blaikie & Rev. Dr. Basil Lowery