

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

Fredericton, NB

March 23rd, 2025

Lent 3

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: Passacaglia

~ Fey

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

INTROIT: *Take, O Take Me As I Am*

MV 85

*Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me. R*

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Responsive)*¹

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation!

Thanks be to God for such great mercy.

Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Thanks be to God for new beginnings!

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation through Christ Jesus.

Together we will make a new beginning in Christ!

Let us worship God with joyful hearts, trusting God to renew us and all things.

We will lift our praises to God with hearts refreshed by grace.

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

OPENING PRAYER: *(In Unison)*²

**God of Mystery and Mercy,
we gather to worship in humility and hope
because we trust you have the power
to change the world for the better with your love.**

**We gather to worship you,
trusting that no person or situation is beyond your concern,
or your embrace.**

**In your kingdom, O God,
your people celebrate together with joy,
and it matters that everyone is there.**

**We gather to worship you,
trusting that no person or situation is beyond your concern,
or your embrace.**

**When your family is incomplete,
you come looking for us,
and you send us out looking for one another,
that none might be lost.**

Give us eyes and hearts to notice, to truly see, to pay attention,
so that all in need are reached by your love and care,
and told of your grace and mercy. Amen.

HYMN: *Come, Let Us Sing*

VU 222

*Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,
we have stood silently too long;
surely the Lord deserves our praise,
so joyfully thank God for our days.*

*O thirsty soul, come drink at the well;
God's living waters will never fail.
Surely the Lord will help you to stand,
strengthened and comforted by God's hand.*

*You dwell among us and cause us to pray,
and walk with each other following your way;
our precious brothers and sisters will grow
in the fulfilling love they know.*

*Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing
to the desire of all living things.
Come, all you creatures, high and low,
let your praises endlessly flow.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*³

Lord, what you have done for us is beyond all measure,
and you call us to proclaim the good news of your saving grace.
We confess that there are times that we hold back,
afraid of what the world will think or do to us, for speaking your truth.
There are times when our lives do not reflect your glory,
when we miss the mark and cast a shadow on your name.
We also confess that we are prone to creating checklists
of things we have to do and not do,
of rules and obligations to follow,
of tasks to complete and instructions to follow,
forgetting that ultimately it is about our relationship, with you and each other.
Forgive us for not paying attention to those you have called us to share life with
forgive us for acting as if faithfulness precludes joy
forgive us when we start to think we are the only ones who are in the right,
Re-orient our hearts,
that we may join in the celebration of your grace and mercy,
through which we are all saved. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

STORY TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

THE STORY BEFORE THE STORY

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: *(In Unison)*

Your word is a lamp to our feet, and ultimate guide for our lives. As we read from your Scriptures, send your Holy Spirit that we may gain a deeper understanding for living our faith in today's world In Christ's strong name we pray. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 119: 167-176

My soul keeps your decrees;

I love them exceedingly.

**I keep your precepts and decrees,
for all my ways are before you.**

Let my cry come before you, O LORD;

give me understanding according to your word.

**Let my supplication come before you;
deliver me according to your promise.**

My lips will pour forth praise,

because you teach me your statutes.

**My tongue will sing of your promise,
for all your commandments are right.**

Let your hand be ready to help me,

for I have chosen your precepts.

**I long for your salvation, O LORD,
and your law is my delight.**

Let me live that I may praise you,

and let your ordinances help me.

**I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek out your servant,
for I do not forget your commandments.**

FOCAL SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 15:1-23

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: Who's Goin' to Tell the Story

~ Sleeth

MESSAGE

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

TBoP 371 vs 1,3,4

*Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.*

*Come, almighty to deliver; let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING ¹

DOXOLOGY: *Now Thank We All Our God*

TBoP 457 vs1

*Now thank we all our God with heart and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom God's world rejoices,
who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(In Unison)* ¹

We place these gifts into your hands, O God. Bless them with your transforming grace so that they may become seeds springing up with new life in the world you love. Fill our hearts with that same grace so we can bring hope and proclaim your good news to weary and worried lives in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER: *(In Unison)*

(You are invited to pray the Lord's Prayer in the language of your heart, and the words that ring deep in your soul.)

GOING FORTH WITH GOD

CLOSING HYMN: *Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine*

TBoP 687

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of the Spirit, washed in his blood.*

Refrain:

*This is my story; this is my song:
praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story; this is my song:
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. R*

*Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Saviour am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. R*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

CHORAL CLOSING: *Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights*

TBoP 196 vs 1

*Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.*

POSTLUDE: *In Death's Strong Grasp the Saviour Lay*

~ Bach

¹ The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Worship Planner March 30, 2025

² Adapted from The Presbyterian Church in Canada Worship Planner March 30, 2025, and BibleWorm Liturgy March 23rd, 2025

³ Adapted from BibleWorm Liturgy March 23, 2025

Thank you to our Volunteers today!

Scripture Readers: Psalm Leader & Younger – Vee Mariner, Narrator & Older – Rev. Michelle, Pharisees & Father – Magenta Watson, Jesus – Rebecca Jonah

Greeters: Arlene MacDonald & Carole Peacock

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>

ST. PAUL'S OFFICE HOURS

St. Paul's office has resumed regular office hours of Monday-Thursday from 8am-3pm and Friday from 8am-12pm.

ST. PAUL'S PANTRY PROGRAM



The Pantry will focus on white sugar and dish soap in March. Other items needed are salt, dish and laundry soap, Mr. Clean, Comet, cheese whiz, ketchup, coffee, tea, granola, cookies, ritz crackers, molasses, mayo, jam, tomatoes, 1L orange juice, canned milk, sardines, white sugar, flour, cake mix, tin foil, plastic wrap, apple sauce, and puddings. Thank you for your ongoing support!

SPRING YARD SALE

The Tuesday AM Ladies' Group, their numbers now increased by their newest member (the St. Paul's ladies) announce their Spring Yard Sale to be held on Friday, **May 1st** from 3-7 pm and Saturday, **May 2nd** from 9-Noon. Donations of all saleable items are encouraged to make for an interesting and bountiful inventory for our dedicated regular shoppers and also for first time visitors. Items can be dropped off on Monday-Friday during church office hours, or on Sundays following service.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

March 23rd ~ Service at 10:30am ~ Fellowship Hosted by Chris Grant & Mary Stickle

March 30th ~ Service at 10:30am Fellowship Hosted by the Mission Committee

April 6th ~ Service at 10:30 ~ *Fellowship Hosts Needed!*

April 13th ~ Service at 10:30 ~ *Fellowship Hosts Needed!*

April 20th ~ Service at 10:30 ~ Fellowship hosted by the Worship Committee

April 27th ~ Service at 10:30 ~ *Fellowship Hosts Needed!*

CAN YOU HELP?

Rev. Michelle was contacted by The Rev. Joseph Reed earlier this month. Rev. Joe has been a minister in Montreal, a missionary in Nicaragua for over 20 years, and was moderator of the 127th General Assembly. He has been partnering with the Fredericton YMCA to help get a Nicaraguan YMCA worker out of the country and claim refugee status in Canada. I had a meeting at the YMCA this week and met Marvin. There are a few items that we are trying to get for him. If you happen to have any of the following items to donate, contact Rev. Michelle: used cell phone that can be activated on a network, clothing items especially pants size 33-32 but also shirts size large, winter boots men's size 8.5-9, slippers for indoors men's size 8.5-9, fridge (doesn't have to be full size).

FREE INCOME TAX CLINIC

Forest Hill United Church is hosting free income tax clinics on Friday **March 28th, April 4th, 11th, and 25th** from 9:30am to 1pm. You qualify for this service if you are 65 or older, housing insecure, a student, a person with disabilities, or have a modest income. To see if you qualify or for more information, please call 506-455-0988 or email foresth.office@bellaliant.com

BEEF STEW TAKE OUT

The Nashwaaksis United Church is hosting a Beef Stew Takeout on Friday, **April 11th**, 4–5:30pm. The menu includes Beef Stew, Roll and Carrot Cake for \$15. Please reserve your order by Wednesday, April 9th at 2pm, by calling the church office at 506-458-9452 or by email: admin@nashwaaksisunited.ca

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 ~ Bible Study from 6-7pm ~ *All are Welcome!*

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

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

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 Sundays and Mondays from 1-2:30pm. Appointments are preferred to ensure the time you need to connect.

BULLETIN & ENEWS SUBMISSIONS

Please send announcements to Meghan at stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com by Noon on Wednesdays.



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

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

Office Administrator/Bookkeeper: Meghan Roebuck | **Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday 8am-3pm & Friday 8am-12pm

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

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