

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

Fredericton, N.B.

March 30th, 2025

Lent 4

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: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

~ Lau

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

Seek the Lord while God may be found. Call upon God, who is near.

We seek to find ourselves in God's story.

Come and have your imagination expanded,

For God's thoughts are not our thoughts, God's ways are so much better.

Come and see what the Spirit wants to show you.

We come as pilgrims on the journey, praising God along the way.

Come and experience the expansive love of God that transforms everything.

We come now to join with God in worship.

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*

VU 104

*We have come at Christ's own bidding
to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples
for a sign both clear and plain.

Light breaks in upon our darkness;
splendour bathes the flesh-joined Word;
Moses and Elijah marvel
as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
how the Law and Prophets meet:
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,
stands transfigured and complete.*

*Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
fearful lest our faith decline,
we like Peter find it tempting
to remain and build a shrine.
But true worship gives us courage
to proclaim what we profess,
that our daily lives may prove us
people of the God we bless.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)* ²

Compassionate and merciful God,
You created all things to be in relationship.
The people, the land and water, and all of the creatures of this world are your children.
We were meant to live as one.
Yet we have abused the land and polluted the waterways.
We have neglected our brothers and sisters in all their varied forms.
And where you called us to create the beloved community, too often we have created chasms too large for us to cross.
We have bought the lie that we are isolated individuals who can do anything on our own.
Forgive us, loving God, for believing and living un-truths that contradict your word and your kingdom.
Forgive us when we forget to see our neighbours as your fully beloved children.
Forgive us for seeing yet doing nothing in the face of suffering and hurt, as if we deserve better than others.
Awaken us today to your vision,
and give us courage to put it into action right now,
before it is too late to live in the fullness of your kingdom life today.
We ask in the name of the One who died and was raised to show us the way, Jesus the Christ.
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)* ³

O God, we turn to the Scripture to seek your wisdom and your truth. Send your Holy Spirit to open our minds and hearts to receive your Word for our lives and our times. In the name of Jesus Christ, your Living Word, we pray. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 119:25-33

My soul clings to the dust;

revive me according to your word.

When I told of my ways, you answered me;

teach me your statutes.

Make me understand the way of your precepts,

and I will meditate on your wondrous works.

My soul melts away for sorrow;

strengthen me according to your word.

Put false ways far from me,

and graciously teach me your law.

I have chosen the way of faithfulness;
I set your ordinances before me.

**I cling to your decrees, O Lord;
let me not be put to shame.**

I run the way of your commandments,
for you enlarge my understanding.

**Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.**

FOCAL SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 16:19-31

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: Into the Woods

~ Shepherd

MESSAGE

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *Spirit of the Living God*

VU 600

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

*Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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)*

Loving God, accept these, our gifts, we pray. Bless them and use them to proclaim your Good news, so that the chasms of this world may be transcended, and all may come to rest in your love. Amen

PRAYERS 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: *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

TBoP 671

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down thy head upon my breast!"
I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one, stoop down, and drink, and live!"
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till travelling days are done.*

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: Allegro

~ Handel

¹ Adaptation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, Worship Planner, March 23, 2025, and BibleWorm Liturgy March 30, 2025

² Adapted from BibleWorm Liturgy March 30, 2025;

³ Adapted from the Presbyterian Church in Canada, Worship Planner, March 23, 2025

Thank you to our Volunteers today!

Scripture Readers: Psalm Leader – Barbara Cull-Wilby, Rich Man & Abraham – Kendall Wright, Jesus – Debbie West

Greeters: Heather & Kendall Wright & 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>

ST. PAUL'S OFFICE PHONE

Hi folks, I just wanted to let everyone know that St. Paul's office has not has a working phone since March 13th. I am very sorry for the inconvenience. Hopefully the situation will be rectified shortly. If you need to get in touch with me, please feel free to email me at stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com or call my cell phone at 506-262-8461. My apologies. ~ Meghan

SPRING YARD SALE

The Tuesday AM Ladies' Group, their numbers now increased by their newest members (the St. Paul's ladies) announce their Spring Yard Sale to be held on Friday, **May 2nd** from 3-7pm and Saturday, **May 3rd** from 9-Noon. Donations of items are encouraged to make for an interesting and bountiful inventory for our dedicated regular shoppers and first-time visitors. We are still working on a plan for dropping off your items. Keep tuned for our drop-off plans.

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.



ST. PAUL'S PANTRY PROGRAM

For the month of April, the Pantry will focus on receiving donations of 1L vinegar and ketchup. Other items of need are flour, puddings, pancake mix, syrup, cereal, granola bars, cookies, mayo, salt, tin foil, plastic wrap, and dish & laundry detergent. Thank you for your ongoing and generous support!

BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

The Brown Bag Lunch program needs canned proteins with pull tops (such as flakes of meat, Chef Boyardee, chili, sardines), chicken salad & crackers, juice boxes, pudding cups, fruit cups, and small, sweet treats such as mini chocolate bars. Thank you for your generosity.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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

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

April 17th ~ DTU Maundy Thursday Service here

April 18th ~ DTU Good Friday Service at Wilmot

April 20th ~ Easter Sunday Service with Communion at 10:30 ~ Fellowship hosted by the Worship Committee

April 21st ~ Easter Monday STAT Holiday – Offices are closed

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

FREE INCOME TAX CLINIC

Forest Hill United Church is hosting free income tax clinics on Friday **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

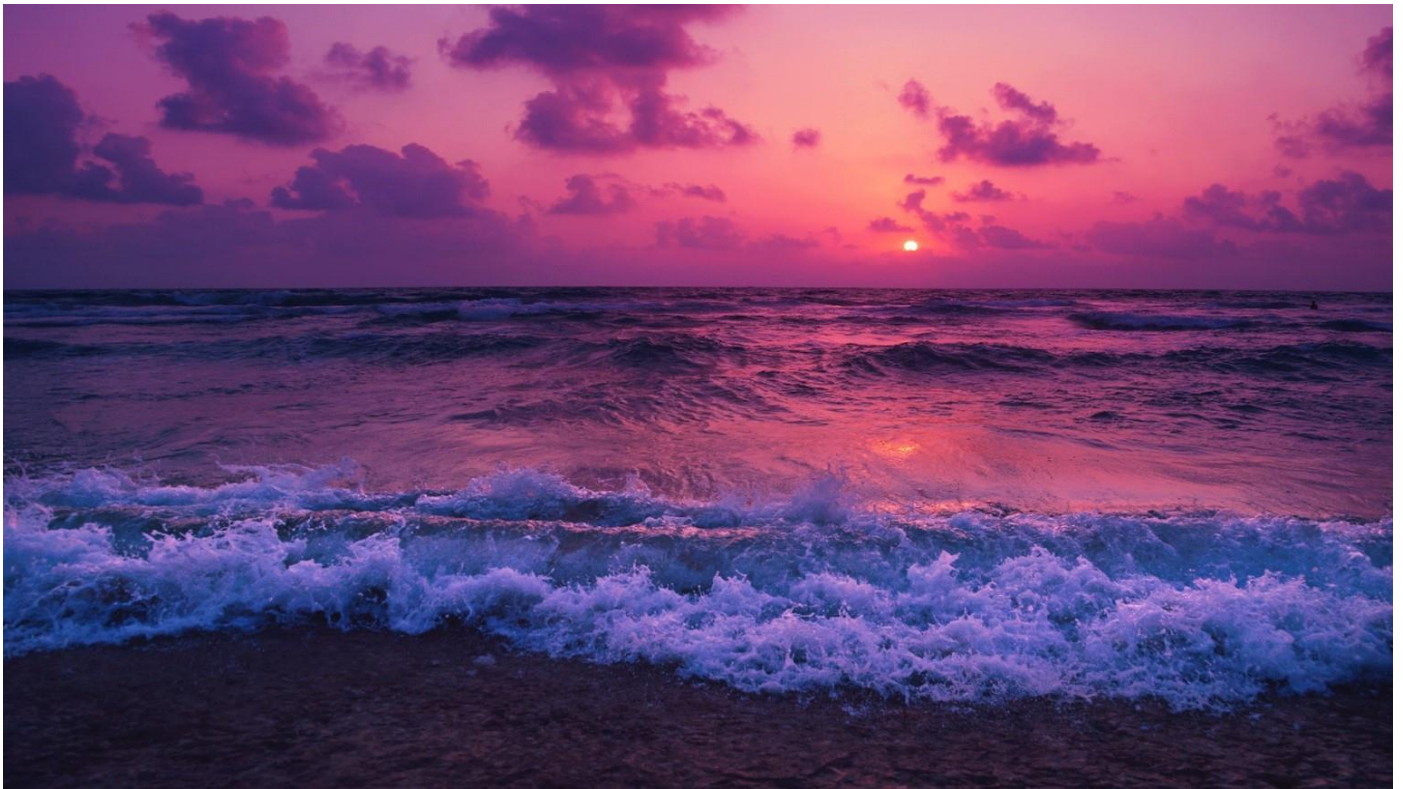
Thursdays ~ Bible Study from 6-7pm ~ *All are Welcome!*

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

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

BULLETIN & ENEWS SUBMISSIONS

Please send announcements to Meghan at stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com by noon Wednesday.



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.stpaulsunited.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