

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

Fredericton, N.B.

April 6th, 2025

Lent 5

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: Prelude on "Attende Domine"

~ 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

Along the way on this journey, when understanding is clouded:

Praise God for insight and clarity!

When the view is blocked:

Praise God for revealing good news!

As we seek to live God's kingdom's way,

Praise God for restored community!

In praise and thanksgiving, we gather

Worshipping the one who calls us to abundant life.

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: *For the Healing of the Nation*

VU 678

*For the healing of the nations,
God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.*

*Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release;
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.*

*All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,*

*dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.*

*You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that, by our response and service,
earth its destiny may find.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

God of Justice,
we come to this community of worship to praise and grow in you.
Yet we also acknowledge that we have not always honoured your ways.
Instead of being caretakers of creation, allowing her to flourish,
we have stripped and abused the land and its inhabitants.
We are inheritors of a history that has harmed parts of the human family,
instilling the mindset that some are better than others, more worthy of your good graces.
We confess that these systems are still at work today,
and that we have been complicit in acts of racism and sexism.
Loving God,
you know the economic disparity in this country and around the world,
you know those who face wars and violence as power is misused,
for all the times we have failed to challenge these realities,
allowing them to crush your vision of abundant life for all, forgive us.
Help us to live from your vision for the world,
where all creation experiences the abundant life and joy you intended.
Give us wisdom for the work of looking at ourselves, and the systems in which we live,
that we might see and respond in ways that allow your kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven.
This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our guide and our goal. 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)*²

**Creator God, you spoke and light appeared in chaotic nothingness.
Your Word became flesh in Jesus Christ and lived among us.
Speak again with the power of the Holy Spirit
through the Scriptures, read and interpreted,
and transform our understanding
so that our lives may more fully conform to your Living Word. Amen**

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter
and our tongue with shouts of joy;

**then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”**

The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

**Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

**Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.**

FOCAL SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 18:31-19:10

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: It is a Thing Most Wonderful

~ Bayley

MESSAGE

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides*

MV 169

*When hands reach out beyond divides
and hope is truly found,
each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace, of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace shall sound,
each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound.*

*When fear no longer guides our steps
and days of war are done,
God’s dream for all shall live anew;
our hearts will heal as one,
our hearts will heal, will heal as one,
our hearts will heal as one,
God’s dream for all shall live anew;
our hearts will heal as one.*

*When race and creed blind us no more,
a neighbour’s face we’ll see,
and we shall dance the whole world round,
for love will set us free,
for love, yes love will set us free,
for love will set us free,
and we shall dance the whole world round,
for love will set us free.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*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)*

O God, you are the eternal healer, reconciling and restoring the world, moving it towards your desire for all to flourish, so that yet again you can proclaim, "It is Very Good." With our offerings, we anticipate the day when you reign and take up our part as your church. Make us agents of your justice, peace and reconciliation, this we pray in Christ's name. 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: *O For a World*

*O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.*

*O for a world where goods are shared
and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared,
equality achieved.*

*We welcome one world family
and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity
and gives our vision voice.*

*The poor are rich, the weak are strong,
the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong,
who perishes will rise.*

*O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,
and all but love will cease.*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

CHORAL CLOSING: *Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights*

*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.*

¹ Adapted from BibleWorm Liturgy March 6, 2025;

² Presbyterian Church in Canada, Worship Planner, April 6, 2025

Thank you to our Volunteers today!

Scripture Readers: Psalm Leader & Blind Man & Zaccheaus – Jean Boudreau, Narrator – Rose Carolyn Smith, Jesus – Ron Naugler, Crowd – Rev. Michelle

Greeters: Lois Walker & Margie Penney

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>

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.

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

FREE INCOME TAX CLINIC

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

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

April 6th ~ Service at 10:30 ~ Rose Carolyn Smith & Tammy Coughlan

April 13th ~ Palm Sunday Service at 10:30 ~ Fellowship hosted by Beth & Shawn Meister & Kim Keetch

April 17th ~ DTU Maundy Thursday Potluck at 5:30pm

April 17th ~ DTU Maundy Thursday Service here at 7pm

April 18th ~ DTU Good Friday Service at Wilmot at 11am

April 18th ~ Good Friday STAT Holiday – Offices Closed

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

April 21st ~ Easter Monday STAT Holiday – Offices Closed

April 27th ~ Service at 10:30 ~ Fellowship Hosted by Debbie West

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

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Saint Andrew's: Tel: 506.455.8220 | Email: sapcfred@gmail.com | Website: <https://sapc.ca/>

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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