

St. Paul's United Church

August 19th, 2012

*The people of St. Paul's United Church welcome you.
May there be a blessing for you in this house today.*

Prelude I Need Jesus Thygerson

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
also with you.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn Go, Make a Difference MV 209

Call to Worship

*Friends, as we prepare to go forth today,
take with you the blessing of the Spirit that reaches to the
four corners of our country and beyond,
take with you the blessing of Jesus our Christ, in whom we
find justice and loving kindness,
and take with you the blessing of God,
whom we follow humbly.*

Opening Prayer (in unison)

*Holy God, we give thanks for this 41st General Council and
the learning circle this week has been. As our table group cir-
cles prepare to disband, may we take the lessons learned, the
faith shared, and the hope instilled to our own pastoral
charges and places of ministry, presbyteries, and Conference
circles.*

*Loving God, as we created open space to welcome your
Spirit in, we found ourselves filled with passion that spilled
out in songs of praise, in laughter and tears, in worship and*

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debate. May the consensus-building decisions made this

Weekly Activities

Monday-Friday	11:30–1:00 p.m. AA—Youth Lounge
Tuesday & Saturday	8–9 p.m. AA—Youth Lounge
Tuesday & Thursday	12–1 p.m. Exercise Group—gym
Tuesday & Thursday	1-4 Quilting—Quilter's Parlour

Summer Office Hours: The church office is closed on Mondays and Fridays for the month of August (Cathy's vacation days).

Minister:	Rev. Lori Beth Sheffield-Bowles
Organist & Director of Music:	Alexis Ervin
Children & Family Ministry:	Julie Heslop
Office Administrator:	Cathy Simpson
Sexton:	Joe Robicheau

St. Paul's Contact Information:

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Keep up to date on upcoming activities
and stay in touch in between Sundays!
<http://www.facebook.com/StPaulsUnitedFredericton>

**Our new website is up and running—check us out at
www.stpaulsunited.ca**

Closing Prayer/Prière de Cloture

One: With friends across the country let us say:

All: Be still and know I am God.

One: Be still and know I am.

All: Be still and know.

One: Be still.

All: Be.

Moment of Silence

Closing Hymn Through Ancient Walls VU 691

Benediction

Special Music Alleluia Gaitlin, arr. White & Henry

Postlude Sing Unto the Lord B. Price

Many thanks to Maple Syrup for their musical contributions to the service today.

With grateful thanks to our former website master Graham Steeves and our newest website master Garth Caseley St. Paul's new Website is now up and running. Please take the time to have a look at: www.stpaulsunited.ca

Thanks also to Kelly Simpson who keeps St. Pauler's up to date on Facebook - If you are a Facebook user check it out at: <http://www.facebook.com/StPaulsUnitedFredericton>

Vacation Bible School: Aug 27 - 31, 9-11:30 am @ St. Paul's Children ages 4 yrs - 10 yrs (helpers ages 11 yrs+) are welcome to explore this year's theme "**Music Machine!**"

Offered jointly by Wilmot United and St. Paul's United, your support is very much appreciated through donations. Contact kelly@wilmotuc.nb.ca or call Kelly Ebbett at 472-7716 for more information.

week bring you glory. May the friendships built last a lifetime, and may we all return home safely, renewed with passion to celebrate your presence.

The Lord's Prayer

VU 959

Welcome To The Children

Prayers of the People

One: We thank you, God, for the stirrings of affection and compassion that we feel in our being.

All: We thank you that we see your steadfast love in every part of creation, in the living entities of the world, and in soil, rock, air, and water.

One: We thank you for the rich diversity of our neighbours, our families, our church and that there is no limit to what we can learn and discover about creation.

All: We thank you for making yourself tangible to us in the beauty, the savagery, the creativity, the ferocity, the magnificence, and the wonder of the world.

One: We thank you for the people who inhabit this planet with us. Those like us and those who are different.

All: We thank you for brilliant and inventive minds, for simple and gentle hearts, for people who create laughter, and for those who help us cry.

One: We thank you for those who bring change, and for those who maintain ancient values of truth and goodness in our vast United and uniting church.

All: We thank you for people of wisdom, who challenge us to reach toward your kingdom with courage and persistence.

One: We thank you for our sisters and brothers with feathers, fins, and fur, who share in the life you give, and like us, return to your earth when life and breath cease.

All: What we do, O God, to the least of these is also what we do to, for, and with you. Strengthen us to do love and compassion, to treasure even the weeds we yank from the ground because they share in your energy.

One: Bless us, we pray, with the wisdom to bless and cherish all

life. Help us remember that all living beings survive on the death of other beings, and help us give and receive life with intense gratitude.

All: *Let our gratitude be expressed in justice and compassion so that the clothing we wear, the food we eat, the shelter in which we live, the machines and implements we use, may all be treated with profound respect and appreciation.*

One: Help us remember that you, Creator, have chosen to be part of creation, have chosen to be humanly embodied in Jesus, and have chosen to spark every molecule and atom with your energy. There is nothing on earth that is less than holy, even though there are many things we use for unholy purposes.

All: *Let peace begin with us and infect our universe, in the name of Jesus. Amen*

The Offering of Gifts

Offertory Amazing Grace arr. Gentry
Offertory Prayer

Scriptures Isaiah 55:1–8 Kelly Watson
 Psalm 139 VU 861
 1 Corinthians 1:18–21, 25–30
 Luke 18:9–14

Special Music Steal Away Wallace/Willis

Message General Council 41

A New Creed

*We are not alone,
we live in God’s world.*

*We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.*

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
*to celebrate God’s presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.*

*In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.*

We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn Take, O Take Me as I Am MV 85

Prayer of Confession

When we ponder you, O Holy One, we recognize how we fail to reflect your love in your world. We resist being attracted and drawn to each other; we resist gravity; we resist you. Help us fall down into your arms. Help us submit to your allurements, and help us fall in love with each other, with the world, and with life. Teach us this way of repentance, we pray, for it is in the attachment to earth and its inhabitants that we find humility, groundedness, reality, and your nearness. You are as close to us as gravity, O Ground of Being. Help us know this with our bodies, minds, and souls. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Even if we take the wings of the morning and rocket ourselves to the edge of the universe, God’s gravity holds us and keeps us. We are never abandoned to absolute weightlessness; we are grounded in God. Walk humbly!

Passing of the Peace

One: May the peace of Christ be with you all

All: And also with you!

One: As we prepare to go, let us share with each other signs and symbols of Christ’s peace.

Hymn Halle, Halle, Halle VU 958