

# DOWNTOWN SUMMER WORSHIP

Hosted by St. Paul's United Church

July 28<sup>st</sup>, 2024

10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM

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## GATHERING TOGETHER

**PRELUDE:** Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier ~ Fey

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**GATHERING MUSIC:** *Come and Find the Quiet Centre*

VU 374 vs 1

*Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,  
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:  
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see  
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.*

**GREETING:** *(Responsive)*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** *(Responsive)*

We come seeking rest.

**Weary from running from one thing to the next, we fall at the feet of the one who first gave us breath.**

We come seeking reorientation.

**Drawn by the many distractions in our lives, we seek the guiding light that no darkness can overcome.**

We come seeking renewal.

**More than refreshment, we seek vibrant purpose and renewed hope as bearers of God's love.**

In all our seeking, we come before God in prayer and praise.

**Let us worship God together!**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**HYMN:** *Spirit of the Living God*

VU 376

*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!*

**PRAYER FOR REORIENTATION:** *(In Unison)*

Shepherding God, we come to you seeking a new perspective. So often in our lives we see Sabbath time as a goal, as something we work towards, as something we might get to have at the end of a busy day or week. But this is a distortion of the gift of rest you gave us and call us towards. How many times have we come to the end of something and had no time for restoration of our souls, promising ourselves, “maybe next week”? Shake us loose of this routine. Allow sabbath to transform our thinking so that we are drawn closer to you and your ways. Help us to accept the gift you have given so that we may start from a place of Sabbath Rest, refreshed as we join in the work you are doing in our lives. In Christ’s name, we lift this prayer and seek your guidance. AMEN

**TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART**

**SEEKING GOD’S WORD**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:** *(In Unison)*

As we approach our Holy Scriptures, we pray for open minds and hearts, for you O God speak to us still. Through ancient words, you call forth wisdom for today. Renew us in our hearing by the Spirit’s power. Attune us to your voice, this we pray in Christ’s name. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Luke 15:11-32, Deuteronomy 15:1-2, 7-11

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**HYMN: *My Soul Cries Out***

**MV120**

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?*

**Refrain**

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn!*

*Though I am small, my God, my all,  
you work great things in me,  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn. R*

*From the halls of power to the fortress tower,  
not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn. R*

*Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound,  
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around. R*

## MESSAGE

### RESPONDING WITH PRAISE

HYMN: *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

VU 375

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness,  
Wind, Wind on the sea.*

*You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,  
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;  
and over the eons you called to each thing:  
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings. R*

*You swept thro' the desert, you stung with the sand,  
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;  
and when they were blinded with their idols and lies,  
then you spoke thro' your prophets to open their eyes. R*

*You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,  
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;  
and down in the city you called once again,  
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. R*

*You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,  
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams,  
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,  
with bold new decisions your people arise. R*

*Grant us, God, the grace of giving,  
with a spirit large and free,  
that ourselves and all our living  
we may offer faithfully.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(In Unison)*

God of Holy Rest, as we pause and experience the gift of Sabbath, we gain clarity on all that you have given us. Freed from our worries, distractions, and anxieties, we are overcome by gratitude. Turning towards you, we present ourselves as an offering of thanksgiving. We give for your service our talents, our treasures, and our time. Bless us and what we bring so that when we move from Holy Rest we are empowered as bearers of your love. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

**WALKING TOGETHER IN THE WAY**

HYMN: *I All the Way My Saviour Leads Me*

*All the way my Saviour leads me;  
what have I to ask beside?  
Can I doubt his tender mercy  
who through life has been my guide?  
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,  
here by faith in him to dwell,  
for I know, whate'er befall me,  
Jesus doeth all things well.*

*All the way my Saviour leads me,  
cheers each winding path I tread,  
gives me grace for every trial,  
feeds me with the living bread.  
Though my weary steps may falter,  
and my soul athirst may be,  
gushing from the rock before me,  
lo, a spring of joy I see!*

*All the way my Saviour leads me;  
O the fullness of his love!  
Perfect rest to me is promised  
in my Father's house above.  
When my spirit, clothed, immortal,  
wings its flight to realms of day,  
this my song through endless ages,  
'Jesus led me all the way!'*

**COMMISSIONING:** *(Responsive)*

Called from worship into service.

**We go remembering to cultivate holy moments on our journey of faith.**

Encouraged by the Word, we long to follow that Spirit to where God is already at work.

**Renewed, we go to the world driven by divine purpose and Spirit-given hope.**

Focused on Christ, we seek opportunities to share the gifts we have been given.

**Reoriented, we carry the light of Christ with us into the world.**

Refreshed in body, mind, and soul, we return to the busyness of our lives with a deeper appreciation of Sabbath time.

**Having rested, we are ready to face life anew knowing that God's Holy Presence is with us.**

**BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING MUSIC:** *Go To the World*

**VU 420 vs 3**

*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!*

**POSTLUDE:** Jig Fugue ~ Bach

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*Scripture Readers:* Narrator/Slave/One Voice – Debbie West, Jesus – Jane Banks, Young Son – Erin Webb,  
Old Son – Cathy Davis, Father – Greg Morton

*Greeters:* Mary Stickles, Kathie Berry **Audio Visual:** John Davis

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## 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.



### VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED

Love St Paul's? Feeling sentimental about our move? Put that emotion into action by helping to plan our move. Help recommend what moves with us, what moves on to others, and how we get it all moved. Cathy Davis and Ross Mathers have created a thorough inventory and need congregational voices to make a plan for Council that accommodates as many wishes as possible. Please volunteer to be one of those voices by notifying Meghan at 506-458-1183 or [stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com)

### COUNCIL CHAIR RESIGNATION

Dear St. Paul's Friends,

I regret to inform you that I have stepped away from the Council Chair position and submitted my resignation from Council. I feel I owe you an explanation and some words of encouragement.

When I took on the Council role, we were still thinking that the sale and the move would take place in the first half of 2025. When we presented the 2024 budget it was "business as usual" for the rest of this year. I calibrated, as we all do, whether I would have the time and energy to commit to a leadership role until the next annual meeting, at which time I fully expected to step aside for a new leader who was integrated into and focused on the new shared ministry at St. Andrews. It made sense at the time!

Thanks to the heroic work of our Trustees, everything has happened much, much faster. This is a good thing and brings with it the need for an immediate uptick in energy. The Council is responsible for all matters related to the transition to the new ministry at St. Andrews.

This is going to take energy, coordination and focus and I have faith in the ability of this congregation to find and deliver all those things. Unfortunately, I can't say the same for myself. At this moment, with my work and personal commitments, I have no capacity to spare. For starters, of the 12 remaining weeks until the closing date, I am out of the province for 4 weeks and fully committed elsewhere for 2 others. That's not the kind of leadership that will get this historic transition across the finish line.

My dad had a great saying for everything and one of his favorites was "Lead, Follow or Get Out of the Way". I have chosen the latter. I will help in small ways when I can, and I encourage each of you to do everything within your capacity. Thank you so much for all your love and support over the last many tumultuous years. Smoother waters are just around the bend, and I know the rest of the leadership team - and hopefully some reinforcements - will get St. Paul's there. ~ Jane

### OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

St. Paul's office will be closed on the New Brunswick Day long weekend, August 2<sup>nd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup>. The office is also closed on Fridays throughout the summer. Emails will be monitored and responded to when possible.



### ECUMENICAL SHARED MINISTRY UPDATE

Another month and another update from the Joint Ecumenical Shared Ministry Committee. July has seen the very surprising acceptance of an offer on our property. This, of course, has created ripples! Our target date for sharing with you a draft agreement between St. Paul's and St. Andrew's has been necessarily fast-tracked. We hope to have it ready for you by September, before we move to our new home. This agreement will set out how the two congregations will function as one in managing worship, shared financial commitments, human resources, and joint outreach programs, etc. Representatives of both congregations have been meeting regularly in recent months to discuss and make recommendations for their area of ministry. The Joint ESM committee has been compiling these recommendations to form the draft agreement, outlining the broad policies of the shared ministry.

The Financial 'Policy shapers', with Brad Webb and Ron Naugler representing St. Paul's, have met again with their counterparts from St. Andrew's. Together they have developed a plan for the two congregations to share expenses based on our audited revenues from the previous year. This cost-sharing split would be revisited every year after the independent financial reviews are completed and presented at the AGM.

Similarly, the Joint Ecumenical Shared Ministry Agreement will be revisited after each AGM. Plans that we now think will work, may not. And we may want to add things that we hadn't thought of before we started sharing our ministry. The Agreement will be a living document, always able to be rearranged to suit the congregation's needs at the time.

We can look forward to a very exciting and invigorating time!

### FUNDSCRIP



The next deadline for FundScrip gift cards is **Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>**. If you have been travelling this summer, you probably need more gas cards. If you have had a lot of hungry visitors, you might want to replenish your pantry using grocery store cards. Kids will be back at school before you know it. Shop for school supplies with FundScrip gift cards. [Click here](#) to download the order form. With this order, we'll now resume our regular deadline schedule on the first Sunday of the month. Watch for reminders in the weekly eNews and the Sunday bulletins. Remember: **Shopping is fundraising for St. Paul's.**

## BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

This week, the program needs **proteins with flip top lids, granola bars, and pudding cups**. Thank you for your continued support and generosity of this program.

## PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry program needs the following items this week: Kleenex, laundry & dish detergent, toothpaste & toothbrushes, tin foil, wax paper, saran wrap, pancake mix, syrup, ketchup, flour, white & brown & icing sugar, canned peas, & beans, pasta sauce, rice, spaghetti, pudding cups, salt, vinegar, Miracle Whip, large juices. Thank you for your continued support of this increasingly busy outreach program!



## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

**Wark/St. Paul's Scholarships** – Students who are members or adherents of St. Paul's and who plan to pursue post-secondary studies this fall are invited to apply for financial support from the Wark/St. Paul's Scholarship Funds. Details on eligibility and application guidelines are available at [scholarships-bursaries](#) Applications must be received on or before **July 31<sup>st</sup>**.

## BACK TO SCHOOL BACK PACKS ~ SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATIONS WANTED



St. Paul's is collecting donations of school supplies to be distributed to students in grades 1-12 that utilize our outreach programs. **Items needed include backpacks, lunch sets, reusable water bottles, lined paper, coil notebooks, large zippered binders, dividers, pencil cases, markers, highlighters, pens, pencils, scissors, glue, rulers, math sets, etc.** A donation tax receipt will be issued for items with a receipt. Items can be dropped off at the office Monday through Thursday from 8am-3pm. Cash donations are also welcome! If you know of someone in need of school supplies, please let Meghan know so they can be added to the list. Deadline for donations is **August 16<sup>th</sup>**

## SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE

### Please join us this summer for Summer Services

*Everyone is welcome!*

#### ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH & Via Zoom

224 York St. Fredericton NB | Tel. 458-1183

Sunday Services at 10:30am

**August 4<sup>th</sup>**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81834519740> Password: 657067

View later: <https://www.youtube.com/st.pauls>

#### WILMOT UNITED CHURCH & Via YouTube

473 King St. Fredericton | 458-1066

Sunday Services at 10:30am

**August 11<sup>th</sup> | August 18<sup>th</sup> | August 25<sup>th</sup>**

<https://www.youtube.com/c/WilmotUnitedChurch?app=desktop>

## FALL YOUTH @ REGION CAMP EVENT

From Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>-Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, there will be a youth event at Camp Wegesegum (360 Wegesegum Lane, Coal Creek, NB (just outside Chipman)). This event is for youth from grade 6-12, and



registration for the event is \$75. There will be opportunities for worship, fun, and learning as together we explore themes of Truth & Reconciliation and the impacts, we all have in creating and deepening relationships in our communities. Financial Support is available. Contact [rev.bowley@outlook.com](mailto:rev.bowley@outlook.com) for more information. To register your youth for this camp weekend, please fill in the linked registration form. If you prefer a paper copy, please reach out to [rev.bowley@outlook.com](mailto:rev.bowley@outlook.com). Registration Form: <https://forms.gle/GycQ3bCPwJo6oJ989>

## PICKLEBALL AT WILMOT

Those who showed a keen passion for setting up Pickleball teams at Wilmot are invited to attend a short meeting to get organized for September directly after coffee and conversation time at Wilmot on **August 11<sup>th</sup>** and/or **August 25<sup>th</sup>** in the Parlor. Please leave a message at the office (506-458-1066) on what date you will be there. With thanks, Mary!



## ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

*191 Years of Glorifying God through Worship, Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ, and Serving Others in Christ's name*

### CONTACT INFORMATION

224 York St., Fredericton, NB E3B 3P1

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**Minister:** Rev. Michelle Armstrong | **Organists:** Dr. Sharon Pond & Alexis Ervin

**Church Administrator:** Meghan Roebuck | **Custodian:** Jaedyn Williams