

# ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

Fredericton, N.B.

*191 Years of Glorifying God through Worship, proclaiming the Gospel of Christ, and serving others in Christ's name*

September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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

10:30 AM

*When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.']] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ~ Luke 23:33-35*

## GATHERING TOGETHER

**PRELUDE:** I Need Thee Every Hour ~ Payne

**WELCOME & LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**INTROIT:** *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

VU 400

*Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us power, send us grace!*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** *(Responsive)*<sup>1</sup>

Remember: God is making all things new.

**Right now, God is bringing us into new life.**

Remember: God is setting us free to serve a new kingdom.

**Right now, in this in-between time, God is moving.**

Remember: God is still writing this story.

**Right now, we are a part of what God is doing.**

Come all who want to remember our God is here

**We come in praise and thanksgiving to worship our God.**

**HYMN:** *Seek Ye First the Kingdom*

VU 356

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
and God's righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you.  
Hallelu, hallelujah.*

*Ask and it shall be given unto you;  
seek and you shall find;  
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.  
Hallelu, hallelujah.*

*We do not live by bread alone,  
but by every word  
that proceeds from the mouth of God.  
Hallelu, hallelujah.*

## OPENING PRAYER

### TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The sacrament of baptism  
proclaims and celebrates the grace of God.

By water and the Spirit,

**we are called, claimed, and commissioned:**

we are called God's own,

**welcomed as children of God;**

we are claimed by Christ,

**united with Christ, united with one another and the Christian community of every time and place;**

we are commissioned to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice,

**and strengthened by the Holy Spirit for the work of the church in the world.**

**READING:** 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:4-13a

There is one body and one Spirit;

**we have one hope in Christ.**

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God,

**Creator of us all.**

Out of the water of baptism, we rise with new life,

**forgiven, renewed, and at one with Christ.**

### PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

On behalf of the Congregation of St. Paul's United Church, I present Vee Mariner who is seeking membership in our congregation through profession of faith.

And I present, Arthur Andrew and Sterling James Edward Gee, children of Olivia and Garrett Gee, and Ella Jennifer Green, child of Bradly and Jennifer Green for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism.

### PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PROMISES:

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

**I do, by the grace of God.**

Will you follow in the way of Jesus Christ,  
resisting oppression and evil, seeking justice,  
and witnessing to God's love for all creation?

**I will, God being my helper.**

Will you proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
in your words and actions?

**I will, God being my helper.**

Will you join  
with your siblings in Christ in this community of faith  
to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation,  
and love and serve others?

**I will, God being my helper.**

**PROMISE OF GODPARENTS:**

Recognizing that  
many persons nurture and influence the life of a child,  
will you support *Ella and her parents*  
as they grow in faith?

**I will, God being my helper.**

**CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT:**

Let us pledge to these persons our support and care.

**As a baptized and baptizing people,  
we commit ourselves to support and uphold you  
within the community of faith.**

May God grant us all  
the grace to live out our baptism.

**Amen.**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

**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.**

*Child of blessing, child of promise,  
baptized with the Spirit's sign;  
with this water God has sealed you  
unto love and grace divine.*

*Child of love, our love's expression,  
love's creation, loved indeed!  
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits,  
into joy and laughter lead.*

*Child of joy, our dearest treasure,  
God's you are, from God you came.  
Back to God we humbly give you;  
live as one who bears Christ's name.*

*Child of God your loving Parent,  
learn to know whose child you are.  
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,  
trusting in God's love and care.*

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give our thanks to God.

**It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life, and within it, the gift of water.

**Over the unshaped promise, your spirit hovered over the waters at the time of creation's birth.**

Through the waters of the exodus,  
you led the children of Israel to freedom.

**In the waters of the Jordan, your child Jesus was baptized.**

Jesus began his public ministry; proclaiming the Good News of your love and forgiveness, healing, reconciling and revealing your love in all its fullness.

**Through the living water of baptism,  
you bless us forever more.**

May your spirit be upon us and what we do  
that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ,  
in whose name we pray,

**Amen.**

**POURING OF THE WATER**

**BLESSING**

## THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

## LAYING OF HANDS

## LIGHTING OF A CANDLE

### CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME:

Into the household of faith,  
we welcome you with joy and thanksgiving.

**We are members of the Body of Christ.  
We are inheritors of God's promise.  
In the name of Christ, we welcome you.**

### BLESSING:

**May God bless you and keep you.  
May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace.  
Amen.**

## SEEKING GOD'S WORD

### THE STORY BEFORE THE STORY

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Exodus 12:1-13, 13:1-8

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal ~ Schweizer

### MESSAGE

## RESPONDING WITH PRAISE

**HYMN:** *She Comes Sailing on the Wind*

VU 380

*She comes sailing on the wind,  
her wings flashing in the sun;  
on a journey just begun, she flies on.  
And in the passage of her flight,  
her song rings out through the night,  
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.*

*Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth,  
like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.  
And from the heart of God the Spirit moved upon the earth,  
like a mother breathing life into her child. (to Verse 2)*

*Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight  
when the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form.  
Deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts found new delight,  
and then down the ages still she flew on. R*

*To a gentle girl in Galilee, a gentle breeze she came,  
a whisper softly calling in the dark,  
the promise of a child of peace whose reign would never end,  
Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart. (to Verse 4)*

*Flying to the river, she waited circling high  
above the child now grown so full of grace.  
As he rose up from the water, she swept down from the sky,  
and she carried him away in her embrace. R*

*Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world,  
after dawn returned in flame of rising sun,  
the Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled,  
bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on. R*

#### **INVITATION TO TIME OF OFFERING**

**DEDICATION VERSE: *As Those of Old Their First-fruits Brought***

**VU 518 vs 1**

*As those of old their first-fruits brought  
of vineyard, flock, and field  
to God, the giver of all good,  
the source of bounteous yield;  
so we today our first-fruits bring:  
the wealth of this good land,  
of farm and market, shop and home,  
of mind and heart and hand.*

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

**God of all goodness and grace, receive the gifts we offer; and grant that our whole life may give you glory and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER**

### **WALKING TOGETHER IN THE WAY**

**HYMN: *Lead On, O Cloud of Presence***

**VU 421**

*Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come.  
In wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.  
Our slavery left behind us,  
new hopes within us grow.  
We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.*

*Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears,  
but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears.  
We are not lost, though wandering,  
for by your light we come,  
and we are still God's people. The journey is our home.*

*Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,  
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.  
We pray our sons and daughters  
may journey to that land  
where justice dwells with mercy, and love is law's demand.*

## COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

**CLOSING MUSIC: *As Those of Old Their First-fruits Brought***

VU 518 vs 2

*A world in need now summons us  
to labour, love, and give,  
to make our life an offering  
to God, that all may live.  
The church of Christ is calling us  
to make the dream come true:  
a world redeemed, by Christ-like love,  
all life in Christ made new.*

**POSTLUDE:** Dorian Toccata ~ Bach

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Rev. Teri Paterson, BibleWorm Liturgy, September 29, 2024

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**Scripture Readers:** Narrator – Vee Mariner, God - Ron Naugler, Moses – Carole Peacock

**Greeter:** Mary Stickle    **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.



### **ST. PAUL'S SALE FOR MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS.**

St. Paul's is hosting a rummage sale for members and adherents on **Sept 28<sup>th</sup>** from 10am-4pm and **Sept 29<sup>th</sup>** from 12-2pm. Come check out a variety of items including arts & craft supplies, children's toys & games, candles, glassware, linens, furniture, Christmas trees & décor, books, housewares, picture frames, and more. The sale is in the lower gym. Please enter through the Charlotte Street door.

### **OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>**

St Paul's will be observing National Truth and Reconciliation Day on Monday September 30<sup>th</sup>, therefore the office will be closed. You are encouraged to learn something new about the Residential School system and Indigenous Peoples history and culture. In Fredericton, the St. Mary's First Nation is leading a walk in support of Every Child Matters beginning at 10:20am and the Old Reserve and Ending at 11am at Officers Square.

## THE FULL COLOURS OF THE ORGAN

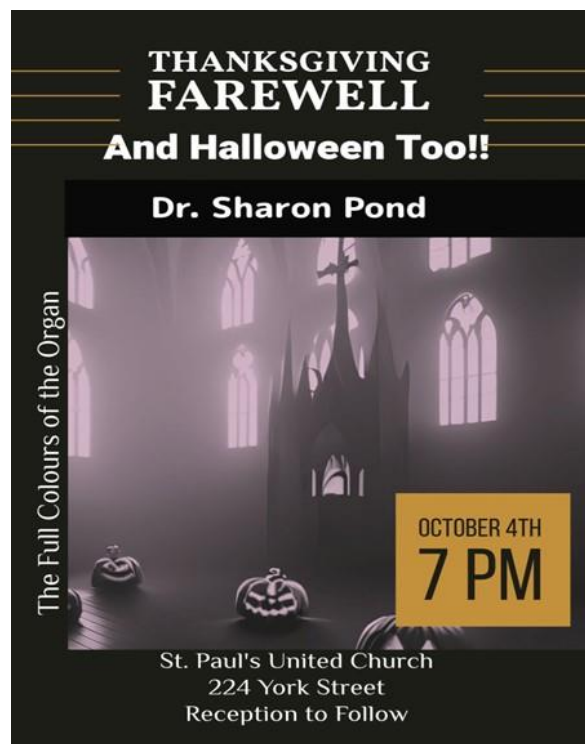
**Thanksgiving, Farewell, And Halloween Too! October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.** A farewell organ recital by Dr. Sharon Pond celebrating St. Paul's United Church and their wonderful Casavant organ, featuring my favourite crowd-pleasing music and special surprises. Everyone Welcome! Reception to follow. Freewill offering for the Food Bank. Facebook Event Link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/s/thanksgiving-farewell-and-halloween>

## PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry is moving over to St. Andrew's on Friday **September 27<sup>th</sup>**. Folks wanting to donate items are asked to wait until October 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you for your continued support of this increasingly busy outreach program!

## BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

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



## WORSHIP & PASTORAL CARE

Looking ahead to worship on October 6<sup>th</sup> Rev. Mike Bravener will be guest preaching for us. A year and half ago Rev. Michelle was accepted into the Moderators Regenerate Leadership Program. Seeking to take skilled leaders and equip them for the challenges of the church today and in the future. She is required to be in a residency program from October 6-11th. During this time Rev. Richard Bowley will be covering emergency pastoral care his number is 506-262-2150

## FUNDSCRIP



Fall has officially arrived and that nip in the air these days is enough to remind us of all the seasonal chores we should be doing... picking up new filters for the furnace or the humidifier, planting spring bulbs to bloom next year, maybe you need new winter tires, or the kids need new boots... it is a busy time! FundScrip gift cards can help you with all your shopping needs while the retailers where you shop make a donation to the church. That's how FundScrip works! Each purchase automatically includes a donation to St. Paul's calculated as a percentage of the card's value. **There is no cost to you for this donation.** You receive the full face value of every card you purchase.

The deadline for our next order is **Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**. As usual, order forms are available in the office and the Narthex or print your own by clicking here (Meghan, please insert link). Cards will be available the following Sunday. Once we settle in at St. Andrew's, we'll figure out more order dates. In the meantime, it's not too early to start thinking about your Christmas gift card list!

## FAREWELL FELLOWSHIP, OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

We've heard it said that St. Paul's is the eating-est church in town! Let's live up to that reputation one more time! On Sunday, **October 13<sup>th</sup>**, we will have a reception following our final worship service here. We don't want to leave all the work to the few people who have catered these events in the past so we're making it a Potluck and asking everyone to pitch in!

We're looking for sandwiches... please bring a serving plate of whatever variety you like... egg, chicken, ham, salmon, white bread or whole wheat... you decide!



If you would rather bake something or pick up your favourite sweet at the bakery or grocery store, that will be fine, too. We'll welcome whatever you choose... cookies, a pan of brownies, slices of lemon or banana bread... a serving plate of something sweet.

Please cover your sandwiches with plastic wrap to keep them fresh and put them in the kitchen refrigerator when you arrive for the service. Sweets should be covered but can be left on the kitchen counter.

A few helpful souls will set out the food after the service and tend to the tea and coffee. And just to be sure no one has to stay to do the dishes afterwards, we'll have seasonal napkins and paper plates available.

Please note: There is no need to contact anyone to say you're attending or what you will bring. It will be a true Potluck! Just show up. We'll enjoy whatever we get. If we have too much, we'll share our good fortune with residents of Grace House, the women's shelter on Brunswick Street.

### ON THE MOVE!

On the move and getting things done! Carole, being Carole, rolled a load of books down the sidewalk from St. Paul's library to St. Andrew's... A beautiful day for a stroll down the street!



### UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

**September 29<sup>th</sup>** ~ Service at 10:30 ~ Fellowship hosted by Beth & Shawn Meister & Kimberly Keech

**October 4<sup>th</sup>** ~ Dr. Sharon Pond's Organ Recital ~ 7pm

**October 6<sup>th</sup>** ~ Service at 10:30 ~ Fellowship hosted by Ann Raper & Joan Crowther

**October 13<sup>th</sup>** ~ Thanksgiving Sunday & Communion Service at 10:30 ~ Fellowship Potluck hosted by Carole Peacock

**October 14<sup>th</sup>** ~ Office Closed for Thanksgiving Stat Holiday

### THE MODERATOR IS COMING TO NEW BRUNSWICK

Mark your calendars because The Right Reverend Carmen Lansdown our current moderator will be hosting an event in Moncton on **November 9<sup>th</sup>**.



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### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

***Church Administrator:*** Meghan Roebuck