

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

Fredericton, N.B.

February 2nd, 2025

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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: Idyll

~ King

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

INTROIT: *Open our Hearts*

MV 21

*Open our hearts, open our minds.
Open our lives to you O loving God.
Open our hearts, open our minds.
Open our lives to you O loving God.*

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Responsive)*

Christ calls us.

And so we come.

From our homes, our work, our play,

God calls us.

Gathering together we remember God's way,

Finding rest and renewal for our souls.

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: *Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet*

TBoP 466

*Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet,
praise the Lord with the harp and lute,
praise the Lord with the gentle-sounding flute.
Praise the Lord in the field and forest,
praise the Lord in the city square,
praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.
Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine,
praise the Lord in the dark of night,
praise the Lord in the rain or
snow or in the morning light.
Praise the Lord in the deepest valley,
praise the Lord on the highest hill,
praise the Lord, never let your voice be still.*

*Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal,
praise the Lord with the pipe and string,
praise the Lord with the joyful songs you sing.
Praise the Lord on a weekday morning,
praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,
praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon.
Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow,
praise the Lord in the time of joy,
praise the Lord every moment,
nothing let your praise destroy.
Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet,
praise the Lord in your work or play,
praise the Lord everywhere in every way!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(Responsive)* ¹

Creator God,
the first day humans experienced in Creation was a day of rest,
and from that joy of being within your created order we are meant to grow.
We confess we have turned that around,
as if we are the creator who worked first and rested at the end,
as if we must earn our rest,
and mostly we don't.

**We miss out on the blessing of growing from gift and joy,
instead making everything about being right, following rules, earning our way.**
At the same time we admit we are prone to casual, even absent-minded, lives —
just going through our everyday tasks without much thought,
only rarely pondering how to better orient toward you in between Sundays.
**And so we confess that we're defensive about sabbath rest,
swinging between declaring it outdated and being desperate for respite from endless work,
between judging those who take days off and wishing we could do it ourselves,
between naming service as spirituality and longing for the refreshment of a quiet mountaintop moment.**
Forgive us, loving God.
**Forgive us for distorting your story and then trying to fit our lives to it.
Show us once again your more excellent way,
and heal us so that we may reflect your image clearly into a world longing for grace.
We ask in the name of the One who is Lord of the Sabbath,
Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART ²

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

THE STORY BEFORE THE STORY

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: *(In Unison)* ³

**God of wisdom, we long to hear your holy Word in new and fresh ways.
Open our ears to hear your call.
Open our minds to understand your truth.
Open our eyes to the work of your kingdom and equip us to take our part. Amen.**

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 92

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High,
**to declare your steadfast love in the morning
and your faithfulness by night,**

to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.

**For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

How great are your works, O Lord!
Your thoughts are very deep!

**The dullard cannot know;
the stupid cannot understand this:**

though the wicked sprout like grass
and all evildoers flourish,
**they are doomed to destruction forever,
but you, O Lord, are on high forever.**

For your enemies, O Lord,
for your enemies shall perish;
all evildoers shall be scattered.

**But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox;
you have anointed me with fresh oil.**

My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies;
my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.

**The righteous flourish like the palm tree
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.**

They are planted in the house of the Lord;
they flourish in the courts of our God.

**In old age they still produce fruit;
they are always green and full of sap,**

showing that the Lord is upright;
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

FOCAL READING: Luke 6:1-16

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: If Tongues of Men & Angels Sing

~ Schweizer

MESSAGE

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

VU 626

*I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your 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 your 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.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

DOXOLOGY: *(In Unison)*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(In Unison)* ⁴

We partner with you O Lord, offering our time, talent and financial resources for we see a world in need and hear your call to respond. We give locally to these congregations and to Presbyterian World Service and Development and the United Church Mission and Service fund because we desire to reach the world near and far with your love and compassion. May all that we offer become tangible expressions of your love at work in the world, for Jesus. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER: *(In Unison)*

(We recognize a variety of ways to pray the Lord's Prayer. You are invited to pray using the words that speak to you and the language of your choice.)

WALKING TOGETHER IN THE WAY

HYMN: *I Danced in the Morning*

TBoP 250

*I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.*

Refrain:

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

*I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on. R*

*I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame;
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die. R*

*I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. R*

*They cut me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. R*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

CLOSING MUSIC: *When Jesus Came to be Baptized*

VU 100 vs 4

*O Spirit help us be like Christ:
to live in love and charity,
to walk in truth and justice now,
and grow in Christian dignity.*

POSTLUDE: Masque

~ Bedard

¹Adapted from Teri Peterson, Bibleworm Liturgy, February 2, 2025

²Adapted from Rev. Dr. Andrew Johnston, Presbyterian World Service & Development Sunday 2025 Worship Resource

³The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Worship Planner, February 2, 2025

⁴Adapted from Presbyterian church in Canada worship resource February 2, 2025

Thank you to our Volunteers today!

Scripture Readers: Psalm Leader & Pharisees – Beth Meister, Narrator – Rose Carolyn Smith, Jesus – Rick Gremm

Greeters: Heather & Kendall Wright & Carole Peacock

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 2024 TAX RECEIPTS AVAILABLE!

St. Paul's 2024 Tax Receipts are available for pick up. They will be in the back of the church for the next two weeks. The remaining envelopes will be mailed after the 10th of February. Please contact Meghan at stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com or 506-458-1183 if you have any questions regarding your annual contribution statement.



THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Starting this Thursday, **February 6th**, bible study will take place from 6-7pm in Rev. Michelle's office. This will be a Lectio Divina style engagement with the scripture reading for the coming Sunday.

BEWARE OF EMAIL SCAMS

It has come to our attention that folks are receiving scam emails from a person pretending to be Rev. Michelle. Please do not respond to **“Awaiting Response at Your Convenience”** or emails requesting you to send money or donate gift cards. Rev. Michelle will never make such a request as all donations go through the church office or Sunday offering. If you have fallen victim to these scams, please inform the police. Be alert to the mail address sending the request, Rev. Michelle's only email address is michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com.



BOOKING MEETING SPACE

As the use of our space gets busier, please remember to book your meeting space through the office. Drop by in person, call 506-455-8220 or 506-458-1183 or email stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com and sapcfred@gmail.com. Both offices use a shared online calendar so we can ensure space is available for your meeting.

ST. PAUL'S PANTRY PROGRAM



The Pantry items needed this week are brown & white rice, canned milk, vinegar, flour, cookies, salt, coffee, pancake mix & syrup, granola bars, tin foil & plastic wrap. Thank you for your ongoing support!

PRESBYTERIAN CONNECT

Winter of 2024 Presbyterian Connect is now available in the church and Hall entries.

ST. PAUL'S 2025 ENVELOPES

If you have not yet picked up your offering envelopes for 2025, St. Paul's envelopes are available in the office and can be picked up Monday-Thursday between 8am-3pm. If you need yours dropped off, please contact Meghan at stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com and we will get them to you!

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

February 2nd ~ Service at 10:30am ~ Fellowship Hosted by Beth & Shawn Meister

Feb 6th ~ Bible Study from 6-7pm ~ *Starting Feb 6th*

February 9th ~ Service at 10:30am ~ Fellowship Hosted by Patty Trail & Cathy Davis

February 16th ~ Service at 10:30am ~ *Fellowship Hosts Needed!*

February 17th ~ **Offices Closed for Family Day Stat Holiday**

February 23rd ~ Service at 10:30am ~ Fellowship Hosted by Marg Leonard

March 2nd ~ Service at 10:30am ~ Fellowship Hosted by Beth & Shawn Meister

March 5th ~ Ash Wednesday Service

March 9th ~ Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 9th ~ Service at 10:30am ~ *Fellowship Hosts Needed!*

March 9th ~ World Day of Prayer Service at St. Andrew's at 2pm

March 16th ~ Service at 10:30am ~ Fellowship Hosted by Heather Labadie

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 available Sundays between 1-2:30pm and Mondays from 1-2:30pm. Appointments are preferred to ensure the time you need to connect.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICES

An invitation is extended to all Women and Men to attend the World Day of Prayer Services in the Fredericton area. The World Day of Prayer for 2025 was prepared by the Women of the Cook Island. The theme is "I Made You Wonderful" (Psalm 139: 1-18.)

Northside: The World Day of Prayer will be held at St. Mary's and All Saints Anglican Church, 780 McEvoy Street, Fredericton on Friday, **March 7th**, 2025 at 2:00 PM. Storm Date: Sunday, March 9 at 3:00 PM.

Southside: The World Day of Prayer will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian and St. Paul's United Church, 512 Charlotte Street, Fredericton on Sunday, **March 9th**, 2025 at 2:00 PM. Storm Date: March 16 at 2:00 PM.

Thank you. Deborah Heustis, Publicity for the Women's Inter-Church Council of Fredericton.

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

Thursdays ~ Bible Study from 6-7pm ~ *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.stpaulsunityed.ca
Office Administrator/Bookkeeper: Meghan Roebuck | Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8am-3pm

Minster: Rev. Michelle Armstrong | **Organist:** Dr. Sharon Pond
Custodian: Doug Newman | **Ministers Emeriti:** Rev. Doug Blaikie & Rev. Dr. Basil Lowery