

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

Fredericton, N.B.

February 23rd, 2025

Seventh 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

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)*¹

Come in – the power of God is in this place.

With gratitude and praise, we come into the presence of the Holy.

Come in – Jesus welcomes all who seek him.

With trust and hope, we come as we are.

Come in – the Spirit of love is here.

With joy, we come to worship the One who calls us into life.

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: *We Praise You, O God*

TBoP 425

*We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion out tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.*

*We worship you; God ever faithful, we bless you;
through life's storm and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'er take us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, life's battles we win.*

*With voices united our praises we offer,
and gladly our songs of true worship we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing;
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(Responsive)* ³

In Christ, God looks on us with love.

In Christ, God meets our brokenness with wholeness.

In Christ, we are made new.

The one who is forgiven much is best known by how much they love — live as God's forgiven people,
For in Christ, you are a new creation.

The old life is gone, and new life has begun.

Trusting that you are forgiven by God's generous love,

live a life overflowing with joy and gratitude. Thanks be to God. Amen.

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

THE STORY BEFORE THE STORY

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: *(In Unison)*

God of wisdom, your Word brings life and hope.

**By the power of your Spirit, open our minds to understanding,
teach our hearts to love,**

and strengthen our wills to follow Jesus, your Living Word. Amen

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 103:1-13

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and do not forget all his benefits—

who forgives all your iniquity,

who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the Pit,

who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

who satisfies you with good as long as you live

so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works vindication

and justice for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses,

his acts to the people of Israel.

The Lord is merciful and gracious,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He will not always accuse,

nor will he keep his anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins

nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,

so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west,

so far he removes our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion for his children,

so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

FOCAL READING: Luke 7:36-50

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: Sing a New Song to the Lord

~ Sweetheart

MESSAGE

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*

VU 559

*Come, O Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing
call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.*

*Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger,
precious presence, precious blood.*

*O, to grace how great a debt
or daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING ⁴

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

God of generous love, we bring our gifts with grateful hearts,
for we have received so much through your kindness.
Bless our gifts and use them to touch lives in situations we cannot even imagine with your love.
Make us a blessing in our community for the sake of Christ, our Friend and Saviour. 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: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

VU 333

*Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.*

*Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

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

¹ Teri Peterson, BibleWorm Liturgy, February 23, 2025

² Adapted from Teri Peterson, BibleWorm Liturgy, February 23, 2025

³ Adapted from Teri Peterson BibleWorm Liturgy, Feb 23, 2025, and The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Worship Planner, February 23, 2-25

⁴ The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Worship Planner, February 23, 2025

Thank you to our Volunteers today!

Scripture Readers: Psalm Leader & Pharisee – Debbie West, Narrator – Rose Carolyn Smith, Jesus – Patty Trail

Greeters: Mary Stickles & Rose Johnston

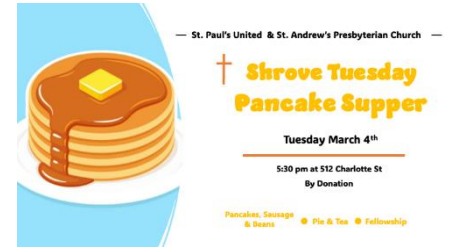
Audio/Visual: Beth & Shawn Meister & Glynis Martin

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>

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper by St. Paul's and Saint Andrew's in the hall at 512 Charlotte St on **March 4th** at 5:30 pm. Menu: pancakes, sausage, baked beans, tea, coffee, and dessert. Spaces are limited. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please reach out to Beth or Shawn Meister for more information.



ST. PAUL'S 2024 TAX RECEIPTS

St. Paul's 2024 Tax Receipts are in the mail. Keep your eyes open for yours! Please contact Meghan at stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com or 506-458-1183 if you have any question regarding your annual contribution amount.



ST. PAUL'S PANTRY PROGRAM

This month, the Pantry will focus on dish & laundry soap, ketchup and 2.5 kg of flour. Other needs are Mr. Clean, toilet paper, paper towel, Kleenex, tea, coffee, soda crackers, vinegar, molasses, mayo, salt, tomatoes, 1L apple & orange juice, plastic wrap, tin foil, white sugar, canned milk, apple sauce, white & brown rice, macaroni, and spaghetti. Thank you for your ongoing support!

COFFEE/FELLOWSHIP HOUR VOLUNTEERS

Heather Labadie is coordinating Coffee/Fellowship Hour volunteers. Thanks to those who have already responded to her. If you would like to get involved too, please contact her at heather.labadie@gmail.com. You could offer to do a complete "hour" yourself, or you could volunteer to help someone else out. If you are new to this "task", Heather will pair you up with someone who is experienced. If you would like to volunteer to just look after the coffee and tea (and not the snacks), let Heather know. If you would like to provide snacks, but not make the coffee/tea, Heather will work with you to share with someone else who may not want to do the snacks. ~ Mary Charters

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.

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Evening 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. Everyone is welcome!



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.

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

MUSIC OF HER SOUL

You are invited to Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church at 512 Charlotte Street on **February 21st** at 7:30pm to hear beautiful music written by women composers; Fanny Mendelssohn, Helene Fleury Roy, Clara Schumann, and Louise Adolpha Le Neu. Presented by Natalia Delacroix on Viola and Nicolas Roy on Piano. Tickets are \$20 online at delacroixclassix.com or \$25 at the door. Tickets are also available at St. Paul's office Monday-Thursday between 8am and 3pm for \$20 each.

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: St. Mary's 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: 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.



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

February 23rd ~ Service at 10:30am ~ Fellowship Hosted by Marg Leonard, Chris Grant & Alanna Palmer

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

March 4th ~ Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 5:30pm

March 5th ~ Ash Wednesday Service

March 9th ~ Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 9th ~ Service at 10:30am ~ Fellowship Hosted by Debbie West

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

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

March 23rd ~ Service at 10:30am ~ Fellowship Hosted by Chris Grant & Mary Stickles

March 30th ~ Service at 10:30am Fellowship Hosted by the Mission Committee

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.stpaulsunited.ca

Office Administrator/Bookkeeper: Meghan Roebuck | Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8am-3pm

Minister: Rev. Michelle Armstrong | **Organist:** Dr. Sharon Pond

Custodian: Doug Newman | **Ministers Emeriti:** Rev. Doug Blaikie & Rev. Dr. Basil Lowery