



DOWNTOWN UNITED CHURCH

July 29, 2018

Presider: Rev. Michelle Armstrong

Preacher: Pastor Sarah Magie

Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.

At the points marked * - those who are able are invited to stand.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory: For thousands of years, Indigenous people have walked in this land, their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We are gathered on the unceded traditional territory of the Wolastowqiyik (Maliseet) and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

THE GATHERING

Organ Prelude: Prière á Notre-Dame (Boellmann)

Welcome to the Church

Call to Worship:

God comes with hands filled with grace;

God offers justice like a neighbour with tomatoes from the garden.

For this reason, we come to worship our God.

Jesus comes to hold up those whose legs wobble;

Jesus picks up all who stumble over their faith.

For this reason, we come to follow Jesus.

The Holy Spirit comes, as close as every breath we take;

The Spirit makes clear God's hopes for us.

For this reason, we come to learn from the Spirit.

And so we come to worship, follow and learn together as God's people.

-adaptation of Thom Shuman

Lighting the Christ Candle

Opening Prayer

* **Opening Hymn:** God of the Bible

MV #28

Time for the Young and Young at Heart

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Connecting to Our Hearts' Longing:

God of all, you know how often we feel that we are inadequate to face the challenges of the world?

You also know how often we try to change our situations and the world for the better under our own power and using our own insights.

Yet we have limited view, we fear of not being and having enough and overwhelmed we shrink away from each other and the world in need.

And still, the world abounds with your miracles of love and hope.

Open our eyes to see the great abundance you have provided, more than enough to meet every challenge.

Speak to our hearts that we may leave behind the fear and worry sure in the knowledge that you seek to empower us and we truly do have enough when we have you. Amen.

Silence for Prayer

Assurance of God's Love

There is more than enough grace for everyone, we may not understand why, or how, or when; but God will make it happen. And that is all we need to know.

When it comes to grace, hope, peace and forgiveness- there are so many leftovers from God's abundant heart, that we and put them in to-go boxes and share them with everyone we meet. Thanks be to God for such extravagant love. Amen.

- Thom Shuman

Prayer of Preparation:

Craig Frame

One who makes way for the impossible, as we bring our lives with all the places crying out for your presence to our scripture, speak to us. Let us hear your voice speaking to us, encouraging us with your familiar message of do not be afraid for the great I am is with us.

Scripture Reading: John 6: 1-21

Congregational Response:

One: This is the witness of God's people.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Piano Solo: Did You Ever Hear His Voice – Virginia Leiter (Stevens)

Sermon: It's a Miracle! Pastor S. Magie

*** Hymn:** My Love Colours Outside the Lines MV #138

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music

*** Doxology:** VU #541

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

*** Prayer of Dedication:**

Like that young boy on a hill so long ago, we have been stirred to respond and so we return to you a portion of all you have entrusted to us. Through the ministry and outreach of our congregations, bless each gift that they are multiplied and combined with our time and talents to spread your love in Christ's name. Amen.

Prayers of the People

*** Closing Hymn:** Will You Come and Follow Me VU #567

***Blessing and Sending Forth:**

Go now into the world that hungers for love and justice,

We go to share what we have received.

Go now to face the storms of the world.

We go knowing that in Christ we find a quiet center and will not be overwhelmed.

Go now into the pain and joy of living.

We go knowing that God's power is at work in both to accomplish more than we could ask, imagine or comprehend. Amen.

***Sung Blessing**

VU #963

Postlude: Intonation and Fugue (Scherer)

You are invited to remain for the Postlude as it is part of our worship.

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WELCOME to this service of worship and thank you for being with us today. We're glad you're here! You are invited to join us for **COOL CONVERSATION and NIBBLES** in the Dr. G. M. Young Memorial Hall following the Worship service. Thank you to ***Linda Gough and Gillian Keyser*** for providing this time of refreshments and fellowship.



Aug. 5 – Sept. 2 – Sunday worship will be at St. Paul's at 10:30 a.m.

PRAYERS IN THE LADIES PARLOUR (at St. Paul's): On Wednesdays from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. St. Paul's will be holding prayer time. All are invited to come together as we pray for one another, our churches, our community and the world. Feel free to bring a bag lunch as we share in this time together.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY: Due to flooding, three dressers, two kitchen tables and chairs, a washer (in reasonably good shape) and bedding are needed immediately. If you, or if you know of someone who can supply any of these needs, please contact Rose Marie Hughes (472-4314) or leave a message at Greenwood Baptist 452-8593

August 5: Phyllis Knox, Soprano, Heather Fyffe, Piano, and Margaret Isaacs, Clarinet, will present “**Summer’s Cup – The Beauty of Song on a Summer’s Afternoon**” featuring the music of Purcell, Mozart, Schubert, Brahms, and English Folk Songs on **Sunday afternoon, August 5th, 2:30 p.m.** at Saint Andrew’s Presbyterian Church. The three performers come together to treat Fredericton to a concert of sweet summer song from around the world. Admission to the concert is by free will offering with reception to follow in the Church Hall.

August 11 & 12, “**Life at the Lakes**” is an annual festival in the Village of Cambridge-Narrows, which is located on the beautiful Washademoak Lake. This two day event celebrates the community by offering open visits and activities at various venues. Schedule available: www.Facebook.com/lifeatthelakesNB For our friends at Wilmot, we are hosting “Artisans at Work” in our home (NorwoodontheWashademoakbnb.com) More info. on the website. Love to have you visit! Inés & Doug

August 12: Fredericton’s Pride Parade - Come out and join us again this year as Wilmoters walk in Fredericton’s Pride Parade. Last year was the first time that we walked in the parade as an Affirming Ministry. There was a great turnout and we’re hoping for even more this year. We’ll meet behind the Legion on Queen Street at 12:00 on Sunday, August 12th. See you there. If you have any questions, please contact Maureen @ 457-2954 or Deb @ 206-2948.

August 13 FREDERICTON PRIDE EVENT August 13, 7:00. As part of the Pride Week, the Fredericton Pride Committee and the Playhouse are hosting a screening of *The Fruit Machine*, a documentary that captures the story of how the Canadian government outed and mistreated its LGBTQ2+ public servants, police and military personnel- people who had signed up to serve their country. It has been described as one of the largest bullying campaigns in Canadian history. Some of the New Brunswick survivors, and advocates who have worked tirelessly to bring the story and class-action lawsuit forward, will be on site to answer questions following the screening of the film. Tickets are available through the Playhouse for \$13.50 + HST

(<http://www.theplayhouse.ca/event/the-fruit-machine/>). For more information or for assistance with transportation contact Maureen Toner (457-2954) or Deb Bradbury (206-2948). As a gesture of support, Wilmot's Affirming Diversity Committee is sponsoring six members of the LGBTQ2+ community selected by the event committee.

(Please be advised this film contains occasional use of strong language, described violence and mature themes. Recommended for ages 14A)



August 27-31 – VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - “ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE” to be held at St. Paul's this year.