

March 9th, 2025 First Sunday of Lent.

Thought to ponder: *Without the Bread of Life -
we're toast.*

Prelude:

Welcome

Announcements, Life & Work of the Church

Acknowledgement of the Territories

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Sharing the Peace of Christ

One: ... may the peace of Christ be with you

All: And also with you.

Call to Worship

One: Let us gather together, hungry and thirsty. Come, all who long to be filled with good things.

All: The bread of life satisfies our hunger and thirst.

One: Let us open our hands to receive from God's son, our brother and friend.

All: The bread of life loves us and knows our needs.

One: Let us quiet our minds and awaken our hearts to be transformed by God's Spirit, who redeems us.

All: The bread of life has come to sustain us. Believing this promise, let us worship together!

Hymn: VU #808 On Eagle's Wings

You who dwell in the shelter of our God,
Who abide in this shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: My refuge,
my Rock in whom I trust

**And I will raise you up
on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of my hand.**

The snare of the fowler
will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear
Under God's wings your refuge
God's faithfulness your shield.

Refrain

You need not fear the terror of the night
Nor the arrow that flies by day
Though thousands fall about you,
Near you it shall not come

Refrain

For to God's angels is given a command
To guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Refrain

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Gathering Prayer

**Holy God, throughout history you have
fed people in body, mind, and spirit. As
we gather in worship today, we rest in
the knowledge that you continue to**

care for us. We come into this space with complicated lives, different needs, and unique situations. You know all of our longings, and you look at us with compassion and love. Because we know the bread of life, Jesus, is the sustaining source of hope, we lean into this hour of worship with expectancy and faith. You have provided for our needs from the beginning, and you will meet us once again today. Amen.

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

One: Because we live in a world with both hunger and unnecessary waste, let us confess our sins and seek a new path of righteousness.

All: Holy God, even though we choose to follow Jesus, live his way, and share in the bread of life, we confess we have overlooked the hungry in our midst. We confess it is easier to avoid people and places that demand our attention and resources, and go about our days turning our eyes from those in need. But Jesus shows us a different way—a way of sharing, a way of justice. Forgive us for the times we have looked away from those who are hungry and their needs for food, clothing, friendship, or anything else.

**Forgive us for neglecting our
neighbors and our community. Help us
be faithful to this calling.**

-Silence-

Assurance of Grace

Children's time: Jesus is the Bread of Life

Hymn: MV #201 I am the Bread of Life x2

**I am the bread of life
Broken for the world,
I am the cup poured out for all.
Those who believe in me
Will never die.
I am the life of the world.**

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Prayer of Illumination:

Scripture

John 6: 25- 40 Bread of Life

Ministry of Music: More Precious than Silver

Reflection: Come be Fed

Hymn: MV #195 Long Ago and Far Away

**Long ago and far away
Jesus lived and worked and prayed
Healed the sick and the fearful and lonely
Lived his life to show us God's way.**

**Stretched his arms out as he said
Fill the cup and share the bread
Remember me in love
and joy and blessing**

Jesus gathered the children around him
Spoke of love and the joy to be found
Told them stories of wisdom and wonder
God's creation in all that's around.

Refrain

Jesus called all his friends to be with him
Share the bread and the cup once again
Life to you I will offer it gladly
Love will be with you right to the end.

Refrain x2

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Prayers of the People

One: Lord, in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom
come, thy will be done on earth as it is
in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, for ever and
ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Generosity:

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, we give because you have satisfied our needs with the bread of life. Use these fruits of our labor and inheritance to bless our community with love. Amen

Hymn: VU #471 Eat This Bread and Never Hunger

**Eat this bread and never hunger,
drink this cup and never thirst;
Christ invites us to the table
where the last become the first.**

Asking for a cup of water,
Jesus touched forbidden ground;
and the woman, with a question,
told the world what she had found.

Refrain

Walking down a desert highway,
Jesus healed a man born blind;
soon the man became a witness
to the truth we seek and find

Refrain

Weeping for his friend at graveside,
Jesus felt the pain of death;
yet he knew God's power to waken:
living water, living breath.

Refrain

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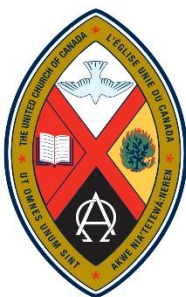
Affirmation of Faith:

We believe Jesus Christ is the bread of life. Born to live among us, suffering every human frailty, even unto death. Empowered not to rule with force but by invitation; not with a sword, but by sacrifice. Filled with compassion, always caring about the physical needs of the people. Rejecting earthly fortune, meeting daily needs, turning no one away. Jesus turned bread lines into feasts, welcoming everyone to the table. Jesus gave freely to all in need, even when they gave nothing in return. We believe Jesus Christ is the bread of life. Amen.

Benediction:

Sung Benediction: Lord Bless You

**The Lord bless you
The Lord keep you
May his love ever,
Always surround you,
Protect you and guide you,
In all that you do.
Our prayer for you.
Amen.**



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

4 Morrison Avenue, Sussex, N.B. E4E 1P5

Phone: 506-432-1114 Email:

stpaulsunitedsussex@rogers.com

Minister: Rev. Jennifer Brown

ministerstpaulsucc@gmail.com

506-612-0543 or 506-756-3340

Director of Music - Karen Gallagher

Choir Director - Mary Lea Stafford

Office Administrator – Al Brown Custodian – Marty Adair

Treasurer – Linda McBride treasurerstpaulsucc1@gmail.com

Church Family Ministry Team – Coleen Corbett, Lisa Folkins,
Shari Brennan

Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday 9:30 – 3:00

Announcements

March 9th, 2025 1st Sunday of Lent.

A memorial donation was received in loving memory of Frank McBride from his daughters Christine, Linda, Susan, Kathy, Marilyn & Lee.

Reader for this week: Eunice

Reader for next week: Brenda

Greeter this week: Elaine and Tom

Greeter next week: Eunice

Tellers this week: Kevin and Janice

Tellers next week: Harley and Linda

A/V this week: John

A/V next week: Lisa

Sunday 9:30 Coffee Time via Zoom

10:00 Sunday Service

Coffee and conversation after the service.

Tuesday 6:30 CFMT

Wednesday 6:00 Choir Rehearsal

Next Sunday 9:30 Coffee Time via Zoom

10:00 Sunday Service via

Facebook and Zoom

There is a birthday celebration for Marina at the Golden Jubilee Hall on Perry St. from 2-4pm on Saturday, March 15th. Music by Bob Burgess. Best wishes only. All welcome.

A Lenten Program is available: if you would like a copy of the book 31 short spiritual practices, please contact the office to get your copy. It can be electronic or printed.

The 2024 AGM is March 23 after the service.

Reports will be available for pickup March 12th

There will be 3 vacant positions to fill on the board.

Nominations will be taken from the floor. The AGM will be café style. Please bring some cookies, treats or snacks.

Minutes from the board will be posted on the bulletin board by the sanctuary doors as they are approved.

Good News and Caring Corner: If you have some good news you want shared with the congregation, let us know and we'll pass it on. If there is someone you think should have a card from the caring corner for whatever reason, please see the attendant in the corner, or call the office.

Offering Envelopes are available at the office or on the table in the entryway. If you are using them for the first time, be sure to have your name and address on the first one so we can get you your tax receipt at the end of the year.

Grocery Cards: It's an easy fundraiser as we all buy groceries so why not do it via grocery cards as it results in income for the church. We will be available (as we are able) before and after church for you to purchase cards. As well, cards are available for purchase in the office during regular business hours.

Contact information: Please keep your contact information and addresses updated so we can get information out to you. An inaccurate address may lead to delays for tax receipts. Thanks.

A reminder that you may be on our video presentation as we are broadcasting our services on Facebook.

Join in or listen to any of the Zoom calls via Internet using the link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/179750852?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/179750852?pwd=7IAYtPHcGTE)
pwd=7IAYtPHcGTE

If you know of anyone needing help, please contact the office or Rev. Jenn Brown