

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024



The United Church of Canada  
75 Alma Street, Moncton, NB E1C 4Y3  
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/16465565858>  
Office Hours: M-F, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**A warm welcome is extended to all.**

*The congregation is invited to join in responses printed in **bold**. Stand as you are able.)*

**PRELUDE**      **SOMEBODY BIGGER THAN YOU AND I**  
(Words / Music: Johnny Lange, Hy Heath and Sonny Burke)

**DOXOLOGY** (541 VU)      (OLD 100TH) (Thomas Ken, Genevan Psalter)  
**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**

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.

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MISSION STORY**      Read by Nancy Black  
- Agroecology in El Salvador:  
A Rights-Based Approach to Growing Food

## **COUNCIL INVESTITURE**

We pay tribute to the volunteers on our Church Council who have shown their dedication and commitment towards our collective church goals:

Roland Gallant, Council Chair  
Karen Teed, Council Secretary  
Graham McCrea, Chair, Board of Trustees  
Nancy Black; Chair, Christian Development

Marlene Godfrey, Chair, Finance & Property Management  
Kimberley Buck de Jesus, Chair, Ministry & Personnel  
and also Church Treasurer  
Valerie Roy, Chair, Pastoral Care & Membership  
Sheri Brooks, Chair, Worship & Music  
Brenda McFarlane, President, UCW

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us fill our hearts and minds with hope  
as we hear the Words of Jesus Christ.

**“Peace be with you.”**

When peace and justice seem uncertain,  
let us hear anew the Words of Jesus Christ.

**“Why are you troubled,  
and why do doubts rise in your minds?”**

Let us be comforted by the presence of Christ,  
whose love, and light dwells within us.

**Let our lives be witnesses of these things.**

Help us to be instruments of Christ’s peace  
to all in need of God’s healing love.

## **HYMN 178 VU      BECAUSE YOU LIVE, O CHRIST**

(VRUECHTEN) (Words: Shirley Erena Murray / Music: J. Oudaen’s *David’s Psalmen*)

Because you live, O Christ,  
the garden of the world has come to flower,  
the darkness of the tomb  
is flooded with your resurrection power.

*The stone has rolled away and death cannot imprison!  
O sing this Easter Day, for Jesus Christ has risen,  
has risen, has risen, has risen!*

Because you live, O Christ,  
the spirit bird of hope is freed for flying,  
our cages of despair  
no longer keep us closed and life-denying. *R*

Because you live, O Christ,  
the rainbow of your peace will span creation,  
the colors of your love  
will draw all humankind to adoration. *R*

## PRAYER OF APPROACH

**Risen Christ, create in us a clean heart  
so that we can meditate in your peace;  
abide in your mercy; be filled with your justice;  
and be made new by your love.**

**In your name, we pray. Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

**Loving God, in your infinite wisdom,  
we are glad that you make all things new.**

**Where there is hate, show your love.**

**Where there is war, bring your peace.**

**Where there is despair, bring your hope.**

**Where there is fear, bring your understanding.**

**Where there is scarcity, bring your abundance.**

**Where there is systemic oppression,  
bring equal justice for all.**

**By your perfect grace and mercy, make us new.**

**May it be so. Amen.**

## WORDS OF GRACE

Loving God, thank you for the assurance of your grace.

You grant us all your peace.

Help us to trust in your peace, especially in times of conflict.

Believing you will bring peace in our hearts, and to all the earth.

Guiding us, so that all may come to know Jesus Christ,  
who is our Prince of Peace. In his name, we pray. Amen.

## INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

All are invited to give joyously to the church  
that bears witness to Christ's love.

**Let us give with a joyful heart.**

God's loving generous love

has given us every good and gracious gift.

**We offer our gratitude**

**for God's abundant blessings in our lives.**

Now, let us be a blessing to others  
in the ways that God has faithfully and generously blessed us.

## OFFERTORY

(*More Voices 115 / Words & Music: John L. Bell*)

### **BEHOLD, BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW**

Behold, behold I make all things new,  
beginning with you and starting from today.  
Behold, behold I make all things new,  
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

**Let us remember that weeping may endure for a night,  
but joy comes early in the morning.**

**May these gifts of blessing be a sign of the love, light,  
and glory of our redeeming God who has created a  
world of abundance with all that we need.**

**May we remain thankful witnesses to your generosity,  
O God, as we dedicate these offerings to you  
and your beloved creation.**

## HYMN 179 VU **HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH, GIVE THANKS**

(ALLELUIA) (Words / Music: Donald Fishel)

*Hallelujah, hallelujah.  
Give thanks to the risen Christ;  
hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Give praise to God's name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth,  
firstborn of all creation. *R*

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
Jesus has died and is risen. *R*

We have been crucified with Christ,  
now we shall live for ever. *R*

Come let us praise the living God,  
joyfully sing to our Saviour. *R*

## CHILDREN'S TIME

Children up to age 12 yrs. are now invited to go to our Sunday School program time. If you are a child here for the first time, please feel welcome to join the children's group upstairs, or remain here for the rest of the service. If you are a parent or caregiver, there is a kitchen and washrooms on the main and upstairs levels, as well as a diaper changing area upstairs. Please feel free to return to the service at any time.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Read by Marcia Hicks

**Acts 3:12–19**

Peter preaches in Solomon's Portico.

**Psalms 4 (p. 727 VU)**

Answer me when I call, O God.

(Music: Helen L. Wright)

*R In the night I can take my rest.*

*You alone keep my life secure.*

Answer me, when I call, O God, defender of my cause,  
for you set me free when I was in distress.

**Be gracious to me now and hear my prayer. R**

How long, you people, will you defame my honour?

**How long will you love what is worthless and seek lies?**

Know this, that God has chosen the faithful;

**God hears me when I call.**

Stand in awe, and cease from sin;

**commune with your own heart upon your bed and be still.**

Offer the sacrifices that are appointed.

**and put your trust in God. R**

There are many who say,

**“O that we might see prosperity!**

**Lift up the light of your face on us, O God.”**

But you have put gladness in my heart

more than those whose grain and wine are plentiful

**Safe and sound, I lie down and sleep,**

**for you alone, God, make me dwell in safety! R**

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 166 VU**

**JOY COMES WITH THE DAWN**

(DAWN)

(Words/Music: Gordon Light)

*Joy comes with the dawn;  
joy comes with the morning sun;  
joy springs from the tomb  
and scatters the night with her song,  
joy comes with the dawn.*

Weeping may come;  
weeping may come in the night,  
when dark shadows cloud our sight. *R*

Sorrow will turn,  
sorrow will turn into song,  
and God's laughter make us strong. *R*

We will rejoice,  
we will rejoice, and give praise,  
to the One who brings us grace. *R*

## **SERMON**

### **ANTHEM**

*REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING*

(Words: Charles Wesley / Music: G.B. Nevin)

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

### **HYMN 151 VU**

***LIFT HIGH THE CROSS***

(CRUCIFER)

(Words: George William Kitchin / Music: Sidney Hugo Nicholson)

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

Come, Christians, follow where our Saviour trod,  
our Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *R*

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
the hosts of God in unity combine. *R*

Each newborn servant of the Crucified  
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died. *R*

Saviour, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
your death has brought us life eternally. *R*

So shall our song of triumph ever be  
praise to the Crucified for victory. *R*

## BENEDICTION

Living God, we are witnesses to your love and light.  
Your peace is seen in the dawning of each new day.  
Your equal justice bears witness  
in the interconnected universe that you have created.  
Faithful God, help us to feel the warmth of your loving light  
in the cooler moments of life.  
As we leave this worship service, let us go back into the world  
renewed as instruments of your loving peace and justice for all.  
May it be so. Amen.

## POSTLUDE      *PROCLAIM THE GLORY OF THE LORD*

(Words / Music: Niles Borop and Dwight Liles)

*Witnesses of These Things: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Easter*  
was written by The Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey,  
Pastor of Union Congregational United Church of Christ.

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***No coffee & conversation  
this morning due to the soup luncheon.***

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*Soup Luncheon fundraiser  
. will be held following  
Worship – see note.*



*The bulletin and pastoral letter are dedicated  
in Loving Memory of  
**J. Grant MacMellon**  
by Lillian, Christine, Jennifer and Family*

# NOTICES, UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Check our website at [www.stjohnsmoncton.ca](http://www.stjohnsmoncton.ca)  
for Sunday online Worship links, calendar, and more.

Apr. 14	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	<b>WORSHIP</b> and <b>Sunday School</b> - Council Investiture - No coffee & conversation
Apr. 14	Sun.	12:00 p.m.	<b>Soup Luncheon</b> (see note) (Owen Fraser Hall) 
Apr. 15-19		8:30-am	Greater Moncton Music Festival (day/evening-Sanctuary)
Apr. 16	Tues.	7:00 p.m.	<b>Finance &amp; Property Management Committee</b> (monthly-Owen Fraser Hall)
Apr. 17	Wed.	7:00 p.m.	<b>Choir – date change</b> (weekly-Choir Loft/Fellowship Room)
Apr. 18	Thur.	7:00 p.m.	Pathfinders, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Social Hall)
Apr. 20	Sat.	10:00 a.m.	Rehearsal - Choeur Beausejour (Sanctuary)
Apr. 21	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	<b>WORSHIP</b> and <b>Sunday School</b> - Earth Sunday
Apr. 21	Sun.	3:00 p.m.	Concert – Choeur Beausejour (main floor & Sanctuary)
Apr. 22	Mon.		

*Announcements from other United Churches, Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region 14 and the community are shown on the TV in the Owen Fraser Hall and also located on the bulletin boards located at the Alma St. entrance and outside the Church Office.*

**SOBEYS & SUPERSTORE GIFT CARDS** are sold each Sunday in the Sanctuary before and after Worship and at the Church Office M-F, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.



*We make 4% on every card sold.  
Your support is needed and appreciated.*

# SOUP LUNCHEON

The Choir is having Soup Luncheon on **Sunday, April 14**, 12-1pm following Worship.



Cost is \$10 per person and children under 12 eat free.

Choice of soup: chicken vegetable or a hearty vegetable (vegetarian option) served with crackers and choice of a biscuit or bread, squares for dessert and coffee or tea.

All proceeds will go to St. John's Organ Fund.

Additional donations to the fund are welcome and greatly appreciated.

<b>MARCH GIVINGS</b>			
Local Offering - Env	\$ 8,772.52	Local Offering - PAR	\$ 5,518.87
Mission & Service – Env <small>* incl UCW M&amp;S quarterly pymt</small>	\$ 1,584.00	Mission & Service - PAR	\$ 760.46
Plate Loose	\$ 360.00	Memorial Donations	\$ 735.00
Bulletin Sponsorship	\$ 200.00	Grocery Card Revenue	\$ 46.00
<b>Revenues</b> Year-to-Date:	<b>\$59,768.48</b>	<b>Expenses</b> Year-to-Date:	<b>\$76,743.20</b>
<b>Mission &amp; Service</b> Year-to-Date:	<b>\$ 5,381.38</b>	<b>Mission &amp; Service</b> 2024 Budget	\$18,000.00
For more information on the Church Financials, please visit our Church website. <b>Thank you for your generous and continued support !</b>			

# GROCERIES FOR KARING KITCHEN

(Apr. 28 – last Sunday of the month)

The Outreach Committee would like to bring your attention to the Karing Kitchen's need for these groceries:



cream of chicken soup, cream of celery soup, pepper, flakes of ham. *White baskets will be at the main entrance for your donations.*

Thank you.

## MISSION & SERVICE GIVINGS

As a follow-up to a question raised during last Sunday's Annual Meeting, the diagram below provides information on the Mission & Service givings for the past 5 years.

M & S GIVINGS					
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
<b>Envelopes*</b>	\$12,328	\$14,272	\$ 9,098	\$17,181	\$19,270
<b>PAR</b>	\$ 9,228	\$ 8,764	\$ 8,447	Incl in above	Incl in above
<b>Other</b>	\$ 185	\$ 285	\$ 190	\$ 105	\$ 185
<small>* includes UCW givings</small>					
<b>Total for year</b>	\$21,741	\$23,321	\$17,735	\$17,286	\$19,455

For more information on the Church Financials, please visit our Church website.  
**Thank you for your generous and continued support !**

## SCHOLARSHIPS

The following scholarships are available to students who have been active, and are currently participating, within the congregational life of St. John's United Church.



Applications are available on the church website and Facebook group, at the church office or by contacting the church office.

Applications are to be returned by **May 22, 2024** to the church by: email, dropping the submission into the mail slot in the door or by bringing it along with you on Sunday morning.

Henrietta Potter Scholarship is available to students currently in high school and pursuing first-year studies at a post-secondary educational institution in the upcoming year.

Robb Scholarship is awarded to children to further his/her studies in music.

Charles E. Woodrow Memorial Music Scholarship is available to students currently in high school and pursuing first-year music studies at a post-secondary educational institution in the upcoming year.

**THE "BAKELESS BAKE SALE"** has become an annual event of the St. John's UCW. This is a very popular and highly successful project.



We appreciate any amount you may wish to donate. Please have all donations in by the end of June. Envelopes are located at the church entrance. If you use SJUC box offering envelopes, an envelope is in your box. If you use PAR, an envelope is in your PAR envelope packet. Place your donation in the offering box on a Sunday morning, mail, drop off in the mail slot or use e-transfer.

**STEWARDSHIP SECOND** – How can you bear witness to the resurrection with what you have?

**ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH CARES...** To notify the Minister of personal concerns, anxieties, illnesses, hospitalizations or deaths, or to pass along a prayer request, contact Rev. Aaron Billard at 506-858-8289 or [sjucrev@gmail.com](mailto:sjucrev@gmail.com)

**Greeters & Offering**

*South Door – Alma St.*

Allie Billard and Eli Billard

*North Door – Victoria St.*

Lori-Ann MacKay

**CHURCH MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND STAFF**



Rev. Aaron Billard, *Minister*  
[sjucrev@gmail.com](mailto:sjucrev@gmail.com)



Rev. Melvin G. Fawcett  
*Music Director*  
[melvinfawcett7@gmail.com](mailto:melvinfawcett7@gmail.com)



Karen Geldart  
*Office Administrator*  
[sjuc@nb.aibn.com](mailto:sjuc@nb.aibn.com)



Pat Arsenault, *Custodian*



Rev. Dr. Douglas MacEachern  
*Minister Emeritus*  
[douglasimaceachern@gmail.com](mailto:douglasimaceachern@gmail.com)

## **Church Council**

Chair: Roland Gallant

Secretary: Karen Teed

Treasurer: Kimberley Buck de Jesus

Board of Trustees: Graham McCrea

Christian Development: Nancy Black; Sunday School: Sonja Webster

Finance & Property Management: Marlene Godfrey

Fundy-St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region reps.: Rev. Aaron Billard,

Kimberley Buck de Jesus and Karen Geldart

Ministry & Personnel: Kimberley Buck de Jesus

Pastoral Care & Membership: Valerie Roy

UCW: Brenda McFarlane

Worship & Music: Sheri Brooks

# EASTER SEASON

