

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

April 21, 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**      *REVERIE AND ROMANZA (Traümerei)*  
(Robert Schumann)

**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**

## **THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Let's recognize and celebrate our volunteers and each contribution you make by the sharing of time, skills, empathy, and creativity which is vital to the inclusivity, strength, and well-being of our church and the community. Volunteers are fundamental to meeting our goals. By coming together, committing support, and increasing our collective efforts and impact, we contribute exponentially to the quality of life we all strive for. Join us for cake at coffee & conversation.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

When we are scattered, Jesus our Good Shepherd gathers us in.

**When we are lost and lonely,  
we can depend on Christ's love.**

When we are oppressed, Jesus our Good Shepherd cares for us.

**When we are threatened because of who we are,  
we can depend on Christ's protection.**

We know Christ,  
because Christ's tenderness has guided us for generations.

**Christ knows us by name.**

**Christ will lay down his very life for our sake.**

Let us worship our Good Shepherd,  
who cares for all of us with fierce love.

**Let us give thanks for Christ's presence with us.**

## **HYMN 154 MV**

## ***DEEP IN OUR HEARTS***

(FREED) (Words: John Oldham / Music: Ron Klusmeier)

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;  
deep in our hearts there is a common song;  
deep in our hearts there is a common story,  
telling Creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;  
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;  
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,  
justice and peace in harmony.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;  
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;  
deep in our hearts there is a common current,  
flowing to freedom like a stream.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;  
deep in our hearts there is a common song;  
deep in our hearts there is a common story,  
telling Creation that we are one.

## **PRAYER OF APPROACH**

**Holy God, you sent us Jesus as our comforter and guide. We give you thanks for the ways he cares for us. Help us be empowered to join him in protecting the oppressed and marginalized. We pray this in gratitude for your provision. Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

**Shepherding Christ, even as you lay down your life for us, we confess our unwillingness to support those in need. Too often, we may be more like the one who runs away in times of trouble. We aren't always bold enough to protect the powerless; following your example is rarely easy or comfortable. Forgive us. Help us lay down our apathy and follow your example. Remind us that we belong to one another, and to you. Amen.**

## WORDS OF GRACE

Beloved of God, receive this comfort. It is impossible to respond to every need in this complicated world. A full life of faith gives us the grace to lay down our work, take the rest we need, then refocus our energy toward the cause of the oppressed.

Rest in the shelter of your Good Shepherd, knowing you can take up the cause again with restored souls.

**We are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

## 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

**Gracious God, thank you for your gift of Jesus Christ, who cares for us and protects us.**

**With these gifts we return to you, help us care for others in our communities and around the world.**

**Amen.**

# HYMN 173 MV *PUT PEACE INTO EACH OTHER'S HANDS*

(Words: Fred Kaan / Music: Ron Klusmeier)

Put peace into each other's hands  
and like a treasure hold it;  
protect it like a candle flame,  
with tenderness enfold it.

Put peace into each other's hands  
with loving expectation;  
be gentle in your words and ways,  
in touch with God's creation.

Put peace into each other's hands,  
like bread we break for sharing;  
look people warmly in the eye:  
our life is meant for caring.

As at communion, shape your hands  
into a waiting cradle;  
the gift of Christ receive, revere,  
united round the table.

Put Christ into each other's hands,  
he is love's deepest measure;  
in love make peace, give peace a chance  
and share it like a treasure.

## 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 Sheri Brooks

**Psalm 23 (p. 749 VU)**

God is my shepherd.

(Music: Joseph Gelineau)

*R2 The God of love my shepherd is; what can I want or need.*

God is my shepherd,  
**there is nothing I shall lack.**

You, God, make me lie down in green pastures,  
**you lead me beside peaceful waters;**

you revive my spirit,

**you guide me in right pathways for your name's sake. R**

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
you are with me,

**your rod and your staff are my comfort.**

You spread a table for me in the sight of my enemies;

**you anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing.**

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,

**and I will dwell in God's house my whole life long. R**

### **1 John 3:16–24**

Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

### **John 10:11-18**

Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

### **HYMN 747 VU**

### ***THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD***

(CRIMOND) (Words: Scottish Psalter / Music: Jessie Seymour Irvine)

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want; he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me, the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again; and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness, even for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;  
for thou art with me; and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table thou has furnished in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me,  
and in God's house for evermore my dwelling-place shall be.

### **SERMON**

### **ANTHEM**

### ***PRECIOUS PROMISE (Psalm 32:8)***

(Words: Nathaniel Niles / Music: Philip P. Bliss)

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **HYMN 700 VU *GOD OF FREEDOM, GOD OF JUSTICE***

(PICARDY) (Words: Shirley Erena Murray / Music: French traditional carol)

God of freedom God of justice,  
you whose love is strong as death,  
you who saw the dark of prison,  
you who knew the price of faith  
touch our world of sad oppression  
with your Spirit's healing breath.

Rid the earth of torture's terror,  
you whose hands were nailed to wood;  
hear the cries of pain and protest,  
you who shed the tears and blood:  
move in us the power of pity restless for the common good.

Make in us a captive conscience  
quick to hear, to act, to plead,  
make us truly sisters, brothers  
of whatever race or creed:  
teach us to be fully human open to each other's need.

## **BENEDICTION**

Today you have received the gift of Christ's protective, unceasing love for you. Because you are beloved, may all that you do and all that you are be a reflection of that love. Fight for the powerless, help the weak, and provide for the needy, because Jesus provides for you. Amen.

## **POSTLUDE**

### *THE LORD LIVETH*

(Words / Music: Jerry Cook)

Piano accompanist: Lorilee Redmond

*Power to Lay It Down: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday of Easter Year B* was written by Rev. Jacob Nault, Pastor of Union-Congregational Church in Waupun, WI. He also works alongside the UCC's Disabilities Ministries Board to provide music, liturgy, and other resources on issues of disability justice.

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***You are invited to join us in the Owen Fraser Hall  
for a time of fellowship, cake and refreshments.***

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*The bulletin and pastoral letter are dedicated  
in Loving Memory of **our Aunts,**  
**Lois Matthews and Dorothy L. Steeves**  
by Shelly Steeves and Bonnie Steeves*

## **MEMORIAL**

*A donation has been made to the  
Mission & Service Fund in memory of*

**Anne M. Lake**

*(Truro UCW & Berwick Camp member)  
by the Rev. Dr. Douglas & June MacEachern*



## **NOTICES, UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

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

Apr. 21	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	<b>WORSHIP</b> and <b>Sunday School</b> - Thank Volunteers
Apr. 21	Sun.	3:00 p.m.	Concert – Choeur Beausejour (main floor & Sanctuary)
Apr. 25	Thur.	7:00 p.m.	<b>Choir</b> (weekly-Choir Loft/Fellowship Room)
Apr. 25	Thur.	7:00 p.m.	Pathfinders, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Social Hall)
Apr. 26-27	Fri. - Sat.		Facility rental
Apr. 28	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	<b>WORSHIP</b> and <b>Sunday School</b> - Grocery Sunday (see note)
Apr. 28	Sun.	12:15 p.m.	<b>Worship &amp; Music Committee</b> (Norman Sinclair Room)
Apr. 29	Mon.	2:00 p.m.	<b>UCW</b> (Fellowship Room)

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.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who supported our **Silent Auction & Dessert Extravaganza** last week. It takes a lot of hands to make this happen and we so appreciate all the help from our members and individuals outside the UCW group. So to the donors, the pickers and packers, dessert bakers, and shoppers, thanks again for helping us raise \$1,800. Special thanks to Gary Tower, Rheel Leger and Trevor Logan for doing the heavy lifting with the tables. Kudos to Lillian MacMellon who has organized this event for the past 25 years. You are indeed a legend!

**THANK YOU** - The choir, and the organ repair fund, would like to thank the congregation for their wonderful support of last week's **Soup Luncheon fundraiser**. We are also grateful for the many ingredients donated by our local Loblaws Warehouse, with special mention of Jennifer and Rod Fury who made that all possible. Finally, a big thank-you to choir members who chopped, diced, served and washed up cheerfully!

**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.*

**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.





## 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** – There is a direct link between following Jesus and using our resources, including our money, to care for those in need.

**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.*  
Stacey & Chris McQueen

*North Door – Victoria St.*  
Sonja Webster

**CHURCH MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND STAFF**



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



Rev. Melvin G. Fawcett  
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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

