

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

April 26, 2026



**St. John's United Church** of The United Church of Canada

75 Alma Street, Moncton, NB E1C 4Y3

506-858-8289 [stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com)

[www.stjohnsmoncton.ca](http://www.stjohnsmoncton.ca)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/16465565858>

<https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsmoncton>

Office Hours: M-F, 9am–1pm

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

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.

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

**PRELUDE**

*WERE YOU THERE*

(Music: Christopher Tambling)

**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**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (inspired by Psalm 23)

The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us enter with thanksgiving and praise!

**The Shepherd restores our souls,**

**satisfies our needs, and leads us on the right path.**

The Good Shepherd is the gate.

Let us live with courage and conviction not fear and timidity.

**Through valleys and storms, chaos and confusion, threats and concerns, the Shepherd comforts us with power and strength, love and compassion, hope and peace.**

The Good Shepherd is the gate.

Let us worship in the presence of the Holy One!

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all our days of our lives. Let us dwell in God's presence forever!**

**HYMN 1 MV    *LET US BUILD A HOUSE* (ALL ARE WELCOME)  
(TWO OAKS) (Words / Music: Marty Haugen)**

Let us build a house  
where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children  
tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

*All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house  
where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and a symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *R*

Let us build  
a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;  
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: *R*

Let us build  
a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger: *R*

Let us build a house  
where all are named, their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *R*

## **PRAYER OF APPROACH**

**God who is Shepherd, Gate, and Way, we join together as a community in your presence and in your protection. Shield us from apathy and isolation. Fortify us against resignation and despair. Nudge us toward justice and righteousness in your name. As we gather to worship you, may we be transformed by your love, strengthened in grace, and rooted in faith for your glory and your kingdom come.**

**We pray with the words Jesus taught us, saying, “Our Father...Amen.”** (960 VU) (A laminated handheld version of The Lord’s Prayer can be found in the hymnbook holder in the pew.)

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Shepherd of our lives, like sheep, we wander and stray. We come to you for sustenance yet distance ourselves from your realm when you require more from us. We bite one another with words that cut and attitudes that reflect more apathy than care. We lie down and become stuck when you would expand our territory and sphere of belonging. We give you thanks for not giving up on us and continuing to lead us by your Spirit. Give us courage and confidence to do your will and to love with our lives. We devote ourselves anew to your teaching, to community, to the sacramental life, and to prayer.**

**Lead us in the ever full and renewed life in Christ.**

**Amen.**

*(moment of silence to offer personal thoughts and concerns)*

## **WORDS OF GRACE**

Beloved, the Shepherd cares for you and rejoices whenever you turn back to follow God's holy way. Life in the promise of glorious, flourishing life and the kingdom of God manifested on earth. There is no detour you may take where the Shepherd cannot find you and urge you back into their loving embrace. You are redeemed and restored in Christ. Receive the goodness of God whose grace is sufficient and available for you to begin anew.

## **OFFERING**

*Offering boxes are located inside the Sanctuary at the two main entrances.*

## **OFFERTORY (537 VU)**

### ***YOUR WORK, O GOD, NEEDS MANY HANDS***

*(KILMARNOCK) (Words: Calvin Weiss Laufer / Music: Neil Dougall)*

Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere, and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.

Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make: be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

**Generous God, may these gifts bless our life together, fortify our ministry, and transform our community. Receive them as we give them—with gladness and thanksgiving. Amen.**

REMAIN SEATED

## **HYMN 161 MV     *I HAVE CALLED YOU BY YOUR NAME***

*(KELLY) (Words / Music: Daniel Charles Damon)*

I have called you by your name, you are mine;

I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.

I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.

You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go;  
read it written in my people, help them grow.  
Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can claim,  
offer Jesus' body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go;  
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.  
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,  
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine;  
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.  
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole;  
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

## 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.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Read by Debbie Creaghan

**Acts 2:42–47**

The believers share everything in common.

**Psalms 23, Refrain 2, p. 749 VU**

God is my shepherd.

(Music: Charles Collignon)

*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**

**John 10:1–10**

Jesus the good shepherd and the gate.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN p. 748 VU      *GOD IS MY SHEPHERD (Psalm 23)***

(BROTHER JAAMES' AIR) (Words: *Scottish Psalter*; adapt. Lavon Bayler / Music: James Leith Macbeth Bain; harm. Gordon Jacob; adapt. Walter W. Felton)

God is my shepherd, I'll not want, I feed in pastures green.  
God grants me rest and bids me drink  
from waters calm and clean.  
Through daily tasks, I'm blessed and led  
by one I have not seen.

Restored to life each morning new, I rise up from the dust  
to follow God whose presence gives me confidence and trust.  
I praise the name of God today; in God I put my trust.

When I must pass through shadowed vale,  
where loss and death await,  
I will not fear for God is there, my shepherd strong and great,  
whose rod and staff will comfort me and all my fears abate.

No enemy can overcome, no power on earth defeat  
the ones anointed by God's grace and fed with manna sweet.  
My cup is filled and overflows as I my Saviour greet.

Goodness and mercy all my days will surely follow me;  
and where God reigns in heaven and earth,  
my dwelling place will be.

My shepherd blesses, cares and leads through all eternity.

**SERMON**

**ANTHEM      *AN INVITATION TO PRAISE***

(Words: John Parker / Music: Stan Pethel)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

(We pray for Tabusintac Pastoral Charge)

**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.

## **BENEDICTION**

Beloved, as you go, note the encouragement of the Shepherd:  
The Gate is open and with you.  
In your coming and going,  
The Shepherd leads you.  
Go, have life and have it abundantly.

## **CONGREGATIONAL SONG POSTLUDE**

**GO NOW IN PEACE** (Words: Don Besig, Nancy Price / Music: Don Besig)

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know He will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

## **POSTLUDE** *ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING*

(Music: from "Geistliche Kirchengesäng; arr. Harold DeCou)

*During the postlude the congregation is welcome to depart.*

**By the Gate: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday in Easter Year A** was written by the  
Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

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

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*The bulletin and pastoral letter are dedicated  
in Loving Memory of  
**wife, Diana and son, Mark**  
by Pat Gillespie and  
Tina (Gillespie) & Barry Lewis and Family*


**MEMORIAL**

*A donation has been made to  
St. John's United Church in memory of  
my sweetheart, Sylvia, on what would have been  
our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 30<sup>th</sup>  
by Stuart MacNairn*

**NOTICES, UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

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

Apr. 26	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	<b>WORSHIP</b> and <b>Sunday School</b> - Grocery Sunday (see note) 
Apr. 27	Mon.	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Greater Moncton Music Festival (Sanctuary)
Apr. 27	Mon.	2:00 p.m.	<b>UCW</b> (Fellowship Room)
Apr. 27	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Al-Anon (weekly-Owen Fraser Hall)
Apr. 28	Tues.	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Greater Moncton Music Festival (Sanctuary)
Apr. 28	Tues.	7:00 p.m.	<b>Church Council</b> (Owen Fraser Hall)
Apr. 29	Wed.	9:15 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Greater Moncton Music Festival (Sanctuary)
Apr. 29	Wed.	6:15 p.m.	Sparks, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Owen Fraser Hall)

Apr. 30	Thur.	7:00 p.m.	<b>Choir</b> (weekly-Choir Loft/Fellowship Room)
Apr. 30	Thur.	7:15 p.m.	Pathfinders, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Social Hall)
May 3	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	<b>WORSHIP</b> and <b>Sunday School</b>
May 3	Sun.	1:00 p.m.	Concert, 3:00pm – Chœur Louisbourg (Sanctuary)
May 8	Fri.	10:30 a.m.	<b>Worship</b> with the Rev. Aaron Billard at <b>Royal Court Chapel</b> , 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Coverdale Rd., Riverview If you are a resident there, we ask you to help us spread the word to members of the congregation who live there.
May 10	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	<b>WORSHIP</b> and <b>Sunday School</b>
May 12	Tues.	2:00 p.m.	<b>Friendship Group</b> (monthly- Fellowship Room/Owen Fraser Hall) 

*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.*

## **WELCOME!**

We would like to warmly welcome any new faces to our church family today! Please feel free to introduce yourself to a fellow member or reach out to our minister if you have any questions. We invite you to stay after the service for fellowship. Fill in the “welcome” envelope located on the table at our two main entrances and place in the offering box (no money required) or email the church office at [stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com) to let us know you are worshipping with us.



## **GROCERY SUNDAY FOR KARING KITCHEN**

(Apr. 26 – 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 celery soup, honey garlic sauce, flakes of ham and crackers. *White baskets will be at the main entrance for your donations.* Thank you.



**DEDICATE THE BULLETIN/PASTORAL LETTER** in memory of a loved one(s). The cost is \$50.00. Upcoming dates available: May 31 and June 21, 2026. If you dedicated last year, you will be contacted to see if you want to dedicate again.

**MUSIC FAVOURITES** - Your Worship & Music committee are compiling a list of favourite worship music requests that we will attempt to include in future services. Just follow this QR link to add your suggestions.



**SOLACE CHOIR LIST** - Singers who would like to be added to a list of those willing to sing at funerals, please let Karen at the church office know via email with the Subject: Solace Choir List. You will then be included in the invitation that goes out to our usual Choir members.

**THE "BAKELESS BAKE SALE"** has become an annual event of the St. John's UCW. This is a very popular and highly successful project. Our little rhyme explains how it works, and we hope you will give it your support.

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.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

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



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 24**, 2026 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.

## CAMP TA-WA-SI SUPPLIES DRIVE!

We are supporting Camp Ta-Wa-Si this spring. Each Sunday **until May 31** you are invited to bring items to place in the white baskets as you come into the church.



*United Church of Canada camps offer a variety of experience for people of all ages, focusing on faith formation, leadership development, and outdoor adventures.*

Items the camp can definitely use: glowsticks, craft supplies, life jackets (youth sizes), goggles and snorkels, pool noodles, wall plug night lights, bedside clocks, batteries (AA/AAA)

Office supplies such as: clipboards, sharpies, tape (all kinds), children's books, sidewalk chalk, camping chairs, reusable water bottles

Cleaning supplies of all kinds but specifically: disinfectant spray, dish soap, toilet bowl cleaner, bleach, hand soap, brooms and dustpans

Small furniture such as: side tables/lamps/comfy chairs etc.

Furniture: we're hoping to get a side table and lamp in each cabin as a lot of young campers complain about it being so dark and struggle when getting up in the middle of the night!

Anything else you think would be helpful, even if a bit more out of the box.

Lastly, please note that we have a surplus of toiletry and hygiene items from last year's supplies drive, so those are on the "do not need" list for this year.

**STEWARDSHIP SECOND** – Stewards live God's dream of a community of people who truly look after one another.

**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*  
Kathy Seymour

*North Door – Victoria St.*  
Carolyn Beers and  
Shirley Lutes



## **CHURCH MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND STAFF**



Rev. Aaron Billard, *Minister*  
sjucrev@gmail.com



Shelley Arsenault, B.Mus.B.Ed.  
*Music Director*



Karen Geldart  
*Office Administrator*  
stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com



Pat Arsenault, *Custodian*



Rev. Dr. Douglas MacEachern  
*Minister Emeritus*  
douglasimaceachern@gmail.com

## **Church Council**

Chair: Roland Gallant

Secretary: Karen Teed

Treasurer: Kimberley Buck de Jesus

Board of Trustees: Graham McCrea

Christian Development: vacant; 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



## Camping Sunday

