

10th Sunday after Pentecost

August 2, 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

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.

We welcome Jonathan Gibson as guest Worship Leader this morning.

Jonathan was born and raised in Ripples, NB, and recently returned to the province after many years in the United States. He holds a Bachelor of Biblical Studies from Emmanuel Baptist Bible Institute here in Moncton and a Master's degree in Biblical Studies from Northland International University in Wisconsin. Throughout his studies, he served in a variety of church, camp, and ministry leadership roles.

Jonathan's ministry experience spans several Christian traditions. He served for seven years as Assistant Pastor at Edgewood Baptist Church in Danville, Illinois, and has continued to preach regularly as a guest speaker in a variety of church settings. Most recently, he served for two years as a Ruling Elder at First Presbyterian Church in Danville, where he was active in leadership, worship, and congregational life.

Alongside his church leadership, Jonathan spent many years with Habitat for Humanity, serving in leadership roles that supported both local affiliates and statewide initiatives.

Jonathan has been worshipping with us at St. John's for the past several months, and we are pleased to welcome him as our guest worship leader this morning.

Children are asked to remain with their parents for 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 nursery and 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

IN THE PRESENCE OF JEHOVAH

(Music: Geron & Becky Davis)

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

(written by Ann Siddall, Stillpoint Spirituality Centre)

Only the hungry search for bread.

Only the thirsty look for water.

This is a place for those

who are hungry and thirsty in spirit.

Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it.

Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.

This is a place for those

who ache and yearn for something more.

So let us come here today with our hunger and thirst,
our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings,

and let the God of life satisfy our souls.

HYMN 374 VU

COME AND FIND THE QUIET CENTRE

(BEACH SPRING)

(Words: Shirley Erena Murray / Music: attrib. Benjamin Franklin White; harm. Ronald A. Nelson)

Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:

clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

PRAYER OF APPROACH (from Christian Aid)

**With those who live in dry and weary lands,
who know what it is to hunger and to thirst, we pray.
We pray that we may learn what it is to hunger for you,
to thirst for justice, so all may have daily bread.**

**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

**Dear God, the creator of all things based on love,
you created us in your image of love.**

**There have been times we have fallen short of that
love, not only to you but to each other and all of
creation. I ask for your forgiveness and from you,
present today, my siblings, sisters and brothers in
Christ. I thank you for the comforting strength and
compassion of the Holy Spirit to do better in bringing
love and grace and all I do. In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.**

(moment of silence to offer personal thoughts and concerns)

WORDS OF GRACE

Scripture tells us if we are “kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, God in Christ has forgiven us”.

Rest assured, my friends, our sins are forgiven. Amen.

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

Gracious and loving God, we offer these gifts for the ministries of this community of faith and for the work of Mission and Service in Canada and across the world. Through all of our giving, we long to share Jesus' message of love and hope and promise of new life. Amen.

REMAIN SEATED

HYMN 644 VU ***I WAS THERE TO HEAR YOUR BORNING CRY***

(WATERLIFE) (Words / Music: John Ylvisaker)

I was there to hear your borning cry,

I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,

with a faith to suit you well;

in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word,

I was there to cheer you on;

you were raised to praise the living Lord,

to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your morning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children are asked to remain with their parents for the service.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 32:22–31

Jacob wrestles with God.

Psalms 17, p. 739 VU

Guard me as the apple of your eye.

*R: Guard me as the apple of your eye;
hide me under the shadow of your wing.*

Hear my just cause; attend to my cry, O God.

Listen to my prayer from lips that do not lie.

Let judgement in my favour come forth from your presence;

and let your eyes discern what is right.

If you examine my heart, if you visit me by night,

if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me.

As for what others do, according to the command of your lips

I have kept from travelling with the violent.

My steps have been firm in your paths, and my feet have not stumbled. R

I call upon you, God, for you will answer me.

Incline your ear to me and hear my words.

Show me the wonders of your steadfast love;

**for by your right hand you save from their enemies
those who take refuge in you.**

Guard me as the apple of your eye;

**hide me under the shadow on your wings,
from the wicked who assail me,
from deadly foes who surround me.**

As for me, I shall see your face because my plea is just;
when I awake and see you face, I shall be satisfied. R

Matthew 14:13–21

Feeding more than five thousand.

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

HYMN 661 VU

COME TO MY HEART

(COME TO MY HEART) (Words / Music: Joe Pinson)

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.
Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; come to my heart today.
Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.
Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.
Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; fill me with love today.
Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.
Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; answer my prayer today.
Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

SERMON

Jon Gibson

ANTHEM

HE KNOWS MY NAME

(Words / Music: Tommy Walker)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(We pray for St. Andrew's Pastoral Charge)

HYMN 240 VU *PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE GOD OF HEAVEN*

(LAUDA ANIMA – PRAISE MY SOUL) (Words: Henry Francis Lyte;
adapt. Ecumenical Women's Center / Music: John Goss; desc. Herbert Belyea)

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven,
glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who, like me, should sing God's praise.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise the Maker all your days!

Praise God for the grace and favour
shown our forebears in distress.

God is still the same forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Sing our Maker's faithfulness!

Like a loving parent caring, God knows well our feeble frame;
gladly all our burdens bearing, still to countless years the same.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! All within me, praise God's name!

Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise the high eternal one.

Angels, teach us adoration, you behold God face to face;
sun and moon and all creation, dwellers all in time and space.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise with us the God of grace!

BENEDICTION

God's peace: carry, keep and hold you.

God's love: nourish, bless and enfold you.

God's spirit: inspire, lift and mold you.

CONGREGATIONAL SUNG 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

HE IS EXALTED

(Music: Twila Paris)

During the postlude the congregation is welcome to depart.

(© 2025 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike Licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/ca.>)

*We thank Jonathan Gibson
for leading our Worship this morning.*

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



*The bulletin and pastoral letter are dedicated
in Loving Memory of
my dear husband, Robert (Bob) Smith
by Carolyn Beers*

*The Church extends its deepest
sympathies and condolences to the
family and friends of the
Rev. Dr. Douglas MacEachern
(husband of June MacEachern)
who died on July 18, 2026*

MEMORIAL

*A donation has been made to
St. John's United Church in memory of
Diana Gillespie
by her loving husband, Pat*

NOTICES, UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Check our website at www.stjohnsmoncton.ca
for **Sunday online Worship links**, calendar, and more.

Aug. 2	Sun.	10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP (note time change) - Guest Worship Leader: Jonathan Gibson - Music Director: Lorilee Redmond
Aug. 3	Mon.		Church closed – NB Day
Aug. 3	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Al-Anon (weekly-Owen Fraser Hall)
Aug. 9	Sun.	10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP (note time change) - Music Director: Lorilee Redmond

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 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 to let us know you are worshipping with us.



DIME BLITZ



Don't spend a dime this summer - save them for the UCW summer fundraiser. Plastic pill bottles have been placed at the Church entrances for your convenience. Deposit in the offering box



on a Sunday morning or drop off in the mail slot located on the Victoria St. entrance door. Thank you for your continued support of UCW projects.

The fundraiser ends **Sept. 27, 2026.**

Please ensure each container is labelled with your name.

KEEP YOUR VALUABLES WITH YOU - If you don't keep your coat with you during Worship, please ensure you do not leave keys, phones, or any valuables in your pockets. Please keep all valuables with you. Do not leave any electronics unattended.

UNUSED OFFERING ENVELOPES - If you have any unused offering envelopes, please feel free to return them to the church. We recycle them as general purpose envelopes.

CHURCH DONATION

At St. John's we do not "pass the plate" as is done in some traditional churches. Donations are collected in an offering box near the entrance to the sanctuary.

You may donate to the church in a variety of ways:

- PAR (pre-authorized remittance) – application form available on our website and pamphlet/form located at church entrances and outside church office; PAR cards are available to put in the offering box
- e-transfer (use stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com - no password needed)
- box offering envelopes – contact church office
- Canada Helps - online
- cash or cheque - identified with giver's name with middle initial/address (for income tax purposes).
- mail to 75 Alma St., Moncton, NB E1C 4Y3
- drop off your donation in the mail slot on our Victoria St. door

Blank offering envelopes are located at both church entrances for donation purposes. Write your name and address to identify your donation in order for an official receipt to be prepared for income tax purposes. If you have any questions, contact the church office.

HYMNBOOK – Having a hard time holding the hymnbook? Do you find the hymnbook too heavy? We can print the "online" worship bulletin (with hymns typed out) for you. Contact the office if you would like an online bulletin available for you on Sunday.

HEARING LOOP - The church offers a hearing loop system for anyone who would like to enhance their listening experience during the Sunday morning service. Please feel free to speak to Kimberley Buck de Jesus on the sound board on Sunday morning

FRAGRANCE FREE AND TREE NUT / PEANUT FREE ENVIRONMENT -St. John's United Church realizes an increasing number of people have developed sensitivities and allergies to certain chemicals and foods. It is our mission to limit the exposure of staff, volunteers and visitors to chemical substances and tree nut/peanut products. Our church supports the creation of a fragrance and tree nut/peanut free environment. We would ask that you **please refrain from using, wearing, bringing scented products (for example, perfume) and tree nut/peanut products**

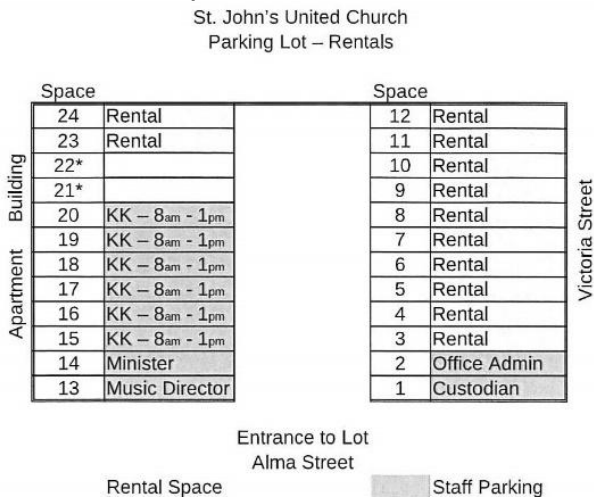
into St. John’s United Church. Only our 100% cooperation will give those with sensitivities and allergies a healthier place to work, volunteer and worship. Thank you.

HEALTH & SAFETY - We have a wheelchair here at St. John’s and it is located on a permanent basis in the unused entrance way at the back of the Sanctuary (corner of Alma and Victoria Streets). We also have an AED - automated external defibrillator. It is wall mounted and located right outside the Church Office.

LIBRARY – Did you know that we have a library of books for you to enjoy? They are located in the hutch cabinet in the Fellowship Room. There is no sign-out for these; they are loaned to you on the honour system that you will return the books when you’ve finished reading them.

CHURCH PARKING LOT

As a reminder, the church rents out 12 parking spots in the parking lot, Monday-Friday, 7:00am-6:00pm. These spots are not available for church use during this period. Other spots are designated for staff as shown in the chart below. Should you need a parking spot while visiting the church, there are two spaces available for church use - spaces 21 & 22, as per the chart below:



* During the winter these spots may be occupied by renters #12 & #24

If you are a church member and wish to take advantage of evening parking in the church parking lot, please let the office know in

advance, by providing the make, model and license number of your vehicle. You are more than welcome to use the lot. However, due to issues with illegal parking, unknown vehicles may be at risk of being towed and we would not want it to be your vehicle.

BROADVIEW MAGAZINE – A copy of the most recent issue can be found on a table in the Owen Fraser Hall just outside the church office. This is there for your enjoyment, but please don't remove it from the premises so that others can enjoy it as well.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES - The Pastoral Care & Membership Committee sends **birthday** greetings to all those within our congregation who are 85 and 90 years old, then annually. **Wedding anniversary** cards are sent out to those celebrating 50, 60, and every year thereafter. If you have not received a card, please advise the church office so we can update our records.

WORSHIP SERVICES are streamed on Facebook and YouTube. Links are on our church website at www.stjohnsmoncton.ca

SCRIPTURE READERS NEEDED – If you would like to read scriptures on Sunday mornings, please contact Karen at the church office and add your name to our scripture reader list. This will help us to plan Worship and to have more people participate. Thank you so much for helping with this ministry!



ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE at stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com or 506-858-8289, if your email, mailing address, residence or telephone number changes. Also, advise us of your birthday and anniversary dates.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY: Moncton City & George Dumont Hospitals

Please note: privacy legislation does not permit the Chaplain (or other Ministry Personnel) to randomly visit with persons who are in hospital. Ministry Personnel need your invitation/permission, or the permission/request of a family member. Request at time of hospital admittance or contact the hospital admitting office.

STEWARDSHIP SECOND – Generosity is what transforms five loaves and two fish into a feast for five thousand.

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 [sjurev@gmail.com](mailto:sjucrev@gmail.com)

Greeters & Offering	
South Door – Alma St Susan Estabrooks	North Door – Victoria St. Sandy Ross

CHURCH MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND STAFF



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



Karen Geldart
Office Administrator
stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com



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



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



Pat Arsenault, *Custodian*



Emancipation Sunday



The Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 ended slavery in the British Empire on 1 August, 1834, which laid a pathway to freeing over 800,000 enslaved Africans and their descendants in parts of the Caribbean, Africa, South America as well as Canada. On March 24, 2021, the House of Commons voted unanimously to officially designate August 1 Emancipation Day. It marks the actual day in 1834 that the *Slavery Abolition Act* of 1833 came into effect across the British Empire.

Canadians are not always aware that Black and Indigenous Peoples were once enslaved on the land that is now Canada. Those who fought enslavement were pivotal in shaping our society to be as diverse as it is today.

Therefore, each August 1, Canadians are invited to reflect, educate and engage in the ongoing fight against both anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism and discrimination.

Emancipation Day celebrates the strength and perseverance of Black communities in Canada.