



1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2025



**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**

*CRANHAM*

(Music: Noel Rawsthorne)

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Star still beckons.

We follow the Light

that was before, is now, and ever will be.

**We seek the Light's ancient wisdom.**

The Star still beckons.

We seek the Light

that is God's continuing gift.

**We live into the Light's new wisdom.**

We awake to the Light

In our world, emerging anew each day.

**We seek to share this wisdom,**

**nurtured in the Light over Bethlehem's cradle.**

## CAROL 60 VU

## O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

(ADESTE FIDELES) (Words: Frederick Oakeley / Music: attrib. John Francis Wade)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:  
come and behold him, born the King of angels;

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

God of God, light of light,  
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten not created: *R*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest: *R*

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; *R*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given:  
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *R*

## PRAYER OF APPROACH

**God of Light and Love,  
in this very moment the star still beckons.  
Gather us and let the star call us to new ways  
restoration and renewal,  
justice and mercy,  
as we discover again Christ's call to discipleship.**

**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.)

## **CAROL 35 VU    GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE**

(IN DULCI JUBILO) (Words: Latin, 14<sup>th</sup>-century, trans. John Mason Neale /

Music: German melody, harm. Gary Alan Smith)

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!

Give ye heed to what we say: News! News!

Jesus Christ was born today.

Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice

with heart and soul and voice!

Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!

Jesus Christ was born for this!

He hath opened heaven's door,

and we are blest forevermore.

Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice

with heart and soul and voice!

Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace!

Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all

to gain his everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## **PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

Sometimes we feel lost and even consumed by darkness.

We wonder if we are loveable.

Our actions dim the value and worth of others, and ourselves.

But in Christ, God has given us a new Light,

kindling unconditional love for us,

and showing us a well-lit path to wholeness and forgiveness.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

## **WORDS OF GRACE**

Friends, believe the good news:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

## **OFFERING**

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

## OFFERTORY (37 VU)

## GLORIA

(GLORY TO GOD) (Words: trad. Liturgical setting / Music: Jacques Berthier; arr. Darryl Nixon)

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, hallelujah, hallelujah

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

**Loving God,**

**may these gifts reveal to us and to others**

**the Light that is Jesus.**

**And may this Light lead us on**

**into new and challenging ways of living and serving.**

## HYMN 74 VU

## WHAT CHILD IS THIS

REMAIN SEATED

(GREENSLEEVES) (Words: William Chatterton Dix / Music: English melody, harm. John Stainer)

What child is this, who laid to rest,

on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet

while shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King*

*whom shepherds guard and angels sing;*

*haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!*

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear; for sinners here

the silent Word is pleading. *R*

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh;

come, one and all, to own him.

The King of Kings salvation brings;

let loving hearts enthrone him. *R*

## CHILDREN'S TIME

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

Sunday School resumes January 11, 2025.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Read by Cy Edmonds

**Isaiah 63:7–9**

God's presence has saved us.

**Psalms 148, p. 871 VU**

Let all creation praise God.

(Music: Jakob Hintze; harm. J.S. Bach, as in *Hymns Ancient and Modern* 1861)

*R Let the whole creation cry, "Glory be to God on high."*

Praise God from the heavens; give praise in the heights!

Give praise, all you angels; praise God, all you hosts!

**Praise God, sun and moon;**

**give praise, stars and lights!**

**Praise God, farthest heavens,**

**and all waters beyond heaven! R**

Let all things praise the Holy One at whose command  
they were created,

who established them for all time,

setting bounds, which cannot be passed.

**Praise God from the earth,**

**great sea creatures and ocean depths,**

**lightning and hail, snow and frost,**

**gales that obey God's decree,**

all mountains and hills, all fruit trees and cedars,

wild animals and cattle, creatures winged and earth-bound,

**sovereigns who rule earth and its people,**

**all who govern and judge this world,**

**young men and women alike,**

**old people and children together! R**

Let all things praise the name of God,

the name above every other,

whose splendour covers heaven and earth

**You give strength to your people,**

**songs of praise to your faithful,**

**to Israel, the people dear to your heart. R**

**Matthew 2:13–23**

The escape to Egypt.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CAROL 69 VU

## AWAY IN A MANGER

(CRADLE SONG) (Words: Author unknown / Music: William James Kirkpatrick; arr. Desmond Hassell)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

## SERMON

## ANTHEM

## JOY TO THE WORLD

(Words: Isaac Watts / Music: Lowell Mason; arr. John Rutter)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

## CAROL 48 VU

## HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

(MENDELSSOHN) (Words: Charles Wesley / Music: Felix Mendelssohn,  
William Hayman Cummings / arr. David Newell)

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail, the incarnate deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *R*

Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth. R

## **BENEDICTION**

Now go surrounded by Christ's light,  
and the blessing of God  
- Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit –  
be with you now,  
all those you pray for,  
and all those you remember. Amen.

## **POSTLUDE**

**MENDELSSOHN**

(Music: Martin Setchell)

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

*Journey in the Starlight: Service Prayers for Epiphany* were written by  
the Rev. Susan A. Blain, Minister for Worship and Gospel Arts.

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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 is dedicated in Loving Memory of*  
***Arthur LeFort***  
*by Shelly Steeves*

## **MEMORIAL**

*A donation has been made to*  
*St. John's United Church in memory of*  
***Dr. Cedric B. & B. Kathleen Allaby***  
*by their daughter, Deborah Everett*



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

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

Dec. 28	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	<b>WORSHIP</b> - 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas - no Sunday School	
Dec. 29	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Al-Anon (weekly-Owen Fraser Hall)	
Dec. 31	Wed.		<b>Deadline for 2025 donations</b> (see note)	
Jan. 4	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	<b>WORSHIP</b> - Epiphany Sunday - no Sunday School	
Jan. 8	Thur.	7:00 p.m.	<b>Choir</b> (weekly-Choir Loft/Fellowship Room)	
Jan. 11	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	<b>WORSHIP and Sunday School</b> - The Baptism of the Lord	

*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.



The **PASTORAL CARE & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** would like to **THANK** those who delivered Christmas poinsettia plants/cards: Pat Arsenault, Rev. Aaron Billard, Elaine Cooling, Carol Davidson, Kimberley Buck de Jesus, Roberta Bunker, Marcia Hicks, Susan Leighton, Terri Lovegrove, Brenda McFarlane, Emily Murphy, Phyllis Perry, Valerie Roy and Sonja Webster. Thank you to Marlene Godfrey for making cards Thanks to everyone who assisted in any way to bring Christmas cheer to our shut -ins.

### **DONATION – Cut-off Dates**

As we approach the end of the year, we would like to remind you of the cut-off dates for making 2025 tax receiptable donations to the Church:

- cash and cheque donations – received at the church by 1pm on December 31
- cheque donations made via Canada Post - must be received by or envelope post-marked December 31
- e-transfers – to [stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com) – by MIDNIGHT December 31
- Canada Helps donations – by MIDNIGHT December 31

If you are uncertain as to how much you have donated already to the Church, please email or telephone the Church office. Karen will provide your donation information to date. Keep in mind, records may be a week or so behind, and UCW donations are only posted as of December 31.

Official tax receipts will follow in late January or early February. Once again, thank you for your generous givings this past year!

### **2026 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES & PAR PACKETS WITH SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPES**

are now available for pick up (on stage in Sanctuary & church office).

Please do not use your 2026 envelopes until the New Year.

As a cost-saving measure, offering envelopes and PAR packets not used in 2025 were not renewed.

**STEWARDSHIP SECOND** – Your generosity to Mission and Service helps refugees to find safety and live in peace.

**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*  
Linda Leighton

*North Door – Victoria St.*  
Terri Lovegrove

**CHURCH MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND STAFF**



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



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



Karen Geldart  
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[stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsmoncton@gmail.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: Jennifer MacNairn; 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



Merry Christmas  
AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

