

1st Sunday in Lent

February 22, 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.

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 *SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE A MOTHERLESS CHILD*

(Music: Marianne Kim; based on a Traditional African-American Spiritual)

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

Are you restless and unsettled? This place is for you.

Let us worship God!

Are you hungry for love and hope? This place is for you.

Let us worship God!

Are you searching for direction? This place is for you.

Let us worship God!

Do you have love to share? This place is for you.

Let us worship God together!

HYMN 217 VU ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

(LASST UNS ERFREUEN) (Words: St. Francis of Assisi / Music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge)

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing: hallelujah, hallelujah!
Bright burning sun with golden beam,
soft shining moon with silver gleam,
sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

O rushing winds and breezes soft,
O clouds that ride the winds aloft, sing praises, hallelujah!
O rising morn, in praise rejoice; O lights of evening, find a voice:
sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Earth, ever fertile, day by day
brings forth rich blessings on our way: sing praises, hallelujah!
The flowers and fruits that verdant grow,
let them God's glory also show:
sing praises, hallelujah! hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

And everyone of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part: sing praises, hallelujah!
All who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and yield up all your care:
sing praises, hallelujah! hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness: sing praises, hallelujah!
Praise God eternal, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one:
sing praises, hallelujah! hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

PRAYER OF APPROACH

(written by Rev. Mindi, on her **Rev-o-lution** blog. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>)

**We have gathered here, loving God,
to mark the season of Lent,
to begin that journey to the cross.**

**We have gathered here to repent of our sins
publicly and privately.**

**We have gathered here to be in the presence of one
another, where we can draw strength,**

knowing that wherever two or three of us are gathered, you are present among us.

**Guide us throughout these forty days
as we journey deeper into Your embrace,
and as we journey to the cross,
let us put to death those things
that separate us from each other and from you.**

**May we know your presence is always with us,
the power of your transformative love is within us,
and may we know your grace surrounds us
and is beyond us.**

**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

**Gracious God, you hold us, but in times of stress,
we fear that we are all alone.**

**We hunger for easy comfort,
even knowing that our appetite will return.**

**We aim for power over uncertainty,
forgetting that control is an illusion.**

**Forgive us for choosing distraction
to escape from chaos.**

**Bring our focus back to you, to your word,
your presence, and your child Jesus. Amen.**

(moment of silence to offer personal thoughts and concerns)

WORDS OF GRACE

God reaches out to us, eagerly drawing us close,
forgiving our sins through God’s unending grace.

In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.

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 and those given through PAR, mail or online with gratitude for what we have received. Use these gifts, and our lives, to feed and nourish, spreading your love where it is most needed. Amen.

REMAIN SEATED

HYMN 585 VU

JESUS BIDS US SHINE

(JESUS BIDS US SHINE) (Words: Susan Warner / Music: Edwin O. Excell)

Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light,
like a little candle burning in the night.
In this world of darkness, so let us shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine first of all for him;
well he sees and knows it if our light grows dim:
Jesus walks beside us to help us shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around;
many kinds of darkness in this world are found:
sin, and want and sorrow; so we must shine,
you in your small corner, and I in 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 Lillian MacMellon

Genesis 2:15–17, 3:1–7

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Psalms 32, p. 759 VU

Blessed are those who are forgiven.

(Music: Memmington ms., 17th century; harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward)

R Be glad in God you righteous.

Rejoice, O saints, rejoice.

Blessed are those whose offences are forgiven,
whose sin has been put away.

**Blessed are those to whom God imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.. R**

When I kept silence, my body wasted away,
while I groaned all the day long.

**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my strength dried up as in a summer drought.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I did not hide.

**I said: “I will confess my sins to God”;
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Therefore let all the faithful pray to you in time of trouble;

when great floodwater rises, it shall not come near them.

You are a hiding place for me, you will preserve me from trouble;
you will surround me with shouts of deliverance. R

I will teach you, and guide you in the way you should go.

I will keep you under my eye and instruct you.

Be not like a horse or mule, without understanding,

whose course must be checked with bit and bridle.

Many pains are in store for the wicked,

but whoever trusts in God,

is surrounded by steadfast love. R

Matthew 4:1–11

The temptation of Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 115 VU *JESUS TEMPTED IN THE DESERT*

(BEACH SPRING) (Words: Herman Stuempfle / Music *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia;
harm. Ronald A. Nelson)

Jesus, tempted in the desert,
lonely, hungry, filled with dread:
“Use your power,” the tempter tells him;
“turn these barren rocks to bread!”
“Not alone by bread,” he answers,
“can the human heart be filled.
Only by the Word that calls us
is our deepest hunger stilled!”

Jesus, tempted, at the temple,
high above its ancient wall:
“Throw yourself from lofty turret;
angels wait to break your fall!”
Jesus shuns such empty marvels,
feats that fickle crowds request:
“God, whose grace protects, preserves us,
we must never vainly test.”

Jesus, tempted on the mountain
by the lure of vast domain:
“Fall before me! Be my servant!
Glory, fame, you're sure to gain!”
Jesus sees the dazzling vision,
turns his eyes another way:
“God alone deserves our homage!
God alone will I obey!”

When we face temptation's power,
lonely, struggling, filled with dread,
Christ, who knew the tempter's hour,
come and be our living bread.
By your grace, protect, preserve us
lest we fall, your trust betray.
Yours, above all other voices,
be the Word we hear, obey.

SERMON

ANTHEM

O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING

(Words: Michael Perry / Music: Gustav Holst)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(We pray for Faith Memorial Pastoral Charge)

HYMN 108 VU

(WINCHESTER NEW)

THROUGHOUT THESE LENTEN DAYS AND NIGHTS

(Words: James Gertmenian / Music: *Musikalisches Harbuck*, Hamburg; arr. W.H. Havergal)

Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.

The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,
who found in weakness greater power,
embraces us, though lost and flawed,
and leads us to his Rising Hour.

We bear the silence, cross and pain
of human burdens, human strife,
while sisters, brothers help sustain
our courage till the Feast of Life.

And though the road is hard and steep,
the Spirit ever calls us on through
Calvary's dying, dark and deep,
until we see the coming Dawn.

So let us choose the path of One
who wore, for us the crown of thorn,
and slept in death that we might wake
to life on Resurrection Morn!

Rejoice, O sons and daughters! Sing
and shout hosannas! Raise the strain!
For Christ, whose death Good Friday brings
on Easter Day will rise again!

BENEDICTION

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

GOD WILL MAKE A WAY

(Music: Don Moel; arr. Carl Seal)

During the postlude the congregation is welcome to depart.

Famished: Service Prayers for the first Sunday in Lent was written by the Rev. Ruth Garwood, a transitional pastor in the Heartland Conference, a certified facilitator of Sacred Conversations to End Racism, and a certified InterPlay leader.

***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
Earl & Joyce Seymour
 by Deborah Clarke and Kathy Seymour*

*The Church extends its deepest
 sympathies and condolences to the
 family and friends of
Kimberly “Kim” Gourley
 (mother of Tyler Gourley)
 who died on February 12, 2026*

NOTICES, UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

Feb. 22	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Sunday School - 1 st Sunday in Lent - Grocery Sunday(see note)  
Feb. 22	Sun.	1:30 p.m.	Concert, 3pm – UdeM (Sanctuary)
Feb. 23	Mon.	2:00 p.m.	UCW (monthly-Fellowship Room)

Feb. 23	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Al-Anon (weekly-Owen Fraser Hall)
Feb. 24	Tues.	7:00 p.m.	Church Council (monthly-Owen Fraser Hall)
Feb. 25	Wed.		PINK SHIRT DAY
Feb. 25	Wed.	6:15 p.m.	Sparks, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Owen Fraser Hall)
Feb. 26	Thur.	7:00 p.m.	Choir (weekly-Choir Loft/Fellowship Room)
Feb. 26	Thur.	7:15 p.m.	Pathfinders, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Social Hall)
Mar. 1	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Sunday School - 2 nd Sunday in Lent - Worship Leader: Rev. Mary MacPherson 
Mar. 1	Sun.	12:30 p.m.	Trustees Committee (Norman Sinclair Room)
Mar. 6	Fri.	 2:00 p.m.	World Day of Prayer Service at St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, 28 Woolridge St., Riverview.
Mar. 8	Sun.	2:00 am	
Mar. 8	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Sunday School - 3 rd Sunday in Lent 
Mar. 14	Sat.	 6:30 p.m.	St. Paddy's Day at St. Johns: Kitchen Party! A fun-filled evening of singing and music. Bring your instruments and join in the fun! (Social Hall - basement) 

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.

2025 TAX RECEIPTS are ready for pick up at the front of the Sanctuary at Sunday morning Worship and on weekdays Monday-Friday, 9am-1pm at the church office. If you do not receive your receipt, please send us an email or give the office a call. Thank you to all who supported the work of St. John's United Church.

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.



GROCERY SUNDAY FOR KARING KITCHEN

(Feb. 22 – 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 hot dogs. *White baskets will be at the main entrance for your donations.* Thank you.



The **PASTORAL CARE & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** needs volunteers for the various roles and activities the committee undertakes. If you would like to help or for more information, speak to Valerie Roy or contact the church office.

DEDICATE THE BULLETIN/PASTORAL LETTER in memory of a loved one(s). The cost is \$50.00. Upcoming dates available: June 7, 2026 and Jan. 10, 2027. If you dedicated last year, you will be contacted to see if you want to dedicate again.

STEWARDSHIP SECOND – Recognizing the pull of social media and non-stop advertising, when we make faithful purchasing decisions, our identity changes from consumers to stewards.

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

Greeters & Offering

South Door – Alma St
Debbie Creaghan

North Door – Victoria St.
Stacey & Chris McQueen

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



LENT