

5th Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026



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

75 Alma Street, Moncton, NB E1C 4Y3

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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

THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD

(Music: Franklin L. Sheppard)

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

MISSION & SERVICE STORY

Read by Kathleen MacIsaac

- The Heart of Winter

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

O God whose voice cannot be silenced by injustice,
we come into this moment carrying the weight of our days—
the strain we feel in our bodies,
the struggle we witness in our neighbours,
the burdens that press on our shared life.

Draw near to us now.

Gather our scattered breath.

Steady our trembling places.

Kindle in us a courage that does not look away.

You are the One who refuses empty rituals
and meets us instead in acts of mercy,
in the work of lifting burdens,
in the rebuilding of what has been harmed.

Open us now—

open our hearts to compassion,

open our imaginations to repair,

open our hands to the work of freeing one another.

Let this time be honest,
let this gathering be brave,
and let your Spirit move among us
with the power to uproot what harms
and to plant what heals.

We are here. Speak to us. Lead us.

Remake us for your justice and joy.

**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.)

HYMN 325 VU *CHRIST IS MADE THE SURE FOUNDATION*

(WESTMINSTER ABBEY) (Words: Latin 7th century; trans John Mason Neale /
Music: Henry Purcell; adapt. Ernest Hawkins; desc. W. Herbert Belyea)

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious, binding all the church in one;
holy Zion’s help for ever, and its confidence alone.

To this temple where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, today;
with your faithful loving-kindness
hear your servants as they pray;
and your fullest benediction shed within its walls away.

Here bestow on all your servants what they ask of you to gain;
what they gain from you for ever with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.

Laud and honour to the Father, laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit, ever three and ever one,
one in might, and one in glory, while unending ages run.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Calling Presence who knows our hidden places,
we admit that we have not always chosen
the path that frees.**

**We have stayed silent when truth asked for our voice;
we have protected our comfort
when compassion asked for our hands;
we have waited for others to do the work
you entrusted to us.**

**Loosen our resistance, lift the habits that keep us
from seeing one another clearly,
and break the patterns that bind us to what harms.**

Teach us the courage to act with mercy.

Teach us the discipline of repair.

**Teach us the way of releasing what we cling to
so that others may breathe more easily.**

**Let this moment mark a turning—
a turning toward your justice,
a turning toward your tenderness,
a turning toward the shared life you imagine for us.**

In your grace, make us new. Amen.

(moment of silence to offer personal thoughts and concerns)

WORDS OF GRACE

Words of Grace

Hear the good news:

The One who calls us out in truth, meets us not with shame,
but with mercy that lifts what is heavy
and compassion that steadies our steps.

When we turn toward justice, God healing begins working in us.
When we loosen what harms, God loosens the weight within us.
When we offer ourselves to repair, God says to us, "Here I am."

In this promise, receive your freedom.
In this grace, begin again. 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

**God of the whole and the broken,
we give thanks for every gift offered today—
for open hands, willing hearts,
and the courage to imagine a shared life made whole.
Bless what we have brought.**

**Let it move where relief is needed,
where repair can begin, where dignity can rise.
Make these gifts more than generosity—
make them instruments of justice,
seeds of compassion,
signs that your vision is taking root among us.
For every burden lifted, for every neighbour tended,
for every act of mercy made possible,
we give you thanks.
Carry us forward in this work
with gratitude deep enough
to shape the world we are building together. Amen.**

REMAIN SEATED

HYMN 87 VU *I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD*

(LIGHT OF THE WORLD) (Words / Music: Jim Strathee)

*"I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!"
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.*

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun! *R*

To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal that broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below the sky above! *R*

To free the prisoner from his chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength and good will,
to see God's children everywhere! *R*

To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth! *R*

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 Elsa Sage

1 Corinthians 2:1–12

Wisdom through God's Spirit.

Psalms 112, p. 834 VU

Delight in God's commandments.

(Music: Samuel Webbe)

R The just shall trust in God alone.

Blessed are those who fear God,
who greatly delight in God's commandments,
Their descendants will be mighty in the land,
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
Riches and plenty shall be in their house,
their righteousness enduring forever.
They are a light in the darkness for the upright,

being gracious, compassionate and just.
**It goes well with those who lend generously,
who conduct their affairs with justice. R**

For the righteous will never be shaken;
they will be kept in remembrance for ever.

**They will not live in fear of bad news;
with resolute heart they trust in God.**

Their heart is steady, they do not fear;
in the end they will see their enemies' downfall.

**They distribute freely to the poor,
their righteousness enduring forever;
they will hold up their heads in honour. R**

Matthew 5:13–20

You are salt; you are light.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 581 VU

WHEN WE ARE LIVING

(SOMOS DEL SEÑOR) (Words: Spanish anon.; trans. Elise S. Eslinger, Roberto Escamilla;
trans. George Lockwood / Music: Spanish melody; harm. Carlton R. Young)

When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.

Both in our living and in our dying
we belong to God, we belong to God.

Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.

When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind,
but when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

SERMON

ANTHEM

DO NOT FEAR, FOR YOU ARE MINE

(Words: Herb Frombach; based on Isaiah 43 / Music: David Lantaz III)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(We pray for Andover-Kincardine Pastoral Charge)

HYMN 333 VU *LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING*

(HYFRYDOL) (Words: Charles Wesley / Music: Rowland Huw Prichard)

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver; let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

BENEDICTION

May the Way, Truth and Life go with you,
the Presence that unsettles what must change
and steadies what must endure.

Let the weight on your shoulders grow lighter,
not by forgetting it, but by letting others walk beside you.

Carry within you a courage that listens deeply,
an imagination wide enough to rebuild ruins,
and a tenderness fierce enough to unlearn every habit of harm.

And as you go—into streets that need mending
and neighbourhoods aching for breath—

may you hear the Holy murmur “Here I am”
in every shared burden, in every act of mercy,
in every small unraveling of the yoke.

Go in boldness.

Go in gentleness.

Go in the sacred work of making all things whole. Amen.

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

PRELUDE ON "HYFRYDOL"

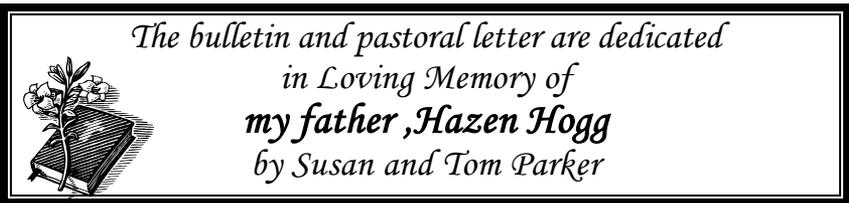
(Music: Healey Willan)

During the postlude the congregation is welcome to depart.

Remove the Yoke: Service Prayers for Epiphany 5A was written by Rev. Michael

Anthony Howard, who serves as the Minister of Faith in Action for the Living Water Association, Ohio NorthEast, of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ. Michael's work supports congregations as they weave theology, justice, and place-based ministry into faithful action that bears prophetic witness to God's dwelling among us.

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



February is Black History Month in Canada, a time to honour the historical and present contributions of peoples of African descent. This is a time for congregations to make a commitment to becoming more culturally sensitive, racially inclusive, and justice-conscious. Please join us in our work as a

church to combat racism, embrace diversity, and to support the work being done by people of colour here in our church, in Moncton, and beyond.

NOTICES, UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

Feb. 8	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Sunday School
Feb. 9	Mon.	7:00 p.m.	Al-Anon (weekly-Owen Fraser Hall)
Feb. 10	Tues.	2:00 p.m.	Friendship Group – We will be having a games day. So bring your games and your hearts for an afternoon of laughs and love. (board games, card games, etc.). (monthly-Fellowship Room) 
Feb. 11	Wed.	6:15 p.m.	Sparks, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Owen Fraser Hall)
Feb. 12	Thur.	7:00 p.m.	Choir (weekly-Choir Loft/Fellowship Room)
Feb. 12	Thur.	7:15 p.m.	Pathfinders, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Social Hall)
Feb. 13	Fri.	10:30 a.m.	Worship with the Rev. Aaron Billard at Royal Court Chapel , 6 th 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.
Feb. 14	Sat.		
Feb. 15	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Sunday School - Transfiguration Sunday
Feb. 15	Sun.	12:45p.m.	Worship & Music Committee (monthly-Norman Sinclair Room)
Feb. 16	Mon.		Church closed – Family Day
Feb. 17	Tues.		<i>Shrove</i> <i>Tuesday</i> 
Feb. 17	Tues.		Deadline to submit reports to the church office to be included in the 2025 Annual Report.
Feb. 17	Tues.	7:00 p.m.	Wings. Divine Vuguziga will share "My experiences from Rwanda to Canada". As February is "Black History Month" in Canada, this is also

			an opportunity to learn about one person's history. We expect to have childcare that evening if you require it (let us know).
Feb. 18	Wed.	.	Ash Wednesday 
Feb. 18	Wed.	7:00 p.m.	Finance & Property Management Committee (monthly-Norman Sinclair Room)
Feb. 20	Fri.	6-9pm	Rehearsal – UdeM (Sanctuary)
Feb. 21	Sat.	9-12:30pm	Rehearsal – UdeM (Sanctuary)
Feb. 22	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Sunday School - First Sunday in Lent  LENT  - Grocery Sunday
Feb. 22	Sun.	1:30 p.m.	Concert, 3pm – UdeM (Sanctuary)
Feb. 23	Mon.	2:00 p.m.	UCW (monthly-Fellowship Room)
Feb. 24	Tues.	7:00 p.m.	Church Council (monthly-Owen Fraser Hall)
Feb. 25	Wed.		PINK SHIRT DAY
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!

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 to let us know you are worshipping with us.

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.

Please take our CONGREGATIONAL ENGAGEMENT SURVEY 1, Jan. 25 – Feb 11

Your Worship and Music Committee is working to “Strengthening our Invitation” at St. John’s United Church. Please take our anonymous congregational survey – your input will help us improve our worship experience. We will be sharing a summary of the results. You can respond from your phone or from a computer. We look forward to hearing from you!

Click on this link [Congregational Survey 1](#) or go to <https://forms.gle/6nuornC88RvHWtta9>

Note: your email address will be visible to you as you take the survey, however, it is **not** collected as part of the survey.

To use the QR code shown in the Sunday bulletins (and below), simply:

1. open your camera app
2. point the phone at the QR code, as if you were taking a picture of it
3. a link will appear, simply touch this on your screen
4. the survey will appear.



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 and Sept. 9, 2026 and Jan. 10, 2027. If you dedicated last year, you will be contacted to see if you want to dedicate again.

STEWARDSHIP SECOND – Incredible things—God-inspired things—will happen when we learn to live the way of generosity and grace.

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
Lynda Leclerc

North Door – Victoria St.
Valerie Roy

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