



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

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[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**

**GREAT IS THE LORD**

(Music: Michael W. Smith and Deborah D. Smith)

**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**

- Preserving Culture through Language Revitalization

Read by Nancy Black

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, you who are weary, you who have been bruised by life,  
you whose flame has flickered in the winds of the world.

### **We come, longing to be renewed.**

The Holy One who stretches out the heavens,  
stretching our hearts toward courage,  
our hands toward compassion, our lives toward justice.

### **We open ourselves to new life.**

A voice from heaven says to us, as it said to Jesus:  
You are my beloved. This Spirit rests upon us, too.

### **We are God's Beloved, called to bring justice.**

Come, let us remember who we are.

### **Let us worship God with joy.**

## HYMN 135 MV *CALLED BY EARTH AND SKY*

(WILD MOUNTAIN THYME) (Words: Ruth Duck / Music: traditional melody)

*Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.*

*This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,  
called by earth and sky.*

Precious these waters, endless seas, deep ocean's dream,  
waters of healing, rivers of rain, the wash of love again. *R*

Precious this gift, the air we breathe; wind-born and free.  
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,  
our gathering and our grace. *R*

Precious these mountains, ancient sands; vast fragile land.  
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,  
Creation's faithful song. *R*

Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning day.  
Fire of passion, sorrows undone, our faith and justice one. *R*

*Called by earth and sky; called by earth and sky.*

## PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

### **Let us pray.**

**Holy One, Breath of Creation,  
You stretched out the heavens and  
set the earth dancing with life.**

**You whispered belovedness  
over Jesus rising from the Jordan,  
and your Spirit rested upon him like a gentle dove.  
Rest your Spirit upon us now.  
Stretch our hearts where they have grown closed.  
Soften the places that have been hardened  
by fear or disappointment.  
Wake the embers of joy  
that still glow beneath the ash.  
Remind us that we are your Beloved,  
not because of what we have done,  
but because of who  
You are and the love that holds us.  
As we gather at the water today,  
let us remember who we are,  
and who we are becoming together—  
your people of compassion, courage, and justice.  
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.)**

## **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, bless now these gifts and  
those offered through PAR, online, or mail that they**

**might be shared without partiality, among the good and the bad, the rich and the poor, the just and the unjust, the faithful and the unfaithful. Remind us that in giving freely as you do, O God, we embody your own self-giving nature. Thanks be to you. Amen.**

REMAIN SEATED

## **HYMN 644 VU**

(WATERLIFE) (Words: John Ylvisaker / Music: John Ylvisaker)

### ***I WAS THERE TO HEAR YOUR BORNING CRY***

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 borning 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 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 Roland Gallant

**Isaiah 42:1–9**

God's servant brings justice.

**Psalm 29, p. 756 VU**

Ascribe to God all glory and strength.

(Music: Winnagene Hatch)

**Refrain spoken only, not sung.**

*R: Glory, glory, glory to our God.*

Ascribe to God, you powers of the heaven,  
ascribe to God all glory and strength!

**Ascribe due honour to God's holy name,  
and worship in the beauty of holiness. R**

God's voice is over the waters --  
God's glory thundering across the great waters.

**God's voice is power, God's voice is full of majesty.**

God's voice shatters the cedars,  
splinters the cedars of Lebanon.

**God's voice makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
Mount Hermon stampede like a wild young bull.**

God's voice forks into tongues of fire,  
God's voice shakes the wilderness,  
sets trembling the wilderness of Kadesh.

**God's voice causes the oaks to whirl,  
stripping the forest bare;  
and in the temple all cry: Glory! R**

God sits enthroned above the waters,  
**God is enthroned as sovereign forever.**

You give strength to your people, O God.

**Now give to your people the blessing of peace. R**

**Matthew 3:13–17**

Jesus is baptized.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN 442 VU **WASH, O GOD, OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS**

(BEACH SPRING) (Words: Ruth Duck / Music: attrib. Benjamin Franklin White; harm. Ronald A. Nelson)

Wash, O God, our sons and daughters,  
where your cleansing waters flow.  
Number them among your people;

bless as Christ blessed long ago.  
Weave them garments bright and sparkling;  
compass them with love and light.  
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.  
  
We who bring them long for nurture;  
by your milk may we be fed.  
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.  
God, renew us, guide our footsteps;  
free from sin and all its snares,  
one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.  
  
O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your Ways!  
To your name be glory, honour!  
With our lives we worship, praise!  
We your people stand before you,  
water-washed and Spirit-born.  
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!

## SERMON

**ANTHEM** *10,000 REASONS* (Words / Music: Mat Redman)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(We pray for Sackville Pastoral Charge)

**HYMN 626 VU** *I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY*  
(KINGSFOLD) (Words: Horatius Bonar / Music: English and Irish traditional melody)

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."  
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.  
  
I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give  
the living water; thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."  
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.  
  
I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."  
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done.

## BENEDICTION

Beloved of God,

you are the ones upon whom the Spirit rests.

You are the ones God delights in.

You are the ones called to bring justice to the world.

Go now as people who have passed again through the waters—  
washed in mercy, renewed in courage,  
and opened wide in compassion.

Let your tenderness be your strength, and your joy be your witness.

For nothing—

nothing in life or in death,

nothing in the heights or the depths,

nothing in the world as it is

or in the world as it is becoming—

can separate you from the love of God.

Go in peace, to love and to live,

in the name of the Creator, the Christ,

and the Spirit who makes all things new.

**Amen.**

## 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.

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*(This is great opportunity to welcome new members  
to our church and get to know one another.)*

**POSTLUDE**

*WELL WITH MY SOUL*

(Music: Philip Bliss)

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

**Stretched Them Out: Service Prayers for The Baptism of Christ/Epiphany 1A**

was written by Rev. Michael Anthony Howard who serves as Minister of Faith in Action for Living Water Association, Ohio North East.

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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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**NOTICES, UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

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

Jan. 11	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	<b>WORSHIP and Sunday School</b> - Music Director: Lorilee Redmond
Jan. 11	Sun.	12:45 p.m.	<b>Worship &amp; Music Committee</b> (Norman Sinclair Room)
Jan. 12	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Al-Anon (weekly-Owen Fraser Hall)
Jan. 13	Tues.	7:00 p.m.	<b>Wings</b> (Norman Sinclair Room)
Jan. 15	Thur.	7:00 p.m.	<b>Choir</b> (weekly-Choir Loft/Fellowship Room)
Jan. 15	Thur.	7:15 p.m.	Pathfinders, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Social Hall)
Jan. 18	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	<b>WORSHIP and Sunday School</b>
Jan. 18-25			<b>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</b> 
Jan. 20	Tues.	7:00 p.m.	<b>Finance &amp; Property Management Committee</b> (monthly-Owen Fraser Hall)
Jan. 25	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	 <b>WORSHIP and Sunday School</b> - Kirkan' O' the Tartans - wear your tartan or bring your colours - Grocery Sunday (see note) 
Jan. 27	Tues.	7:00 p.m.	<b>Church Council</b> (monthly-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.



**THANK YOU** to Tom Moynihan and Susan Reid for helping to take down the Christmas decorations. *Pat Arsenault*

**WE WISH TO THANK** those folk who joined us in the Choir for Christmas Season. It is wonderful to have you! *St. John's Choir*

## **GROCERY SUNDAY FOR KARING KITCHEN**

**(Jan. 25 – 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.



**DEDICATE THE BULLETIN/PASTORAL LETTER** in memory of a loved one(s). The cost is \$50.00. Upcoming dates available: Jan. 25, June 7, Sept. 9, Oct. 18, 2026 and Jan. 10, 2027. If you dedicated last year, you will be contacted to see if you want to dedicate again.

**STEWARSHIP SECOND** – No matter what our background, our culture, our race, our identity, when we do what is right, we are all acceptable to God. May our gratitude overflow into generosity!

**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*  
Bruce & Susan MacLeod

*North Door – Victoria St.*  
Ralph Smith

**CHURCH MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND STAFF**



Rev. Aaron Billard, *Minister*  
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