

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

June 21, 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](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.**

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**

*MENUET GOTHIQUE*

(Music: Boëllmann)

**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** (inspired by Psalm 86)

The Holy One is great and does marvelous things. Delight in God!

**The Holy One gladdens the soul. We lift them up!**

In the day of trouble, we call on Comforter and Protector,  
Counselor and Provider, Companion and Peace.

**The Holy One soothes the soul.**

**We call upon their name!**

The Gracious and Eternal God  
gives ear to our prayers and listens to our cries.

**The Holy One hears the soul.**

**We turn to our God in hope and faith!**

**HYMN 296 VU     *THIS IS GOD'S WONDROUS WORLD***

(TERRA BEATA) (Words: Maltbie Davenport Babcock /  
Music: English traditional melody; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, Stanley Oliver)

This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.

This is God's wondrous world; I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,  
God's hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world: the birds their carols raise;  
the morning light, the lily white,  
declare their Maker's praise.

This is God's wondrous world: God shines in all that's fair;  
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,  
God's voice speaks everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world: O let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.

This is God's wondrous world: why should my heart be sad?  
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:  
God reigns, let earth be glad!

**PRAYER OF APPROACH**

**Merciful and Compassionate God,  
we come into your presence.**

**Be near to us as we draw closer to you.**

**Be near to us even when we have doubts, have given  
up hope, and have been overwhelmed by our fears.**

**Be near to us as we sing, pray, give, and receive.**

**We praise you for your goodness and  
worship you for who you are.**

**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**

**Listening God, we acknowledge that you know us. You are familiar with our attitudes, behaviour, and character. You ground us in the fertile soil of your love. Yet, we confess that at times, we feel rooted in sand. We observe our life circumstances, and hope may collapse under despair, fear may overcome courage, and uncertainty drives out faith. Help us, O God, when we cry out and when we don’t. Speak to us so that your message drowns out any other voice, including our own, that believes less for us than your promises offer. Do a new thing in us, for us, and through us. Amen.**

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

## **WORDS OF GRACE**

Beloved, the Holy One has observed, received, and acknowledged your need and your hope. In Christ, new life has been revealed, opened, and modeled for you. By Spirit, the Holy One leads us into renewing and transformative life. This is God’s will for each and all of us. The love and strength of God will sustain us through every trial and propel us through our journey of hope, healing, and wholeness.

## **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**

**Holy One, thank you for the privilege of giving.**

**Bless these gifts and those who give.**

**Enable us to trust and participate in your abundance.**

**Extend wisdom and discernment as we allocate these offerings. Expand our reach and impact for your kingdom and glory. Amen.**

REMAIN SEATED

## **HYMN 453 VU      *OUT OF DEEP, UNORDERED WATER***

(BALGEMANN) (Words: Fred Kaan / Music: Ron Klusmier)

Out of deep, unordered water  
God created land and life;  
world of bird and beast, and later,  
twosome people, husband, wife.

*There is water in the river bringing life to tree and plant.  
Let creation praise its giver: there is water in the font.*

Water on the human forehead,  
birthmark of the love of God,  
is the sign of death and rising;  
through the sea there runs a road. *R*

Standing round the font reminds us  
of the Hebrews' climb ashore.  
Life is hallowed by the knowledge:  
God has been this way before. *R*

## **A NEW CREED, p. 918 VU**

We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.  
We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God,

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

## **THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

### Statement of Purpose

Read by Sheri Brooks

Hear this record of Jesus' radical concern for welcoming children: People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might bless them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does *not* receive the kingdom of God like a little child will not enter it." And Jesus took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

### Presentation

by Sheri Brooks

On behalf of the congregation of St. John's United Church, I present the following person for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism:

*Mckenzie Joy Gunn*

*daughter of Sarah Seymour & Matthew Gunn*

### Profession of Faith and Promises

Sarah and Matthew, do you believe in one God:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

*We do.*

Desiring the freedom of new life, do you seek  
to be people of justice, and to live in love as a family?

*We do.*

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ?

*We will.*

Will you join with the people of St. John's United Church to share in the life, work, and ministry of Jesus Christ?

*We will.*

Congregational Commitment (*please stand as you are able*)

Let us pledge to these persons our support and care.

**As St. John's United Church, a baptized and baptizing people, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within the community of faith.**

May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism.

**Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give our thanks to God.

**It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life, and, within it, the gift of water. Over its unshaped promise, your Spirit hovered at creation.

Here in Moncton, we are a Maritime people, where flows the Petitcodiac River each day. Around the world, people are without clean water in this very moment. We recognize the sacrament of baptism as a time of lifting up and pouring out; so in this moment we lift up those without, and we pour out our prayers for our world, and for our part in the cause of, and solution for, its problems.

By water, comes the growth of the earth.

Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom.

In the waters of the Jordan your child Jesus was baptized.

Pour out, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon this water, that this font may become a source of new life, a source of grace, and a source of blessing.

We claim the joy of water

and the way it sustains and nourishes us.

**Let it flow and pour for all people,  
that all may know each day, the gift of life in water.**

These stories remind us that water is a blessing  
and the source and strength of life.

Without it, humanity and all that is created could not survive.

Our stories also remind us that God's way is the way  
of compassion and love.

God's love, like a shower of rain in drought, awakens the sleeping  
seed within the soul and lures it to blossom.

*(The water is poured into the font)*

So let's give thanks for this love that reaches out to us,  
in what we say and do in love for this child,  
whom we are welcoming into our midst.

*Mckenzie Joy Gunn*, I baptize you in the name of the  
Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessing

May God bless you, and keep you,  
and may God's face shine upon you all the days of your life.

UCW Presentation

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Read by Jill Baycroft

**Genesis 21:8–21**

Hagar and Ishmael sent away.

**Psalms 86, p. 803 VU**

Turn your ear to me, O God.

(Music: Lydia Pedersen)

**Refrain spoken only, not sung.**

*R: In the day of my trouble*

*I will call unto you for you will answer me.*

Turn your ear to me, O God, and answer me,  
for I am poor and in misery.

**Preserve my life for I am faithful;  
save your servant for I trust in you.**

Be merciful to me, my lord, for I call to you all day long.

**Gladden the heart of your servant,  
for to you I lift up my soul.**

For you, my lord, are good and forgiving,  
and great in mercy to all who call on you.

**Give heed, O God, to my prayer,**

**and listen to my cry of supplication. R**

Among the gods there is none like you, my lord,  
nor can the deeds of any be compared to yours.

**All the nations you have made shall come  
and bow before you.**

They shall glorify your name, my lord,  
**for you are great and do marvellous things;  
you alone are God. R**

Turn to me then, and have mercy;  
give your strength to your servant.

**Save your handmaiden's child;  
give me a sign of your favour!**

Then those who hate me will see and be ashamed,  
**for you, God, have helped and comforted me. R**

**Matthew 10:24–39**

Discipleship: Lose your life to find it.

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

## SOLO

### CARE FOR MY LAMBS

Sheri Brooks

(Words: Louise Jamieson. / Music: Lee Herrington)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(We pray for Central Queens Pastoral Charge)

## HYMN 580 VU

### FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

(ST CATHERINE) (Words: Frederick W. Faber, Joseph R. Alfred / Music: Henri Frederick Hemy)

Faith of our fathers, living still  
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword;  
O how our hearts beat high with joy,  
whene'er we hear that glorious word:  
faith of our fathers, holy faith, we will be true to you till death.

Faith of our mothers, daring faith,  
your work for Christ is love revealed,  
spreading God's word from pole to pole,  
making love known and freedom real:  
faith of our mothers, holy faith, we will be true to you till death.

Faith of our sisters, brothers too,  
who still must bear oppression's might,  
raising on high, in prisons dark,  
the cross of Christ still burning bright:  
faith for today, O living faith, we will be true to you till death.

Faith born of God, O call us yet; bind us with all who follow you,  
sharing the struggle of your cross until the world is made anew.  
Faith born of God, O living faith, we will be true to you till death.

## BENEDICTION

As you go,  
Speak up for the marginalized  
Give voice to injustice  
Express cares and concerns of your own household  
Make a joyful, hopeful, and grateful noise  
And remember that the Still Speaking God is also Still Listening

# 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

### MINUET

(Music: Boëllmann)

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

**And God Heard: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Year A**  
was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology  
for the United Church of Christ.

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***You are invited to join us in the Owen Fraser Hall  
for a time of fellowship, refreshments and  
cake to celebrate Mckenzie's baptism.***

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*The bulletin and pastoral letter are dedicated  
in Loving Memory of  
**Ralph & Lois MacDonald  
and John MacDonald**  
by The MacDonald Family*




*The Church extends its deepest  
sympathies and condolences to the  
family and friends of  
**Margaret "Peggy" Lockhart**  
(wife of Leonard "Len" Lockhart)  
who died on June 16, 2026*

## **MEMORIAL**

*Donations have been made to  
St. John's United Church in memory of  
**Margaret "Peggy" Lockhart**  
(wife of Leonard "Len" Lockhart)  
by Kimberley & Luiz de Jesus*

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

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

June 21	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	<b>WORSHIP</b> - Baptism - No Sunday School	
June 21	Sun.	1:00 p.m.	Piano Concert, 1:30-3:30 p.m. – Do-Re-Mi Music School (Sanctuary)	
June 22	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Al-Anon (weekly-Owen Fraser Hall)	
June 23	Tues.	7:00 p.m.	<b>Finance &amp; Property Management Committee</b> (monthly-Owen Fraser Hall)	
June 25	Thur.	6:00 p.m.	NB ACORN (Owen Fraser Hall)	
June 28	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	<b>WORSHIP</b> - No Sunday School - Grocery Sunday (see note)	
June 29 - July 30			<b>St. John's UC closed for vacations</b> (see note)	
July 1				
Aug. 2	Sun.	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b> (note time change) - Guest Worship Leader: Jon Gibson - Music Director: Lorilee Redmond	
Aug. 3	Mon.		<b>Church closed</b> – NB Day	

*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](mailto:stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com) to let us know you are worshipping with us.



## **GROCERY SUNDAY FOR KARING KITCHEN**

(June 28 – last Sunday of the month)

The Outreach Committee would like to bring your attention to the Karing Kitchen’s need for these groceries: corn starch, soda crackers, honey garlic sauce, flakes of ham and flakes of chicken. *White baskets will be at the main entrance for your donations.* Thank you.



## **SJUC CLOSED FOR VACATIONS, JUNE 29-JULY 30**

This includes Sundays (no Worship), July 5, 12, 19 & 26.



During the month of the July, there will be no in-person or online worship services offered. We recommend that you visit local churches or churches across Canada and the world online.

The church telephone and mail will be checked regularly.

The church office re-opens on July 31, 2025.

Summer Sunday Worship will resume on August 2. Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. during the month of August and continues until after the Labour Day weekend in September.

For emergency pastoral care during Aaron’s vacation, please listen to the message on the church telephone. Rev. Aaron will be away; however, he will be on call for any requirement for care such as hospitalizations or deaths. If you need to be in touch with him,

please contact him directly by text or calling at 506-850-2621. This is only for emergencies.

Worship will return to regular start time of 11:00 a.m. on Sept. 13. Many of our expenses don't take a vacation during the summer months, so please REMEMBER TO CONTINUE TO MAKE YOUR DONATIONS REGULARLY THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER MONTHS. You may do this through e-transfer ([stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com)), PAR, e-transfer or cheques (may be post-dated) left at the office or drop your donation in the church mail slot. Many thanks to you who do contribute regularly.

**SUMMER SERVICES INFORMATION**

Church	July Service Time	August Service Time
Central United	CLOSED & Aug 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	Open 10:30AM (Aug 16 <sup>th</sup> )
Sackville United	Open 10:30 am	Open 10:30 am
Hillsborough	Open 10 am	CLOSED
Mountain View	Open 10 am	Open 10 am
Mount Royal	Open 10:30 am	CLOSED
St. John's	CLOSED	Open & Sept 6 <sup>th</sup> 10 am
St. Paul's	CLOSED	Open 10 am
Trinity United	CLOSED	CLOSED

**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.

**STEWARDSHIP SECOND** – Our gifts are part of God's answer to those who cry out in distress.

**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*  
Lynda Leclerc

*North Door – Victoria St.*  
Andrew Donald

**CHURCH MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND STAFF**



Rev. Aaron Billard, *Minister*  
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*Music Director*



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