

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025



The United Church of Canada  
75 Alma Street, Moncton, NB E1C 4Y3  
506-858-8289 [sjuc@nb.aibn.com](mailto:sjuc@nb.aibn.com) [www.stjohnsmoncton.ca](http://www.stjohnsmoncton.ca)  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/16465565858>  
Office Hours: M-F, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

## A warm welcome is extended to all.

Nursery service for infants and toddlers is available in the nursery on the second floor.

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**      *JESU, JOY OF MAN'S DESIRING*      (Music: Bach)  
*AMAZING GRACE*      (Music: Virginia Harmony; setting John Carter)

**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

When the world around me is disturbing, where do I turn?

**A psalmist says,**

**“The Lord is my light and my salvation.”**

When I am afraid, what can I count on?

**“The Lord is a fortress protecting my life.”**

We gather in the light of God's protection.

**We come to pray, praise and sing.**

**Let us worship God together!**

## **HYMN 651 VU**

## **GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH**

(CWM RHONDDA) (Words: English trans. Peter Williams & William Williams / Music: John Hughes)

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty, hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield,  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee, I will ever give to thee.

## **PRAYER OF APPROACH ~**

**Gracious God, prepare us to receive your presence.  
May our eyes behold you in those around us.  
May our ears receive your word.  
May our hearts be open to your teaching and leading.  
In this precious moment,  
may we know you in new ways.  
We pray in the words Jesus taught us, saying,  
“Our Father...Amen.” (960 VU)**

## **PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

**Loving Protector, in times of chaos, we can be startled by sudden declarations, distracted by claims of solutions to problems. Forgive us, God, for our wandering from you. Forgive us, when our own fears draw other people's attention away from you.**

**Help us to act, not from anxiety, but from faith in your certain presence. Help us to slow down and recognize you within and around us. Amen.**

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

## **WORDS OF GRACE**

No matter how far from God our resistance takes us, God wishes to draw us back, as deliberately as a hen gathers her brood under her wings. Receive God's embrace and this good news: 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 Holy God, your foolishness is wiser than our wisdom and your weakness is stronger than our strength. We give these gifts, those given through PAR, mail and online, as an act of faith in your care and of rebellion against an economy that devours and destroys. Thank you for this opportunity to raise up a new way. Amen.**

## **HYMN 703 VU**

### ***IN THE BULB THERE IS A FLOWER***

*(PROMISE) (Words / Music Natalie Sleeth)*

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see

## 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 Judy Chase

### Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18

God seals the covenant with Abram and Sarai.

### Psalms 27, p. 754 VU

God is my light and my salvation.

(Music: Jeremiah Clarke)

*R God is my light and saving health, I shall not be afraid.*

God is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear?

**God is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?**

When the wicked close in to devour me,

**it is they, my enemies and my foes, who stumble and fall.**

If an army should encamp against me,

my heart shall not be afraid;

**if war should arise against me,**

**even then I will no be dismayed. R**

One thing I have asked of God, for which I long:

that I may dwell in God's house all the days of my life,

**to gaze on your beauty, O God,**

**and to seek you in your temple.**

For in the time of trouble you will give me shelter;

**you will hide me under the cover of your tent,**

**you will set me high upon a rock.**

And now you have raised my head  
above my enemies round about me.

**Therefore I will offer in your dwelling**

**a sacrifice with great gladness. R**

Hear my voice, O God, when I call; have mercy and answer me.  
Your face, O God, I seek.

**Do not hide your face from me;  
do not reject your servant in anger,  
you who have been my helper.**

Do not cast me off, or forsake me, O God my saviour.

**Though my father and mother forsake me,  
my God will take me up. R**

Teach me your way, O God,

**lead me on a level path,  
safe from those who lie in wait for me.**

Do not give me up to the will of my enemies.

**for liars and false witnesses arise against me.**

I believe that I shall see God's goodness in the land of the living.

**Wait for God; be strong, and take courage;  
yes, wait for God! R**

### **Luke 13:31–35**

Jesus cries over Jerusalem as a hen over her chicks.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **HYMN 120 VU**

### ***O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED***

(DAY OF REST) (Words: John Ernest Bode / Music: James William Elliott)

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
Remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:  
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

O let me feel you near me: the world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
but, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
now speak, and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,  
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.  
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.

# SERMON

## ANTHEM

### *GOD IS SO GOOD*

(Words: Douglas E. Wagner / Music: traditional tune)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### HYMN 634 VU

#### *TO ABRAHAM AND SARAH*

(THORNBURY) (Words: Judith Fetter / Music Basil Harwood)

To Abraham and Sarah the call of God is clear,  
“Go forth and I will show you a country rich and fair.  
You need not fear the journey for I have pledged my word,  
that you shall be my people and I will be your God.”

From Abraham and Sarah arose a pilgrim race,  
dependent for their journey on God’s abundant grace;  
and in their heart was written by God this saving word:  
“that you shall be my people and I will be your God.:

We of this generation on whom God’s hand is laid,  
can journey to the future secure and unafraid,  
rejoicing in God’s goodness and trusting in this word:  
“that you shall be my people and I will be your God.

## BENEDICTION

Friends, nourished by your presence here, go boldly in the way of Jesus. Receive the blessings of God, and be sustained by the Holy Spirit, today and always.

## 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. Amen, Amen, Amen.

**Warning:** Service Prayers for the Second 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.

*Please join us in welcoming our new Church Organist  
and Music Director - Shelley Arsenault.*

Shelley brings a strong education in teaching and music, as well as a broad range of experience as organist and music director. Playing music from an early age, she attended Teacher's College before transferring to Mount Allison University, graduating with a Bachelor of Music Degree. She has served as organist at various churches and denominations throughout the region, including: Wesley Memorial United, Mount Royal United, Fort Massey United in Halifax and St. Georges Anglican here in Moncton. Shelley is a member of the Codiac Concert Band as well as the Moncton Chorale. Welcome to St. John's United Shelley!

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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 and pastoral letter are dedicated  
in Loving Memory of  
**Manning Jay**  
who passed away on **March 24, 2016**  
by Kathryn and Family*

**MEMORIAL**

*A donation has been made to  
St. John's United Church in loving memory of  
**husband, Donald MacFarlane**  
by Elizabeth*

*A donation has been made to  
St. John's Organ Repair Fund in memory of  
**Robert "Bob" MacQuarrie**  
(father of Les, Dr. Michael, Brent  
and Donald MacQuarrie)  
by St. John's Choir*

*The Church extends its deepest sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of*  
**Robert “Bob” MacQuarrie**  
*who died on March 10, 2025*

*The Church also extends its deepest sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of*  
**the Rev. Kendall Harrison**  
*who died on March 10, 2025.*







Kendall was the Regional Minister of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council and the Conference Personnel Minister of the former Maritime Conference. Many of you will have special memories of your relationship with Kendall and he will be missed by so many.

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

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

Mar. 16	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	<b>WORSHIP</b> and <b>Sunday School</b> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent	
Mar. 16	Sun.	12:30 p.m.	<b>Worship &amp; Music Committee</b> (Norman Sinclair Room)	
Mar. 17	Mon.			
Mar. 17	Mon.	4:00 p.m.	The <b>Senior Centre 1010</b> will be discussed at the upcoming Moncton City Council meeting. <i>Rev. Aaron Billard will be speaking on this initiative.</i>	
Mar. 18	Tues.	2:00 p.m.	<b>Pastoral Care Committee</b> (Owen Fraser Hall)	
Mar. 18	Tues.	7:00 p.m.	<b>Finance &amp; Property Management Committee</b> (monthly-Owen Fraser Hall)	
Mar. 19	Wed.	6:15 p.m.	Sparks, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Owen Fraser Hall)	



Mar. 19	Wed.	7:00 p.m.	<b>Choir</b> – day change (weekly-Choir Loft/Fellowship Room)
Mar. 20	Thur.	5:30 p.m.	Choeur Louisbourg - Rehearsal
Mar. 20	Thur.	7:15 p.m.	Pathfinders, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Social Hall)
Mar. 22	Sat.	8:30- 9:30 pm.	
Mar. 23	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	<b>WORSHIP</b> and <b>Sunday School</b> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent 
Mar. 24	Mon.	5:30 p.m.	7pm - Choeur Louisbourg - Concert
Mar. 25	Tues.	7:00 p.m.	<b>Council</b> (monthly-Owen Fraser Hall)
Mar. 30	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	<b>WORSHIP</b> and <b>Sunday School</b> - 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent - Grocery Sunday (see note) 
Mar. 30	Sun.		<b>Deadline for <i>Broadview</i> subscriptions and renewals.</b> (see note) 
Mar. 31	Mon.	2:00 p.m.	<b>UCW</b> (monthly-Fellowship Room)
Apr. 1	Tues.		<b>Deadline for <i>Broadview</i> special 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue.</b> (see note)
Apr. 3 & 4	Thurs. & Fri.		<b>Silent Auction &amp; Dessert Extravaganza</b> (see note) (Owen Fraser Hall & Fellowship Room)  

*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.*

**EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES** are located at each of the church entrances. If you use SJUC box offering envelopes, an Easter envelope is in your box. If you use PAR, an Easter envelope is in your PAR envelope packet.

## GROCERY SUNDAY FOR KARING KITCHEN

(Mar. 30 – 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 chicken soup, cream of celery soup, sugar, cornstarch and evaporated milk.



The Karing Kitchen has a continual need for plastic shopping & grocery bags and appreciates any extras that you bring to them. You may drop them off at the Karing Kitchen or at the Church Office. *White baskets will be at the main entrance for your donations.* Thank you.



**BROADVIEW MAGAZINE** - Now is the time to ORDER OR RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION. *Broadview* is an independent Canadian magazine featuring award-winning coverage of spirituality, justice and ethical living. Through compelling stories and engaging images, *Broadview* challenges and inspires readers seeking to live a purpose-filled life.

To order or renew your subscription, place \$30.00 payment in an envelope with your name and address in the church offering box, church mail slot, send an e-transfer, send by postal mail or contact the Church Office. Deadline is March 30, 2025.

**BROADVIEW helps people.** It connects them to the larger church community. It helps people understand their faith, their lives and their world.

## 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY BROADVIEW KEEPSAKE ISSUE



The June issue of *Broadview* will be a historic keepsake edition celebrating the United Church's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary — a once-in-a-lifetime issue filled with powerful stories, pivotal moments and reflections on the past, present and future of the church.

All current *Broadview* subscribers will receive this issue.

If you are NOT a subscriber and would like to purchase a copy of this keepsake edition for \$7:00, contact the church office.

Deadline to order is April 1, 2025.

# SILENT AUCTION & DESSERT EXTRAVAGANZA

***Come, and bring a friend!***



## Silent Auction

Choose from hundreds of items to bid on. Bids opened Friday evening and winners notified.

## Dessert Extravaganza

Eat-in or Take-Out  
\$7.50/serving  
(Includes tea/coffee.)



Thur., <b>April 3</b>	10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.	2:00 - 4:00 & 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Fri., <b>April 4</b>	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	2:00 - 4:00 p.m.



We appreciate your donation of any items - in good/working condition - that will attract bidders - i.e. hand-crafted items, needlework, paintings, china, furniture,

lamps, household items, dishes, antiques, silver, brass, copper, paintings, pictures, puzzles, collectibles, etc.

UCW ladies will be looking for **help on Monday, Mar. 31**, to bring the boxes upstairs for the Silent Auction. Please let Brenda McFarlane (506-852-3550) know if you are able to assist.

**Articles may be dropped off at the Church until April 2 on weekdays, 9am-1pm and on Sunday when you come to Worship.**



**EASTER PLANTS** – Again this Easter, plants will be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. If you wish to help us with our plant order, you may make a memorial in memory of a loved one. All memorials will be listed in the bulletin on April 20.

Cost is \$15.00 each. The deadline to have your memorial form/payment to the Church Office is Sunday, April 13.

Order forms are located at the Church main entrances.

## **BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION & TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP**

The Pastoral Care & Membership Committee, as part of its mandate, is to seek those congregants who wish baptism, to be confirmed or transfer their church membership to St. John's. If you are interested, phone or email Rev. Billard or Karen at the Church Office (506-858-8289 or [sjuc@nb.aibn.com](mailto:sjuc@nb.aibn.com)). We will be receiving new members on **Easter Sunday, April 20.**

**THE "BAKELESS BAKE SALE"** has become an annual event of the St. John's UCW. This is a very popular and highly successful project. Our little rhyme explains how it works, and we hope you will give it your support.

We appreciate any amount you may wish to donate. Please have all donations in by the end of June. Envelopes are located at the church entrance. If you use SJUC box offering envelopes, an envelope is in your box. If you use PAR, an envelope is in your PAR envelope packet. Place your donation in the offering box on a Sunday morning, mail, drop off in the mail slot or use e-transfer.

*A lot of news we have to-day  
A Bakeless Bake Sale is on the way.  
In these busy days, who wants to bake  
Pies and cookies - or even a cake?  
You'd be surprised if you counted the cost  
Of materials, heat and time you have lost.  
Cooking for a sale is extra work  
Yet nobody really wishes to shirk.  
So we've thought of a plan that's really grand  
And feel quite sure you will understand.  
In this little envelope - just for our sake -  
Please place the donation that you wish to make  
Without fuss or bother, you've done your part  
We're sure you'll give with a willing heart.  
This is the end of our little tale -  
Please wish us success with our Bakeless Bake Sale.*



**STEWARDSHIP SECOND** – It is not easy to be generous, to care for creation, and to love your neighbour when everything around you teaches greed and individualism, but stand firm.

**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)

<u>Greeters &amp; Offering</u>	
South Door – Alma St	North Door – Victoria St.
Amy Chase & Molly Chase	Judy Chase

## CHURCH MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND STAFF



Rev. Aaron Billard, *Minister*  
sjucrev@gmail.com



Shelley Arsenault  
*Music Director*



Karen Geldart  
*Office Administrator*  
sjuc@nb.aibn.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: Jennifer MacNairn; Sunday School: Sonja Webster

Finance & Property Management: Marlene Godfrey

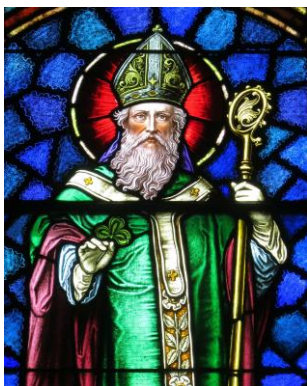
Fundy-St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region reps.: Rev. Aaron Billard,  
Kimberley Buck de Jesus and Karen Geldart

Ministry & Personnel: Kimberley Buck de Jesus

Pastoral Care & Membership: Valerie Roy

UCW: Brenda McFarlane

Worship & Music: Sheri Brooks



Happy St. Patrick's Day,  
March 17, 2025





*Easter Memorial  
Flowers*

## MEMORIAL DEDICATION FORM

Easter plants will be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. If you wish to help us with our plant order, you may make a memorial in memory of a loved one; below are ways to reach us:

- complete this form with payment and place in the offering box
- complete this form with payment and drop off in the mail slot on the Victoria St. church entrance
- complete this form with payment and mail to the church at 75 Alma St., Moncton, NB E1C 4Y3
- complete this form or provide the same details in an email to the office at [sjuc@nb.aibn.com](mailto:sjuc@nb.aibn.com) and pay by either an e-transfer, mail a cheque or drop off a cheque/cash in the church mail slot on the Victoria St. door

The cost is \$15.00 each.(tax receiptable). The deadline to have your form/payment to the Church Office is Sunday, April 13, 2025. All memorials will be listed in the bulletin on April 20.

The Easter plants will decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday and will then be delivered to our shut-ins (those on our church pastoral care shut-in list) after the service.

(Any extra proceeds go to the Chancel Fund to help cover costs associated with the Sanctuary.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Dedicated by: \_\_\_\_\_

(use back of form for additional dedications)