

3rd Sunday in Lent

March 8, 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

PANIS ANGELICUS

(Music: César Frank; arr. Ethel Tench Rogers)

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 Sheri Brooks

- PIE – Public, Intentional, Explicit Inclusion

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of sea and sky, you keep the earth flourishing.

We come before you weary

from traveling through barren lands.

Holy One, you give water that sustains body and spirit.

You hydrate us when we need, how we need.

God of abundance,

you caused a rock to crack and bring forth water.

Crack our hearts open and

let your love flow from them like a spring.

HYMN 635 VU *ALL THE WAY MY SAVIOUR LEADS ME*

(ALL THE WAY) (Words: Fanny J. Crosby / Music: Robert S. Lowry)

All the way my Saviour leads me; what have I to ask beside?

Can I doubt his tender mercy,
who through life has been my guide?

Heavenly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in him to dwell;
for I know, whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well.

All the way my Saviour leads me,
cheers each winding path I tread,
gives me grace for every trial, feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter, and my soul athirst may be,
gushing from the rock before me, lo a spring of joy I see!

All the way my Saviour leads me; O the fullness of his love!
Perfect rest to me is promised in my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed immortal,
wings its flight to realms of day,
this my song through endless ages, "Jesus led me all the way!"

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Holy One,

we are thankful for who you are and all that you are.

Your presence is desired here.

**We take joy in knowing that you are as close to us as
our next breath. We thirst for you.**

May we be filled to overflowing with your love.

**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

Enduring Presence, we confess that sometimes we question if you are among us or not.

Sometimes we quarrel with you when we are tested.

These are the moments

when our outlook needs transformation.

You are gracious in looking beyond our faults to see our needs and meet them.

Thank you for your immeasurable grace. Amen.

(moment of silence to offer personal thoughts and concerns)

WORDS OF GRACE

New mercies are granted daily and every day we have an opportunity to be changed forever and for good. 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

Fount of Blessing,

receive our gifts in the joy that we give them.

Be it time, tithe, or talent, it all comes from you.

Thank you for blessing us to be a blessing

to you and each other. Amen.

REMAIN SEATED

HYMN 117 VU

JESUS CHRIST IS WAITING

(NOEL NOUVELET) (Words: John L. Bell / Music French carol; harm. The Iona Community)

Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;
no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.

Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.
Let my care be active, healing just like you.

Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too.
On suspicion's graveyard let me dance with you.

Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,
"Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet."
Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

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 Gerrie Baycroft

Exodus 17:1-7

Water from the rock.

Psalms 95, p. 814 VU

Let us shout to the rock of our salvation.

Refrain spoken only, not sung.

*R Come, let us bow down and worship;
let us kneel before God our maker.*

Part One (1-7)

O come, let us sing to God.

let us shout with joy to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come unto God's presence with thanksgiving;
let us joyously shout to God with songs of praise. R

For you are a great God,

high sovereign above all gods.

In your hand are the depths of the earth;

to you belong the heights of the mountains.

The sea is yours, for you made it;

your hands also formed the dry land.

You are indeed our God;

we are your people, the flock that you shepherd. R

Part Two (8-11)

O that today you would listen to God's voice;

"Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah,

as on that day at Massah in the wilderness;

when your forebears tried me, and put me to the test,

though they had seen my works.

Forty years I loathed that generation, and said,

'They are a people whose hearts are perverse,

for they give no heed to my ways.'

Then, I vowed in my anger: they shall not enter my rest." R

John 4:5-42

Jesus and the Samaritan woman.

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

HYMN 642 VU

BE THOU MY VISION

(SLANE) (Words: Irish; trans. Mary Elizabeth Byrne; vers. Eleanor H. Hull /
Music Irish traditional melody)

Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

SERMON

ANTHEM

LENTEN MEDITATION

(Words / Music: May Althouse)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(We pray for Millerton Pastoral Charge)

HYMN 626 VU *I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY*

(KINGSFOLD) (Words: Horatius Bonar /
Music: English and Irish traditional melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams)

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.

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

As you depart this space, remember that the God who caused
water to flow from a rock is the same God who walks with you.
Go forth with the assurance that in the midst of a chaotic world
something good can happen and something good will happen.

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

TRUMPET TUNE IN C

(Music: David N. Johnson)

During the postlude the congregation is welcome to depart.

***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
Florence Wade
by Florence & Brian*

MEMORIAL

*A donation has been made to
St. John's United Church in memory of*

Dale Cale
by Anonymous

*A donation has been made to
St. John's Organ Fund in memory of*

Kim Gourley
by Lillian MacMellon

NOTICES, UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

Mar. 8	Sun.	2:00 am	
Mar. 8	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Sunday School - 3 rd Sunday in Lent 
Mar. 8	Sun.	12:15 p.m.	Choir Annual Meeting (Norman Sinclair Room)
Mar. 9	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Al-Anon (weekly-Owen Fraser Hall)
Mar. 10	Tues.	2:00 p.m.	Friendship Group (monthly-Fellowship Room/Owen Fraser Hall) 
Mar. 11	Wed.	6:15 p.m.	Sparks, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Owen Fraser Hall)
Mar. 12	Thur.	7:00 p.m.	Choir (weekly-Choir Loft/Fellowship Room)
Mar. 12	Thur.	7:15 p.m.	Pathfinders, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Social Hall)
Mar. 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.
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)
Mar. 15	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Sunday School - 4 th Sunday in Lent 
Mar. 15	Sun.	12:30 p.m.	SJUC Annual Meeting  (see note) (Sanctuary)
Mar. 17	Tues.		
Mar. 17	Tues.	7:00 p.m.	Finance & Property Management Committee (monthly-Owen Fraser Hall)

Mar. 21	Sat.	11:30 a.m.	Rehearsal – Scottish Assoc. (Sanctuary)
Mar. 22	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Sunday School - 5 th Sunday in Lent 
Mar. 22	Sun.	1:00 p.m.	Concert, 2pm – Scottish Assoc. (Sanctuary & Social Hall)
March 26 & 27	Thurs. & Fri.		Silent Auction & Dessert Extravaganza   (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.

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.



ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL MEETING will be held Sun., **March 15**, 2026 in the Sanctuary following Worship at 12:30 p.m. This is open to all who attend here. Come and be involved in your Church community. The

Annual Report is available on our church website www.stjohnsmoncton.ca. If you would like a printed copy, contact the Church Office. A few printed copies will be available at the meeting.

AGENDA: To facilitate discussion, we are asking that items you would like discussed be added to the Agenda prior to the meeting. Please contact the Church Office by e-mail: stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com or phone 506-858-8289 with your request by **March 11**. Thanking you in advance for your attendance and co-operation.





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, March 23**, 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 March 25 on weekdays, 9:30am-1pm and on Sunday when you come to Worship.

SILENT AUCTION & DESSERT EXTRAVAGANZA

<i>Come, and bring a friend!</i>	<u>Silent Auction</u>  Choose from hundreds of items to bid on. Bids opened Friday evening and winners notified.	<u>Dessert Extravaganza</u> Eat-in or Take-Out \$7.50/serving (Includes tea/coffee.) 
Thur., Mar. 26	10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.	2:00 - 4:00 & 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Fri., Mar. 27	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

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.

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. The Church thanks you for your support.



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 Easter Sunday, April 5.

Cost is \$15.00 each. The deadline to have your memorial form/payment to the Church Office is Sunday, **March 29.**

Order forms are located at the Church main entrances.

**BAPTISM, TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP,
PROFESSION OF FAITH AND CONFIRMATION**

The Pastoral Care & Membership Committee, as part of their mandate, is to seek those congregants who wish baptism, to transfer their church membership or become a member of to St. John’s. This requires a phone call or email to Karen at the Church Office (506-858-8289 or stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com). In case of transfer, we will contact your former church. We will receive new members on **Anniversary Sunday, Nov. 23.**

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

STEWARDSHIP SECOND – Sharing what we have—our time, our energy, our money, our belongings—spreads water on a world thirsting for justice.

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

<u>Greeters & Offering</u>	
<i>South Door – Alma St</i>	<i>North Door – Victoria St.</i>
Linda Leighton	Andrew Donald

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



International Women's Day
March 8, 2026



National Affirming/PIE Day
March 14, 2026



*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 stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com and pay by either 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, **March 29, 2026**.
All memorials will be listed in the bulletin on April 5th.

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)