

7th Sunday of Easter

May 17, 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

ICH RUF' ZU DIR, HERR JESU CHRIST

(Music: J.S. Bach; ed. Ivor Atkins)

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 68)

Let God rise up! Sing to God; lift up a song to the One who rides upon the clouds—the Holy One— be exultant before God.

Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy!

Let God rise up! Ascribe power to God, full of majesty and power.

Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God;

let them be jubilant with joy!

Let God rise up! Awesome is God in the sanctuary,
who gives power and strength to the people.

**Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God;
let them be jubilant with joy! Blessed be God!**

HYMN 232 VU *JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE YOU*

(HYMN TO JOY) (Words: Henry van Dyke / Music Ludwig van Beethoven;
adapt. Edward Hodges; desc. Hal Hopson)

Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you, centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, sound their praise eternally.

You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.

PRAYER OF APPROACH

**Holy Love, our Companion and Source, shower us with
your presence, shelter us in your sanctuary, shield us
with your peace. Open our receptivity to your word,
wisdom, and way. May our worship honour your name
and draw us nearer to you and to our neighbours. Be
glorified in our midst as we exalt your Many Names.**

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

Righteous God, you offer the newness of life and we cling to dry and desolate places. We withhold our trust and cling to the ways of the world while retreating from witnessing to your goodness in the world.

We allow hopelessness to reign in our lives and direct our attitudes and actions.

Help us, O God, to believe that resurrection is not a one-time event but a way of being we commit to living. Let the resurrected live in us transform our being, thinking, and doing in the world. Amen.

(moment of silence to offer personal thoughts and concerns)

WORDS OF GRACE

New Creation in Christ, the resurrected life is yours.

We place our hope in the assurance that, in Christ, all things are made new. Change is possible. The world we seek is ours to build, nurture, and sustain. God has given us grace and authority as well as a Companion to make a difference in the world.

Receive these gifts freely as they are given.

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

Generous God, may these gifts we bring be used to bless, to build, and to beautify through generous and faithful care. Amen.

REMAIN SEATED

HYMN 384 VU

THE LONE, WILD BIRD

(PROSPECT) (Words: Henry Richard McFadyen, Marty Haugen /
Music: *Walker's Southern Harmony*; harm. David N. Johnson)

The lone, wild bird in lofty flight
is still with you, nor leaves your sight.
And I am yours! I rest in you,
Great Spirit, come, and rest in me, too.

The ends of earth are in your hand,
the sea's dark deep and faroff land.
And I am yours! I rest in you,
Great Spirit, come, and rest in me too.

Each secret thought is known of you,
the path I walk my whole life through;
my days, my deeds, my hopes, my fears,
my deepest joys, my silent tears.

In secret depths you knit my frame,
before my birth you spoke my name;
within my soul, as close as breath,
as near to me, in life, in death.

O search me, God, my heart reveal,
renew my life, my spirit heal;
for I am yours, I rest in you,
Great Spirit, come, rest in me too.

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

Acts 1:6–14

Read by Liz MacFarlane

The ascension of Jesus.

Refrain spoken only, not sung.

*R God, in your goodness,
you have made a home for the poor.*

Arise, O God, and let your enemies be scattered;
let those who hate you flee before you.

**Like drifting smoke disperse them;
like wax melting in the fire,
let the wicked perish at your presence, O God.**

But let the righteous be glad and exult before you;
let them rejoice with exceeding joy.

**Sing praises to God's holy name;
make a highway for the One who rides the clouds;
be joyful and exult in God's presence. R**

Guardian of orphans, protector of widows,
O God, in your holy dwelling,
**you give the lonely a home in which to live;
you lead the prisoners out to prosperity;
but the rebels must live in a wasteland.**

When you went out at the head of your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
**the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain
before you, God of Sinai, God of Israel.**

You sent down a generous rain;
you refreshed your heritage when in languished.
**There your people found a home,
which in your goodness you provided for the poor. R**

Sing to God, dominions of the earth;
praise the One who has dominion,
**the One who rides through the heavens,
even the primal heavens,
the One whose voice is the mighty thunder.**

Acknowledge the power that is God's,
whose majesty is over Israel, whose strength is in the skies.
**You are awesome, O God, as you leave your sanctuary,
bringing power and strength to your people.**

Blessed are you, God of Israel.

Blessed are you. R

John 17:1–11 Jesus prays that his disciples “all may be one.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 661 VU

COME TO MY HEART

(COME TO MY HEART) (Words / Music: Joe Pinson)

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.
Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; come to my heart today.
Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.
Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.
Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.
Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; fill me with love today.
Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.
Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; answer my prayer today.
Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

SERMON

ANTHEM

LORD, I KNOW I BEEN CHANGED

(Words / Music: Traditional Spiritual; arr. Larry Shackley)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(We pray for Rothesay: Saint David’s Pastoral Charge)

HYMN 437 VU

THE DAY YOU GAVE US, GOD, IS ENDED

(ST CLEMENT) (Words: John Ellerton / Music: Clement Cotterill Scholefield)

The day you gave us, God, is ended,
the sun is sinking in the west;
to you our morning hymns ascended,
your praise shall sanctify our rest.
We thank you that your church unsleeping,
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world a watch is keeping,
and rests not now by day or night.

As o'er each continent and island,
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking
your church beneath the western sky,
and hour by hour fresh lips are making
your wondrous doings heard on high.

So be it, God! Your throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
your rule remains and grows forever,
until there dawns that glorious day.

BENEDICTION

Receive the power of the Holy Spirit and witness to Holy Love
in our community and to the ends of the earth.

The gospel calls your light forward, as you go, in the world.

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE GOTHIC SUITE

(Music: L. Boëllmann; edited by Alex Rowley)

During the postlude the congregation is welcome to depart.

In the World: Service Prayers for the Seventh Sunday in Easter Year A was written by the Rev.
Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.






***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
parents, Bev (Jan. 26, 2011) & Tom Geldart (July 1,
1997) and Fred Blacklock (May 18, 2021) and
sister, Rosalind Olive (Sept. 8, 1998)
by Ken & Karen Geldart*



NOTICES, UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

May 17	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Sunday School
May 18	Mon.		Church closed – Victoria Day
May 18	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Al-Anon (weekly-Owen Fraser Hall)
May 19	Tues.	7:00 p.m.	Finance & Property Management Comm. (monthly-Owen Fraser Hall)
May 20	Wed.	6:15 p.m.	Sparks, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Owen Fraser Hall)
May 21	Thur.	7:00 p.m.	Choir (weekly-Choir Loft/Fellowship Room)
May 21	Thur.	7:15 p.m.	Pathfinders, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Social Hall)
May 23	Sat.	1:30 p.m.	Piano Concert, 2:00pm – Do-Re-Mi Music School (Sanctuary)
May 24	Sun.	 11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Sunday School - Pentecost Sunday
May 24	Sun.	12:20 p.m.	M&P Committee (Church office)
May 26	Tues.	7:00 p.m.	Church Council (monthly-Owen Fraser Hall)
May 27	Wed.	7:00 p.m.	WinGS - Cheryl Tower McCrea will share her story of making fidget quilts for nursing home residents or those with ADHD. (Norman Sinclair Room)
May 31	Sun.	11:00 a.m.   SUNDAY SCHOOL	WORSHIP and Sunday School - Trinity Sunday - Communion  - Sunday School presentations/closing  - Honour graduates (see note) - Scholarship presentations (see note) - Grocery Sunday (see note)

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.



SCHOLARSHIPS

The following scholarships are available to students who have been active, and are currently participating, within the congregational life of St. John’s UC.



Applications are available on the church website and Facebook group, at the church office or by contacting the church office.

Applications are to be returned by **May 24**, 2026 to the church by: email, dropping the submission into the mail slot in the door or by bringing it along with you on Sunday morning.

Henrietta Potter Scholarship is available to students currently in high school and pursuing first-year studies at a post-secondary educational institution in the upcoming year.

Robb Scholarship is awarded to children to further his/her studies in music.

Charles E. Woodrow Memorial Music Scholarship is available to students currently in high school and pursuing first-year music studies at a post-secondary educational institution in the upcoming year.

GRADUATES OF ST. JOHN'S

On **May 31**, we will be honouring graduates. If you are or anyone in your family or anyone you know from the congregation is graduating from high school, vocational, school, college, university, or any other programs that should be recognized, please advise the church office, Valerie Roy or Rev. Billard so that we can acknowledge them. Thank you!

CAMP TA-WA-SI SUPPLIES DRIVE!

We are supporting Camp Ta-Wa-Si this spring. Each Sunday **until May 31** you are invited to bring items to place in the white baskets as you come into the church.



United Church of Canada camps offer a variety of experience for people of all ages, focusing on faith formation, leadership development, and outdoor adventures.

Items the camp can definitely use: glowsticks, craft supplies, life jackets (youth sizes), goggles and snorkels, pool noodles, wall plug night lights, bedside clocks, batteries (AA/AAA)

Office supplies such as: clipboards, sharpies, tape (all kinds), children's books, sidewalk chalk, camping chairs, reusable water bottles

Cleaning supplies of all kinds but specifically: disinfectant spray, dish soap, toilet bowl cleaner, bleach, hand soap, brooms and dustpans

Small furniture such as: side tables/lamps/comfy chairs etc.

Furniture: we're hoping to get a side table and lamp in each cabin as a lot of young campers complain about it being so dark and struggle when getting up in the middle of the night!

Anything else you think would be helpful, even if a bit more out of the box. Lastly, please note that we have a surplus of toiletry and hygiene items from last year's supplies drive, so those are on the "do not need" list for this year.

GROCERY SUNDAY FOR KARING KITCHEN

(**May 31** – 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 sugar. *White baskets will be at the main entrance for your donations.* Thank you.



MAY IS PAR MONTH

It's May – be sure to PARTicipate in PAR month! Discover the power of PAR. From local programs to global efforts, PAR amplifies voices and makes a lasting difference. Hop on board for PAR month!



PAR is pre-authorized remittance – a system of having a predetermined amount that you choose taken from your bank account on the 20th of every month. It saves you the hassle of trying to fill envelopes, helps you budget and supports the Church on a consistent basis. There is no fee to you.

Pamphlets are located outside the Church Office and on our website. Fill in the application information, attach a void cheque (credit card may also be used) and drop off at the Church Office.

For those of you already using PAR, thank you, and maybe now is the time to make an increase in your giving.

April 2026 GIVINGS			
Local Offering - Env	\$ 8,424.85	Local Offering - PAR	\$ 5,993.87
Mission & Service – Env	\$ 807.00	Mission & Service - PAR	\$ 835.46
Plate Loose	\$ 504.90	Memorial Donations	\$ 45.00
Bulletin Sponsorship	\$ 300.00	Grocery Card Revenue	\$ 0.00
Revenues Year-to-Date:	\$ 83,812.23	Expenses Year-to-Date:	\$112,353.98
Mission & Service Year-to-Date:	\$ 6,583.84	Mission & Service 2026 Goal	\$ 18,500.00
Thank you for your generous and continued support!			

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.

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 – Stewards care passionately, humbly, and graciously about God's vision for the world.

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

Bill & Mary Ann Robertson

North Door – Victoria St.

Mona Miller

CHURCH MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND STAFF



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