

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH

75 Alma Street, Moncton, NB E1C 4Y3

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FB: St. John's United Church, United Church of Canada

Building Hours: Weekdays, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

A warm welcome is extended to all.

*(The congregation is invited to join in responses printed in **bold**. Stand as you are able.)*

PRELUDE

WAR OF THE PRIESTS

F. Mendelssohn

DOXOLOGY (541 VU) **PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW** (OLD 100TH)

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

In this thought-provoking season of growth and preparation,
we come to be renewed and refreshed.

We come to be inspired by stories of love and justice.

We come to listen for words of hope and renewal.

We come with open eyes, open mind, and open hearts. Blessed be our God.

Come Let us worship our God - the One who holds all things.

HYMN 336 VU **CHRIST WHOSE GLORY FILLS THE SKIES**

(RATISBON)

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ the true, the only light,
sun of righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night.
Dayspring from on high, be near; daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart, glad my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiance divine, scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Lord of life,

**We do not know the face of the future,
any more than your disciples did.**

Like them, we have many questions:

how to live

how to bear witness.

**Like them, we thirst for the spring waters of the Spirit
to inspire us in our living
to give us a heart language in our testimony.**

**You have been raised in glory
that we might rise with dignity**

You live in power that we might live in peace

You are present everywhere

that we might be fully present in our own lives

This we believe

and this we step forward into the world believing.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God,

**we confess that we have our eyes set in the clouds
instead of on the earth You have given us.**

We desire heavenly treasure

but we keep believing that worldly means will help us attain it.

Forgive us for our short sightedness.

Draw us away from the temptations

to seek worldly power and measures of success,

and call us to the down-to-earth message of Your love,

to care for the needs of those around us,

especially the oppressed and marginalized.

**You have called us through scripture
to care for the widows and orphans among us;
help us to see all those who are left out by society and are in need.
Help us to break down the dividing walls that we have placed,
so that we may truly be one,
as You and Christ are one.
For it is in Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

We were made by God, brought forth from the earth,
the earth that was called good when God created it.
Your very being is good.
You are blessed, earth-born,
and called forth to care for the earth and all who dwell in it.
Go, know that you are forgiven and loved
by the God who made the earth, and made you,
and share the Good News. Amen.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY (115 MV) *BEHOLD, BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW*

Behold, behold I make all things new,
beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold, behold I make all things new,
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.

PRAYER AFTER THE OFFERING

CHILDREN'S HYMN 702 VU *WHEN A POOR ONE*

(EL CAMINO)

When the poor one who have nothing shares with strangers,
when the thirsty water give unto us all,
when the wounded in their weakness strengthen others,
*then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.*

When at last all those who suffer find their comfort,
when they hope though even hope seems hopelessness,
when we love though hate at times seems all around us, *R*

When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing,
when our lips can speak no words other than true,
when we know that love for simple things is better, *R*

When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance,
when we learn how to make peace instead of war,
when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbour, *R*

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. 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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 1:6–14

The ascension of Jesus.

Psalms 68, p. 787 VU

God makes a home for the poor.

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 it 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 402 VU

WE ARE ONE

(WE ARE ONE)

We are one as we come, as we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips there's a sense that God is near.

We are one as we sing, as we seek, we are found;
and we come needful of God's grace as we meet, together in this place.

We are one as we share, as we share brokenness and fear,
in the touch of a hand there's a sense that God is here.

We are one as we care, as we heal, we are healed;
and we share warmth in God's embrace as we pray together in this place.

We are one as we feast, as we feast, peace becomes the sign;
in the bread and the wine there's a sense of love divine.

We are one as we come, as we feed, we are fed;
and we feel god's refreshing grace as we meet at table in this place.

We are one as we hear, as we hear, heart and hand unite;
in the word we receive there's a sense that God is light.

We are one as we leave, as we love, we are loved;
and we seek justice in God's ways as we move together from this place.

SERMON

ANTHEM

THE EVERLASTING HOLY GOD!

Mary McDonald

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 274 VU

YOUR HAND, O GOD, HAS GUIDED

(THORNBURY)

Your hand, O God, has guided your flock from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written, full clear, on every page.
Our forebears owned your goodness, and we their deeds record;
and both to this bear witness: one church, one faith, one Lord.

Your heralds brought glad tidings to greatest as to least;
they bade them rise, and hasten to share the heavenly feast.
And this was all their teaching, in every deed and word,
to all alike proclaiming: one church, one faith, one Lord!

Through many days of darkness, through many scenes of strife,
the faithful few fought bravely to guard your people's life.
Their gospel of redemption, sin pardoned, earth restored,
was all in this enfolded: one church, one faith, one Lord.

And we, shall we be faithless? Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?
Shall we evade the conflict and cast away our crown?
Not so: in God's deep counsels some better thing is stored:
we will maintain, unflinching, one church, one faith, one Lord.

Your mercy will not fail us, nor leave your work undone;
with your right hand to help us the victory shall be won;
and then, by earth and heaven, your name shall be adored,
and this shall be our anthem: one church, one faith, one Lord.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

IRISH BLESSING

Linda Spevacek

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

Loved Ones

by Marjorie Richardson

NOTICES, UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Check our website at www.stjohnsmoncton.ca for on-line Worship, calendar, and more.

May 21	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Sunday School – in-person and online - Grocery Sunday (see note) - Music Director: Branden Olsen	
May 22	Mon.		Church/Office closed – Victoria Day holiday	
May 24	Wed.	7:00 p.m.	Ministry & Personnel Committee (Owen Fraser Hall)	
May 25	Thurs.	7:00 p.m.	Choir (weekly-Choir Loft/Fellowship Room)	
May 26	Fri.	10:00 a.m.	Help set up for Indoor Yard Sale (Social Hall)	
May 27	Sat.	8:30 a.m.	Indoor Yard Sale (see note)	
May 28	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Church Picnic at Mapleton Rotary Pavilion , 600 Mapleton Rd., Moncton (see note) – in-person only (not online) - Sunday School presentations - Honour graduates	
May 29	Mon.	9:30 a.m.	Help pack up for Indoor Yard Sale (Social Hall)	
May 29	Mon.	2:00 p.m.	UCW (Fellowship Room)	
May 30	Tues.	7:00 p.m.	Church Council (monthly-Owen Fraser Hall)	
June 1	Thurs.		Scholarships application deadline (see note)	
June 4	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Sunday School – in-person and online - Trinity Sunday and Union Sunday - Communion	 

Announcements from other United Churches, Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region and the community are located on the bulletin boards located at the Alma St. entrance and outside the Church Office.

SOBEYS & SUPERSTORE GIFT CARDS are once again available and will be sold each Sunday in the Sanctuary before and after Worship and at the Church Office on Wednesdays and Fridays between 9:00: a.m.-1:00 p.m.

We make 4% on every card sold. ~ Your support is needed & appreciated.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM COUNCIL

At the April Church Council meeting, the Board of Trustees reminded graduating students that applications will be accepted until the June 1st deadline for church scholarships.

Christian Development Committee reported on the very successful Women's Retreat; recent bowling day. Worship & Music reported on plans for the May 28th picnic at the Mapleton Rotary Pavilion.

Finance & Property Management Committee continues to work on securing contractors for window installation; plaster repair, etc. Applications for permits for work have been submitted for the construction of an accessibility ramp to the Victoria St. entrance. Regular offering revenues continue to be up over this time last year, however total revenues were less than this time last year, due to the receipt of a \$10,000 special gift in March of 2022. Expenses were down considerably, in part due to the change in our investment portfolio – which is finally starting to recover from the 2022 losses, as well as reductions in administrative expenses, snow removal and contracts.

Pastoral Care & Membership Committee report that January to April telephone calls and home visits to shut-ins total 247. UCW reported on their successful Silent Auction with their Rummage Sale Scheduled for May 27th (set up on the 26th).

GROCERIES FOR KARING KITCHEN (May 21 – note date change)

We are starting up grocery Sunday again! The Outreach Committee would like to bring your attention to the Karing Kitchen's need for these groceries: sandwich bags, alfredo sauce, margarine, cream of celery soup, corn starch.

White baskets will be at the main entrance for your donations.

Thank you.



GRADUATES OF ST. JOHN'S

On May 28, 2023 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!



Saturday, May 27 ~ 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

(Social Hall – use Karing Kitchen entrance)

You'll find clothing, books, toys, linens, household goods,
and many more items for sale.

You Don't Want To Miss It!

We welcome your donations of 'slightly used' clothing, books, household items, etc., in good, saleable condition, for this UCW fundraiser.

Please bring your donations to the Church during the few days before the sale (Monday-Friday from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm), but no later than noon on Thursday, May 25. If you can help set up for the sale, please come to the Social Hall on Friday, **May 26** at 10:00 am. We also need volunteers to pack up on Monday morning, **May 29** at 9:30 a.m.



Sunday, May 28

Worship – 11:00 a.m. followed by **Picnic – 12:00-1:00 p.m.**

Mapleton Rotary Pavilion, 600 Mapleton Rd., Moncton

Amenities: wheelchair accessible, free parking, free Wi-Fi, air conditioning,
covered deck, bike racks, picnic tables and landscaped grounds

(Dress casual and bring a lawn chair to sit outside if you wish.)

Bring your own picnic lunch. Dessert will be provided.

A free-will offering will be collected.

If you plan to attend, **sign-up before May 21** on the sheet
at our main entrances or email the church office at: sjuc@nb.aibn.com.

Signed-up, but found you can't be there?

Please contact the Church Office to have your name removed from the list.

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.

KEEP YOUR VALUABLES WITH YOU - If you don't keep your coat with you during Worship, please ensure you do not leave keys, phones, or any valuables in your pockets. Please keep all valuables with you. Do not leave any electronics unattended.

SCHOLARSHIPS

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

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 **June 1** 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 students (children included) to further his/her studies in music. He/she is to be actively participating in formal music programs or music performances (i.e. choirs).

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.

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 858-8289 or sjucrev@gmail.com



CHURCH MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND STAFF



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

Karen Geldart, *Office Administrator*
email: sjuc@nb.aibn.com

Rev. Dr. Douglas MacEachern
Minister Emeritus
email: douglasimaceachern@gmail.com



Branden Olsen, *Music Director*
email: bwcolsen@mun.ca

Pat Arsenault, *Custodian*

