

St. Andrew's United Church
188 Wellington Street
Miramichi, N.B. E1N 1M4
773-9932

<http://www.standrewsunitedmiramichi.org>

Minister: Rev. Charlene Maguire MacKnight
Organist & Choir Director: Joanne Wiseman
Greeters: Ferne & Ernie MacLean

January 14, 2018
Second Sunday after Epiphany

We Gather to Worship

*indicates to stand as you are able

Musical Prelude

*Introit: #371, vs.1

**Open my eyes that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

*Lighting of the Christ Candle: *Carol Ann & Spencer MacFarlane*

One: Once there was a teacher who said and did amazing things.

All: He came as Light for the world.

L: His light remains with us, and surrounds us in this time of
worship. (*Candle is lit*)

Sing: (#87, chorus)

**I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**

Welcome & Announcements

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Call to Worship:

L: In the beginning ...

All: God gathered us in.

L: In the beginning ...

All: God prepared our hearts and minds to worship.

L: In the beginning ...

All: God called us God's beloved.

L: God works through each of us.

**All: We come to worship our God who both calls and equips us
for service in Christ's name.**

Prayer:

**Radiant God, with wonder and expectation we gather. We strive
to be your people and look to this time of worship to strengthen
and sustain us. We open our hearts to the One we call Living
Water. As in his baptism, Jesus heard the announcement of
your love, so may we be gathered into that same love this day,
and come to know the blessing of your peace. Amen.**

*Hymn: #583, Jesus Came, a Child Like Me
Conversation with the Children

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination: *Gail Arsenault*

**Open our ears to hear your particular word for us this day; both
your guidance and your promise. Rooted in faith, may our
hearts, minds, and responses be acceptable and life-giving, O
God, our Strength and our Redeemer. Amen.**

O.T. Lesson: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

*Responsive Reading: Psalm 29, page 756VU

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:4-11

Hymn: #99, Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

(- congregation seated)

Reflection on the Word

We Respond to God's Word

Remembering our Baptism

In the beginning God created.

And it was good.

In the present God creates.

And it is good.

In the future God will continue creating.

And it will be good.

Let us give thanks to our God.

Who creates goodness in, through, and all around us.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance:

Gracious God, too often our lives reflect chaos instead of creation. Living in disorder and turmoil, we exist as though you do not. Rather than the tender hovering of your Spirit, we feel the buffeting currents of change and doubt. Have mercy on us. Blow through our lives like a mighty wind this day, clearing away the clouds of despair. Shine brightly among us, renewing our reason for hope. Rain your love upon us, creating in us a new day.

(Silent confessions)

L: This is the good news: The One who goes before us is more powerful than we are. Christ baptizes us not just with water but also with the Holy Spirit. As we receive that baptism, we become a new creation. We are forgiven. And God sees that it is good. The peace of God is yours.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sharing of the Peace of Christ

(you are invited to turn to your neighbours and offer a handshake or greeting such as "The peace of Christ be with you")

Affirmation of Faith: #918, A New Creed

Blessing of the Water:

L: Let us pray: We thank you, God, for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life.

All: In the time of Noah you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning.

In the time of Moses and Miriam your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land.

L: In the fullness of time you sent Jesus Christ who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb.

All: Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

L: (water is poured) Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water that by it we may be reminded of our baptism into Jesus Christ and that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may be kept faithful until you receive us at last in your eternal home.

All: Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

The Congregation Remembers Baptism:

L: Remember your baptism and be thankful!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Choir Ministry of Music: "Water Flowing From the Mountains"

(as the choir sings, the congregation is sprinkled with water from the baptismal font)

Prayer:

Renew in us, O God, all the gifts of baptism—strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ who makes us one. Amen.

Offering

*Offertory Choral Response: #540

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.**

*Offertory Prayer:

God of abundance and overflowing love, we offer these gifts, both monetary gifts and the gifts of our very selves, to you. Use them and us to allow others to feel, see and experience the amazing fullness of your love and grace. Amen.

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

*Commissioning & Benediction:

L: God sends us from this place,

All: to be healing hands to the world's brokenness.

L: Jesus calls us as sisters and brothers,

All: to accept others as completely as we have been embraced.

L: The Spirit is at work through us,

All: wherever we are – work, home, play, in community.

L: Go forth to live as God's people! And may the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with you all!

*Closing Hymn: #575, I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
Musical Postlude

The bulletins have been presented in loving memory of Leigh Morehouse by wife, Mae, sons, Colin, Neil, Brent and their families.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to John & Joyce Ramier on the death of Joyce's brother, Bill Kerr of Lethbridge, Alberta.

Memorials

In loving memory of **Norman Dickson**, a donation to the Choir Fund has been received from wife, Susan Dickson & Family.

In loving memory of **Jeannie Allison**, a donation to Local Funds has been received from Sherman & Shirley MacDiarmid.

In loving memory of **Jeannie Allison**, a donation to St. Mark's Cemetery has been received from Lee & Carol Johnston.

In loving memory of **Gerry Rose**, donations to Local Funds have been received from Barbara Doucet, Bob & Dorothy Wilson.

Tape Distribution: Jan.14 – Denis Desaulniers/Jan. 21 – Dave & Brenda Hicks/Jan. 28 – Henry & Karen Wilson

Duty Unit: Jan. Princess Anne Unit/Feb. Princess Street Unit

Greeters: Jan. 21 – Merle Milson & Patricia Boucher/Jan. 28 – Linda Laviolette & Muriel Lamkey

Sound System: Jan. 14 – Brian Savoy/Jan. 21 – Juanita Hamilton/Jan. 28 – Mary Reynolds

Power Point: Jan. 14 – Karen Rose/Jan. 21 – Mary Reynolds/Jan. 28 – Karen Rose

Offering Collections: Jan. 14 – Bill & Lib Hachey, Debbie Stymiest, Hallam Curtis/Jan. 21 – Don Walls, Barry & Bev Campbell, Don Bowman/Jan. 28 – Brian & Joan Savoy, Helen Jones, Anna MacDonald

Offering Counters:

Jan. 14 – Lib Hachey, Don Bowman, Barry Campbell/**Jan. 21** – Juanita Hamilton, Don Bowman, Debbie Stymiest/**Jan. 28** – Karen Rose, John MacKnight, Hallam Curtis

Announcements:**This Week:**

Monday, Jan. 15th – 12 noon – *Princess Street Unit & Maude Jardine Unit are meeting with a brown bag lunch*

Tuesday, Jan. 16th – 3:00 p.m. – *Senior Choir Practice*

Wednesday, Jan. 17th – 10:00 a.m. – *Financial Team Meeting*

Friday, Jan. 19 – 10:00 a.m. – *Pastoral Care & Outreach Team Meeting*

Upcoming:

Tuesday, Jan. 23rd – *No Senior Choir Practice*

Saturday, Jan. 27th – 8:30 a.m. – *Men's Breakfast meeting at the Portage Restaurant*

-10:00 a.m. – *Men's Choir Practice*

All UCW secretaries are asked to have their reports into Debbie Stymiest no later than Monday, January 29th.

All Church Council team chairs are asked to have their reports into Karen at the church office no later than Monday, February 5th for the Annual Reports.

The Financial Management Team and the Policy and Communication Team have looked at the price of printing the weekly bulletins. Due to the increase in cost of printing the weekly fee for placing bulletins in honour/memory of will increase to \$30.00 per week as of Jan. 1st.

There is also a \$30.00 fee for funeral bulletins with no picture and \$50.00 fee for bulletins with a photo on the front.

Church Council Team members and Nominations:

As we prepare for our congregational annual meeting at the end of February, the Nominations team are beginning to look at the number of Team vacancies to be filled. If you are currently serving some part of your term on a particular Team and wish to step down as of the annual meeting, you must put that request in writing to Mary Reynolds, chair of Nominations.

The work of the church requires many people with a variety of talents and abilities. If you would be interested in serving on one of our Church Council teams please speak to Mary Reynolds, Rev. Charlene or call the church office 773-9932.

The Meals on Wheels Program is in need of volunteers to help with distribution of meals to clients. If you are able to volunteer please call the Miramichi Senior Citizens home at 778-6810.