

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: Shirley Estey
Greeters: Merle Milson & Patricia Boucher

January 21, 2018
Third Sunday after Epiphany

We Gather to Worship

*indicates to stand as you are able

Musical Prelude

*Introit: #316, Praise Our Maker

*Call to Worship:

Let us start this service well, by reminding ourselves:

That it is not we who chose Christ,

but Christ who chose us,

That we are not here because of our goodness

but because of Christ's grace,

That we are not here to enlighten ourselves,

but to allow Christ to enlighten us,

That we have not come to be entertained

but to worship God with heart, soul, mind and strength.

Lighting of the Christ Candle: (*seated*) – Sydney Stymiest

One: In this season of Epiphany, we hear Jesus calling, "Follow me!"

All: Where are we called to go? How will we know the way?

L: We light the Christ candle to remind us that the light of Christ will be with us, and the light of Christ will guide us.

All: At all times and in all places, the light of Christ will be present. Thanks be to God! (Candle is lit)

2

Sing: (#82, chorus & vs. 3)

*A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night,
living in the light.*

*Come share its gladness, God's radiant love is burning bright,
living in the light.*

And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk.

He showed us things we hadn't seen.

Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine,

and this will be a sign:

Chorus

Opening Litany Prayer:

You call us, O God. You cast your line and hope to catch us,
hooking us in with your love and your hope.

**You call us, and then you send us out to fish for others and
draw them into your love and your hope.**

When you say, "Come follow me; I'll have you fishing for people,"
our hearts leap in both fear and wonder.

**You have called us, O God, and here we are today, ready to be
reeled in by your love and then sent out to share your love with
others.**

We have made our choice. We have answered "Yes."

In Jesus' steps, we will follow. In Jesus' way, we will live.

And in Jesus' name we pray together:

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Welcome & Announcements

*Hymn: #340, Jesus, Friend of Little Children

Conversation with the Children

Prayer of Confession

Hymn: #400: (*all seated*)

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Words of Assurance

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination: *Marjorie MacPhee*

In the quiet of this moment, and in the assurance of your presence, surprise us, God, with a new word to inspire us, lead us, and sustain us, now and always. Amen.

O.T. Lesson: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

*Responsive Reading: Psalm 62, page 779VU

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:14-20

Ministry of Music: "Amazing Grace"

Reflection on the Word

We Respond to God's Word

*Hymn: #563, Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

Minute for Mission: "Fresh Start" – *Sally Donald*

Offering

*Offertory Choral Response: (#539 – *Tune: #459*)

**God of all good, our gifts we bring to you,
use them your holy purpose to fulfil;
tokens of love and pledges brought anew
that our whole life is offered to your will.**

*Offertory Prayer:

God of grace, take what we offer this morning as a sign of our readiness to share in the ministry which is both yours and ours. Bless us in our eagerness to answer your call into the world. Bless us in our perseverance as we serve. Bless us in our faithfulness as we seek your face in others. Bless us as we live love. Amen.

Prayers of the People (seated)

L: Eternal God, we live in awe of your abiding presence. When we wake, you are there ... greeting us with the sun's rays, with the chirping of birds, with intricate frost patterns on the window.

All: When we rush through our day, feeling the weight of the burden of our work and obligations, you are there.

You comfort us with an unexpected call from a friend, a moment of beauty, a favourite song.

L: You challenge us to remember we are part of your larger family, reminding us of a stranger's need, opening us to the joy of conversations shared, helping us to appreciate our interdependence with one another and all creation.

All: When we seek rest after a long day, you wrap the evening in a blanket of darkness and set the stars to twinkle, with the hope of knowing time has a lifespan way beyond our conceiving.

L: Remind us as we pray, that these are the times we must stay vigilant – to honour your abiding presence, and to be a presence of love and mercy for others.

All: Help us to stay vigilant to the peace that Jesus brings, with the tools that Jesus used. Not with weapons, prisons, and police. Not with the capacity to extort money, seize property, or limit rights. But with the power of Christ's hands, thoughts, teachings, and life – choosing to be with those who struggle and suffer.

L: O God, we pray for those whom this world has demeaned, that they may be dignified in Christ's love.

All: We pray for those who are hungry for food or goodness, that they may be fed.

L: We pray for those who are lonely – may they be comforted by your presence and through our compassionate caring.

All: We pray for those who suffer sickness and pain, who worry about what tomorrow will bring – may they be sustained through your healing grace and hope.

L: May your blessing be upon all in need - those held in the silence of our hearts, those unknown to us but known to you, those named in our prayer book this day ... (*names are read*)

L: God of abundant love, hear our prayers,

All: And in your love, answer. Amen.

*Hymn: #652, Be Still, My Soul

*Commissioning & Benediction:

L: Be still, my soul, for God is on your side.

All: With this assurance, we go from our time together, to live the lives to which we have been called, trusting even when we do not feel or know clearly what it is God is calling us to do.

L: Know that you are loved and held beloved by no less than the Maker of the universe. In times of challenge, know you are blessed. In times of gratitude, know you are blessed. In days and nights, in every moment, know you are blessed. Go in peace!

All: Amen.

*Choral Blessing: #424, May the God of Hope (*verse 1*)
Musical Postlude

**The bulletins have been presented in loving memory of
Helen & Carl Jarvis and Bernice & Bill Campbell
by Barry & Bev Campbell.**

Memorials

In loving memory of **Inez Jenkins**, a donation to the Community Kitchen has been received from Mary & Kyla Reynolds.

In loving memory of **Inez Jenkins**, a donation to Local Funds has been received from Helen, Ed, Alison, Oliver, Elliott and Everly.

In loving memory of **Jeannie Allison**, a donation to Local Funds has been received from Margaret & John Glidden.

In loving memory of **June Harris**, a donation to Mission & Service Fund has been received from Wanda & Dean MacDonald.

In loving memory of **Bertha Harris**, a donation to the Food Bank has been received from Wanda & Dean MacDonald.

In loving memory of **Gerry Rose**, a donation to Local Funds has been received from Margaret & John Glidden.

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

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

Greeters: Jan. 28 – Linda Laviolette & Muriel Lamkey/**Feb. 4** – Diane Baker & Mavis Williamson

Sound System: Jan. 21 – Juanita Hamilton/**Jan. 28** – Mary Reynolds

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

Offering Collections: Jan. 21 – Don Walls, Barry & Bev Campbell, Don Bowman/**Jan. 28** – Brian & Joan Savoy, Helen Jones, Anna MacDonald

Offering Counters:

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

**Congratulations and best wishes are extended to
Bessie Sweezey who will be celebrating her 101st Birthday
Monday, Jan. 22nd.**

Honourarium

In honour of **Bessie Sweezey's 101st Birthday**, a donation to the Community Kitchen has been received from Helen, Ed, Alison, Oliver, Elliott and Everly.

Announcements:

This Week:

Monday, Jan. 22nd – 10:00 a.m. - *Trustees Meeting*

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

Wednesday, Jan. 24th – 1:00 p.m. – *General UCW meeting*

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

-10:00 a.m. – *Men's Choir Practice*

Upcoming:**Sunday, Jan. 28th** – *Men's Choir**- Birthday Box WDR***Tuesday, Jan. 30th** – 7:00 p.m. – *Church Council Meeting***Wednesday, Jan. 31st** – 2:30 p.m. – *Devotions at Mount St. Joseph Nursing Home (choir and congregation members are encouraged to attend)*

All UCW secretaries are asked to have their reports into Debbie Szymiest 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.

CGIT Alumni are meeting for lunch at Riverside

Entertainment Centre on Tuesday, Jan. 31st at 11:30 a.m. All former CGIT members are welcome to attend.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on Tuesday, February 13th (4:00 to 6:00 p.m.). If you would like to help on that day, please notify Anna MacDonald (773-6226). We will need desserts and homemade baked beans. Sign-up sheets are at the back of the church.

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.

The Atlantic Mission Society of Calvin Presbyterian Church is making a request that users of milk in bags save the outer colored bag for an upcoming project. Those willing to save the bags are asked to call Betty Lou at 773-6270 to arrange for pickup. Thank you in advance for your help in this mission project.

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.

We are grateful to Grace Fraser for the gift of an AED (defibrillator) in memory of her husband, Russell.

St. John Ambulance will be doing a training on how to use the defibrillator and we are seeking 5-6 volunteers to be trained. If you would be willing to take this training, please let Rev. Charlene or the church office know as soon as possible, so we can set some possible dates. Thank You!

The Worship & Music Team have been evaluating the Advent/Christmas services and invite the congregation's feedback to the following question about Christmas Communion. Responses can be placed in box at the back of sanctuary near Rev. Charlene's office.

What is your preference for the scheduling of the sacrament of Communion at Christmas: (please check one)

_____ 4th Sunday of Advent (Sunday before Christmas) at the 11:00 a.m. service.

_____ at the Christmas Eve candlelight service (7 or 8 pm)