

St. Andrew's United Church
188 Wellington Street
Miramichi, N.B. E1N 1M4
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<http://www.standrewsunitedmiramichi.org>

Minister: Rev. Charlene Maguire MacKnight
Organist & Choir Director: Joanne Wiseman
Greeters: Helen Jones & Marjorie MacPhee

February 25, 2018
Lent 2

We Gather To Worship

*indicates to stand as you are able

Musical Prelude

*Introit: #108, Throughout These Lenten Days & Nights (*vs. 1*)

**Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.**

*Call to Worship:

L: From generation to generation, God names us and claims us.

All: Let heaven and earth praise God's holy name.

L: From our earliest steps, Christ guides our wayward feet.

All: Let all who draw breath come back to the Lord.

L: From death to life, the Spirit sets us free.

All: Let the faithful rejoice in God's holy covenant.

L: From generation to generation, God names us and claims us.

All: Let heaven and earth praise God's holy name.

Introduction to Opening Prayer: (*seated*)

Prayer:

God, as we worship you today, open our hearts to those around us. May we see your faithfulness in each age and stage of our neighbours. In this Season of Lent, may we remember the promises you made to all generations – past, present, and future.

Open our ears to the sound of your voice, that we may respond to your call and pick up our cross to follow. In Jesus' name we pray: Our Father, who art in heaven ... Amen.

Hymn: #344, How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds (*congregation seated*)

Lenten Candle Liturgy: Edna Price & Beryl Patriquin

One: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Two: There are many times in our lives when we, like Jesus himself, repeat the psalmist's words. We find ourselves overwhelmed with trouble, drowning in hopelessness, strangled by our guilt or anger.

One: Desperate for some sign that God is there, we cry out, "Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?"

But we are assured that the God of our ancestors is our God also.

And just as God delivered them, we too will know the mercy and guidance of our Creator.

Two: And so it is with confidence that we are able to lift our prayers of confession this morning. Let us pray:

All: God of the Lenten Wilderness, you have been with us from the moment our hearts started beating. You have offered wisdom and guidance from the moment of our birth. You are with us now as we confess the ways we have failed to put our trust in you. When we are burdened with trouble, when our hearts ache and our minds reel, we so quickly doubt your presence. Forgive us. Help us remember that you are always there, like the stars over our heads, bright and constant. Help us embrace the healing power of your mercy for the things we have done wrong. Help us live merciful lives even when we have been wronged. Help us trust in you, as Sarah did, even when times are hard.

(*Silent confession as second candle is extinguished.*)

Two: With every breath, we will praise your name.

All: With every beat of our hearts, we will rejoice in your love. As we walk this Lenten road, we will celebrate the path you place before us. Amen.

Sing: MV 115 (*all seated*)

**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.**

*Hymn: #579, The Church is Wherever God's People
Conversation with the Children
Birthday Box for WDR

**Happy Birthday to you, to Jesus be true,
may God's richest blessings now rest upon you.
These gifts we now share, to show that we care
for all of God's children, here and everywhere.**

Welcome & Announcements

The Word of God Proclaimed

Prayer for Illumination:

**God of all time, open our spirits to your voice; open our hearts to
your call. Give us the will and the courage to step up and step
forward in faith. Amen.**

O.T. Lesson: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Responsive Reading: Psalm 22, page 746, Parts 3 & 4

Gospel Lesson: Mark 8:31-38

Ministry of Music

Reflection on the Word

*Hymn: #634, To Abraham and Sarah

We Respond to God's Word

Offering

*Choral Response: tune # 542

**These Lenten gifts we bring,
our living faith express.
We offer them most lovingly,
And thus our hearts are blessed.**

*Offertory Prayer:

**Bless us this day, O God, that we may be a blessing to a world in
need. Bless our gifts and our offerings in your name, that they
may light the way home for those who have wandered far and
lost their way. As these gifts go forth to do your work, may they
help others hear you call their names and bring them peace.
Amen.**

Prayers of the People

*Hymn: # 561, Take Up Your Cross

*Commissioning & Benediction

L: God, as we prepare to leave this place, may we be more aware of
those we encounter.

**All: Those who are older who offer wisdom, those who are
younger who offer a new way to see things.**

L: As we go, may we go wrapped in the knowledge that you
promised Abraham and Sarah a new future, and we are part of that
future.

**All: You keep your promises throughout time. May we share
those promises with the world.**

L: Go with the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

*Choral Blessing: #422, God Be With You (*vs. 1*)

Musical Postlude

**The bulletins have been presented in loving memory of
Howard Hicks by Dave & Brenda Hicks and Family.**

*The sympathy of the congregation is extended to
Doris MacDonald and Family on the death of her husband,
John D. MacDonald
and to Jean MacKinley and Family on the death of her brother,
Howard Williston of Ontario.*

Memorials

In loving memory of **Mary Harriman**, donations to the Community Kitchen have been received from Jim & Marilyn McGerrigle, Margaret & John Glidden, Ernest & Ferne MacLean.

In loving memory of **Becca Schofield**, a donation to the Food Bank has been received from Buddie & Frances Blakely.

In loving memory of **John MacDonald**, a donation to the Community Kitchen has been received from Ernest & Ferne MacLean.

Tape Distribution: Feb. 25 – Joyce Forbes/**March 4** – Karen Rose

Duty Unit: Feb. Princess Street Unit/**March** – Rae Walls & Rainbow Unit

Greeters: March 4 – Barry & Bev Campbell/**March 11** – Barb Doucet & Margaret Moran Glidden

Sound System: Feb. 25 – Ernie MacLean/**March 4** – John MacKnight/**March 11** – Ernie MacLean

Power Point: Feb. 25 – Juanita Hamilton/**March 4** – Mary Reynolds/**March 11** – Juanita Hamilton

Offering Collections: Feb. 25 – Shirley MacDonald, Frances Blakely, Clarke Fraser, Cynthia Duplessie/**March 4** – Mavis Williamson, John MacKnight, Merle Milson, Pat Boucher

Offering Counters:

Feb. 25 – Margaret & John Glidden, Carol Johnston/**March 4** – Juanita Hamilton, Ferne & Ernie MacLean

Announcements:

This Week:

Sunday, Feb. 25th – *Men's Choir*

- *Birthday Box for WDR (February birthdays)*

- **Congregation Annual Meeting** at the conclusion of the service of worship, followed by a pot luck lunch.

Tuesday, Feb. 27th – 10:00 a.m. – *Lenten Study – Theme: Hope Beyond Life*

Tuesday, Feb. 27th – 3:00 p.m. - *Senior Choir practice*

Wednesday, Feb. 28th - 12:15 p.m. – *Ecumenical Noon Lenten Service. “Engaging The Master Designer.” Presider: Mr. Derrick Carnahan, Preacher: Father Charles Udeh (Rae Walls & Rainbow Unit helpers*

Wednesday, Feb. 28th – 2:30 p.m. – *Devotions at Mount St. Joseph Nursing Home*

(choir and congregation members are encouraged to attend)

Thursday, March 1st – 11:00 a.m. – *Devotions at Miramichi Senior Citizens Home*

Friday, March 2nd – 2:00 p.m. - *World Day of Prayer at Calvin Presbyterian Church. Storm Date: Sunday, March 4th at 2:00 p.m.*

Upcoming:

Tuesday, March 6th – 10:00 a.m. - *Lenten Study – Theme: “Resurrection”*

Wednesday, March 7th – 12:15 p.m. *Ecumenical Noon Lenten Service. “Foundations are Critical”:* Presider: Mr. David Allen, Preacher: Rev. Ross Wiseman *(Lesley Daigle Unit are helpers)*

Confirmation preparation will begin soon for youth (13 yrs & up) or adults wishing to become full members of the church.

Please notify Rev. Charlene if interested. Adults wishing to transfer their church membership are asked to notify Karen at the office.

A Special Lenten Project: We invited you to contribute to the support of Gabriella, the Sunday Schools sponsor child. You may place loose coins in a jar at the back of the church on one of the usher tables. Thank you!

Any former CGIT Alumni are invited to attend their monthly luncheon on Tuesday, Feb. 27th at 11:30 a.m. at Chatham Pizza Delight.

Let's Talk About Marriage: The Worship & Music Team have the responsibility for approving all marriages that take place in our church or by our minister. As a team, we are asked regularly to review our marriage policy. Because we take our role and responsibility seriously, we would like to get a better sense of the "climate" of feelings held by the congregation around marriage, and particularly around same-sex marriage.

We are inviting the congregation to share in dialogue around this subject on **Sunday afternoon, March 11th following the morning worship** (storm date March 18th). A lunch will be provided, followed by open and respectful discussion about marriage in the context of this time in which we live, and where all voices and points of view will be encouraged and welcomed.

This will not be a time for formulating or voting on a marriage policy. The purpose is to hear the voices of the congregation regarding our current marriage policy and to reflect on our policy in light of the United Church of Canada's statement on marriage.

(Copies of our policy and the United Church statement are on tables at back of sanctuary for you to take home and read prior to March 11th.)

We invite you to participate in this opportunity to share in respectful dialogue as we explore theology and practice around Christian marriage.

2018 Leadership Prayer Breakfast will be held on Friday, May 11th from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. at the Rodd Miramichi. Special music will be by Dave & Claire Young and guest speaker will be Andrew Vahi, Co-Founder of the Village of Hope. Tickets are \$15.00 a person and can be purchased from City Hall Reception Desk or Black Eagle Construction. Ticket deadline is April 21st. For more information please call 622-7740. *St. Andrew's has a table booked; anyone wanting a ticket contact Karen at the office (7 left).*