

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: Judy & Dennis Morrison

March 18, 2018

Lent 5

We Gather To Worship

*indicates to stand as you are able

Musical Prelude

*Introit: 371, Open My Eyes (*vs. 1*)

Call to Worship: (*seated*)

Let us focus on God's presence.

In the midst of a world where people hunger and thirst,

Come worship a God who feeds the hungry.

In the midst of a world where people are abused and oppressed,

Come worship a God who calls for compassion and justice.

In the midst of a world filled with wars and rumors of war,

Come worship a God who desires nothing less than peace for the world.

In the midst of a world of spiritual emptiness,

Come worship a God who gives life meaning.

Come, let us worship the Lord, whose grace and love know no end!

Opening Prayer:

Ever-calling God,

We give thanks that you have gathered us into your church and graced us with your faithful presence.

We ponder our history, ancient and still developing, and marvel at the many expressions of your church.

2

Grant us the vision to be a part of a new reformation for the Church that will bring ever more joy and justice to the world. Continue to gather us, the diverse lot of us, into Jesus' vision and dream that your faithful people may be one in you. Amen

*Hymn: #402, We Are One

Welcome & Announcements

Lenten Candle Liturgy: Barry & Bev Campbell

One: "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions."

Two: To truly come before God in confession takes courage. Even when we have been assured of mercy, even when we can trust in God's steadfast love, it takes courage to look inward, to admit where we have failed and put a name to our sins.

One: And so it is with hope and in great humility that we gather our prayers of confession this day. The Psalmist wrote, "The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."

Let us pray:

All: God of New Life, you ask us to look openly and honestly at ourselves and the ways we are living. It is in this light that we acknowledge today that we are broken in so many ways. We can do nothing else but admit that our lives are filled with broken promises, broken hearts, broken relationships. And we confess that we don't even know where to begin to make things right. Heal hearts that have been wounded by angry words. Soothe souls that have been denied joy. Open minds that have refused compromise. Free spirits that have been bound by fear. (*Silent confession as fifth candle is extinguished*).

Two: God's promise to us is a clean heart, a new and right spirit.

All: And because of this, we will rejoice in the presence of the holy; we will dance in the light of God's overwhelming forgiveness. Amen.

Sing: MV 115,
**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: #605, Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold
Conversation with the Children

The Word of God Proclaimed

Prayer for Illumination: *Linda Hartlen*
**Eternal God, you are the source of all things. Shine your light in
our hearts, that hearing your Word, we might be beacons of light
and love in the world. Amen.**

O.T. Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34

*Responsive Reading: Psalm 51, page 776-777, Refrain 2

Gospel Lesson: Luke 14:12-24

Ministry of Music: *I Am Thine, O Lord*

Reflection on the Word

Sing: #1 (MV), Let Us Build a House (*vs.1*) (*congregation seated*)

**Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

Dramatic Presentation: "Room at the Table"

Participants: *Anna MacDonald, Cynthia Duplessie, Plen Dickson,
Reese Godfrey, Mike Dickinson, Ferne MacLean*

L: Is there room at the table for _____?

All: We welcome you to the table, _____.

Sing: (MV #157 vs.1 adapted) – all seated

**You are a child of God,
you are a glimpse of God's new creation.
You are a child of God, you are a child of God.**

Sing: #1 (MV), Let Us Build a House (*vs.5*) (*congregation seated*)

**Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

We Respond to God's Word

Minute for Mission: All You Need Is Love! - *Marjorie MacPhee*

Offering

*Choral Response: #191 MV

**What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

*Offertory Prayer:

God of love, we give these offerings in gratitude,
rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.

We give these offerings in faith,
trusting that you will provide for our needs.
 We give these offerings in hope,
knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world.
 And with these offerings, we give ourselves;
May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen

Prayers of the People

*Hymn: They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, (x2)
and we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

Chorus:

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
 yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, (x2)
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

Chorus

We will work with each other, we will work side by side, (x2)
and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.

Chorus

*Commissioning & Benediction

Let us never grow weary of doing what is right!

We will go to seek justice for all of God's children.

Let us not grow weary of leading others to the kingdom!

We will go to follow Jesus' example of gathering all into grace.

Let us not grow weary of speaking of hope and peace.

We will go to sow the Spirit's seed of life and hope.

Go forth in the name of Christ. Proclaim God's love in all you do.

And may the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, be
 with you this day and always. Amen.

Choral Blessing: #221 MV "I Am Walking a Path of Love"

**I am walking a path of love,
 I am walking a path of love,
 I am walking a path of love,
 lead me home, lead me home.**

Musical Postlude

**The bulletins have been presented in loving memory of
 Ken McLaughlin (deceased March 11, 2005) by wife,
 Phyllis & Family.**

Memorials

In loving memory of **Katherine Whitty**, donations to the
 Community Kitchen have been received from Helen & Ed Jones,
 Marjorie MacPhee.

In loving memory of **John MacDonald**, a donation to the Mission &
 Service Fund has been received from Helen & Ed Jones.

In loving memory of **Jennie MacLennan**, a donation to the Mission
 & Service Fund has been received from Helen & Ed Jones.

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

Tape Distribution: March 18 – Helen Jones/**March 25** – Roland
 & Liz Taylor

Duty Unit: March – Rae Walls & Rainbow Unit/**April** – Lesley
 Daigle Unit

Greeters: March 25 – Norma Weatherby, Carol Johnston/**April 1** –
 Pat Boucher & Merle Milson

Sound System: March 18 – Paul Rose/**March 25** – Mary Reynolds/**March 30th (GF)** – Juanita Hamilton/**April 1** – Brian Savoy

Power Point: March 18 – Margaret Moran Glidden/**March 25** – Karen Rose/**March 30th (GF)** – Karen Rose/**April 1st** – Mary Reynolds

Offering Collections: March 18 – Holly Daley, Hallam Curtis, Barb Doucet, Clarke Fraser/**March 25** – Brenda & Dave Hicks, Merle Milson & Pat Boucher/**March 30 (GF)** – Marjorie MacPhee, Anna MacDonald, Ferne & Ernie MacLean/**April 1** – Barb Doucet, Mavis Williamson, Margaret Moran Glidden, Helen Jones

Offering Counters:

March 18 – Brian Savoy, Don Bowman, Barry Campbell/**March 25** – Margaret Glidden, Debbie Stymiest, Carol Johnston/**March 30th (GF)** – Juanita Hamilton, Karen Rose, Hallam Curtis/**April 1** – Lib Hachey, Marjorie MacPhee, Don Bowman

Announcements:

This Week:

Sunday, March 18th – Following the morning worship service - Let's Talk About Marriage: *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.*

Tuesday, March 20th – 3:00 p.m. – *Senior Choir Practice*

Tuesday, March 20th – 5:00 p.m. - **Roast Beef Supper with Apple Crisp for Dessert.** *Tickets are \$15.00 a person (100 tickets will be pre-sold) call to reserve your ticket or stop in to see Karen at the church office 773-9932.*

Wednesday, March 21st – 12:15 p.m. - *Ecumenical Noon Lenten Service. "The High Price of Short Cuts": Presider: Father Charles Udeh; Preacher: Mr. David Allan (Princess Anne Unit)*

Saturday, March 25th – 8:30 p.m. – *The Men's Breakfast group will be meeting at the Portage Restaurant. There will be a guest speaker. Men's Choir Practice will follow at 10 am for those that are interested.*

Upcoming:

Sunday, March 25th – *Sunday School children are asked to gather in St. Luke's Hall before the worship service to get ready for the Palm Parade.*

Thursday, March 29th – 7:00 p.m. – *Maundy Thursday service on Loggieville-Black River Pastoral Charge (location to be announced)*

Friday, March 30th – 7:00 p.m. – *Good Friday Service*

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!

Debbie Stymiest is looking for two readers for a worship service for Presbyterial in New Mills on Saturday, April 7th. If anyone is available they can travel to New Mills with Debbie.

Cancer Society Daffodils will be available for sale on Tuesday, March 20th. Anyone willing to help with the sale or distribution of the daffodils, please call Helen Jones 773-5715.

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. *St. Andrew's has a table booked; anyone wanting a ticket contact Karen at the office (4left).*