

St. Andrew's United Church,  
188 Wellington Street

<http://www.standrewsunitedmiramichi.org>

Minister: Rev. Charlene Maguire MacKnight

Organist & Choir Director: Mrs. Lois McKinnon

Musical Leadership: John Bosma & Sally Donald

March 14, 2021

Lent 4

**We Gather To Worship**

\*indicates to stand as you are able

Musical Prelude

Greeting and Welcome

Introit: # Introit: # 121, General and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

**Light of life beyond conceiving,  
mighty Spirit of our Lord;  
give new strength to our believing,  
give us faith to live your word,  
give us faith to live your word.**

**Give us eyes to see you clearly,  
make us children of your light;  
give us hearts to live more nearly  
as your gospel shining bright,  
as your gospel shining bright.**

Gathering Words (*inspired by John 3:16, written by Roddy Hamilton on <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>*)

\*Hymn: #343, I Love to Tell the Story (vs. 1&2)

\*Call to Worship:

Friends of God, believe this – God loved the world, God loves the world, and we are the beloved!

**May the truth of this great love story shine through our worship today, and renew our sense of calling.**

In this time of worship, come, with your tiredness, your frustrations and discouragements; come, with your doubts, your fears and longings; come, to discover yet again how Jesus reveals God's love and mercy.

2.

**We come, in friendship to God and to each other, and in friendship to the world, to listen for God's Word to us, to offer our prayers, and to renew our calling.**

Friends of God, let us worship!

Opening Prayer: (seated)

**Healing and Sustaining God, you are rich in mercy and generous in love. Grace us with signs of your presence, so that our worship may glorify you, and lift up the Christ, who calls us towards new life. Amen.**

Announcements of the Life and Work of the Church

Extinguishing of the Fourth Lenten Candle:

*Debbie Stymiest & Carol Johnston*

One: Today we continue our journey toward Easter, by reflecting on how fear can cause us to turn away from God. Fear can paralyze our ability to respond and grow. Fear of death, of getting old, of being alone, of growing up, of loving, can rob our lives and our relationship with God of all signs of vitality.

Two: Being afraid can stop us from doing new things, learning new things, and meeting new people. Being afraid can stop us from doing what we know God wants.

One: Our covenant with God is not like a covenant with people which ends if one party breaks the conditions of the agreement. God keeps the covenant even when we do not. God forgives. Even so, we often live as though we don't really trust God's promises.

Two: We are apprehensive, even fearful of the future; we let guilt eat away at us; we mistrust one another; we refuse to take risks because we cannot come to fully trust in the good news of the gospel – God's message of love to the world.

One: As we put out the fourth candle, let us think of the ways in which we have not trusted God. Let us remember the kind of trust that Jesus showed us by the way he lived.

*(pink candle is extinguished)*

3.

Two: Let us pray:

**You, O God, are the ever faithful One. We confess our lack of trust in your promises. O God, break through our fear which separates us from one another. Empower us to respond to your call – like Jesus, with courage and conviction. Amen.**

Response: #90, MV, Don't Be Afraid

**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,  
my love is stronger than your fear.**

**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger  
and I have promised, promised to be always near.**

**The Word of God Proclaimed**

Prayer for Illumination: *led by Judy Morrison*

**Loving God, give us openness to hear your word; enabling growth in faith that provides strength for the journey that is life. Amen.**

Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-2a, 4-10

Responsive Reading: Psalm 107, Part One (p.831)

John 3:14-21

Reflection on the Word

**We Respond to God's Word**

\*Hymn: #333, Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
Offering

\*Offertory Choral Response: (#543, vs.1)

**We give thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O God, from thee.**

\*Offertory Prayer:

**Loving and Giving God, accept these offerings from our hands  
along with the offerings we make to you from our hearts. Bless  
them and us in your service; and may our gifts be a means of  
sharing your love where it is needed most. We ask it in Jesus'  
name. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

\*Hymn: #316, Praise Our Maker

4.

\* Commissioning & Benediction:

Just as God's Word was sent into the world to heal and redeem, so God sends you into the world this day to be light and love, healing and hope.

**We go now to be light for the world!**

May God your Maker send you out with creative energies refreshed.

**May Christ the Light illuminate our darkest moments.**

And may the Holy Spirit of steadfast love guide you until we worship together again.

**Amen!**

\*Hymn: #424, May the God of Hope Go with Us (vs.1)

**May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.**

**May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

**Praying, let us work for peace,  
singing, share our joy with all,  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

Musical Postlude

**We gratefully acknowledge the dedication of the bulletins in  
loving memory of Alvin MacNaughton (deceased March 5,  
2009) by his wife, Harriet MacNaughton and Family.**

**Memorials**

In loving memory **Bob & Anna MacDonald**, a donation to the Community Kitchen has been received from Marjorie MacPhee.

In loving memory of **Guy Lamkey**, a donation to the Food Bank has been received from Barbara Doucet & Family.

In loving memory of **Guy Lamkey**, a donation to the Community Kitchen has been received from Helen Jones.

5.

**Greeter: March 14** – Liz Mullin/**March 21** – Liz Mullin/  
**March 28** – Holly Daley  
**Recorders: March 14** – Helen Jones/**March 21** – Cynthia  
Duplessie/**March 28** – Cynthia Duplessie  
**Ushers: March 14** – Wayne Mullin/**March 21** – Merle  
Milson/**March 28** – Merle Milson  
**Power Point: March 14** – Karen Rose/**March 21** – Debbie  
Benson/**March 28** – Barry Campbell  
**Sound System: March 14** – Don Bowman/**March 21** – John  
MacKnight/**March 28** – Ernie MacLean  
**Offering Counters: March 14** – Karen Rose & Debbie  
Stymiest/**March 21** – Judy Morrison & Don Bowman/  
**March 28** – Juanita Hamilton & Marjorie MacPhee

### Announcements

**Sunday, March 21** – *Congregational Annual Meeting* will be held as part of the worship service (the first half hour of the worship, will lead directly into the annual meeting, followed by closing hymn and benediction).

**Anyone wishing to have home Communion prior to Easter please call Rev. Charlene or the church office 773-9932.**

### **Please note the following update re worship at St. Andrew's.**

Since we are now in the Yellow Level of Covid-19 precautions, we can have up to about 80 persons in attendance at Sunday worship, following Government of New Brunswick guideline as follows:

**Faith venues can continue to be open as long as two metre of distance is maintained between people outside of their household or Steady15 at a maximum of 50% of the venue, and everyone is wearing a mask. Masks must be worn, and two metres of distance must be in place, for singing to be permitted – otherwise, no singing is allowed.**

6.

All must wear a mask. Congregational singing is permitted with mask. Physical distancing necessary except where people are of same household or 'bubble'. Names and contact numbers will be recorded at all services.

The Worship & Faith Development Team have dropped the requirement to pre-register for attendance at Sunday worship ... based on our average numbers when in yellow level previously, we do not anticipate being over the allowable number on any given Sunday. Should the numbers become greater than we can accommodate within the Public Health guidelines, we will reassess and advise you of any change in protocol.

One exception will be on Easter Sunday. We are scheduling two services and the first, more informal service at 9:00 a.m. will be limited to 30 persons as the service is being held downstairs in the Hall. You must phone or email to register for that service.

### Upcoming Services for Holy Week/Easter:

**March 28 – Palm/Passion Sunday** 11:00 a.m.- The service will include Confirmation and recognition of transfer of membership

**April 1 – Maundy Thursday** 7:00 p.m. – This service is joint with the congregations of the Loggieville-Black River Pastoral Charge and is held at St. Andrew's. Focus on the Upper Room and events of foot washing and Last Supper.

**April 2 – Good Friday** 7:00 p.m. – Service will take us from the Garden of Gethsemane to the Cross

**April 4 – Easter Sunday:** (Choose one of two options)

**9:00 a.m.** More informal service downstairs in the Hall – with dramatic presentation and Communion. Limited to 30 people because of physical distancing requirements. You must pre-register for this service.

**11:00 a.m.** Easter Sunday service with Communion

**If you have questions, call the Church office (773-9932)**

**Rev. Charlene**