

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: Elaine Dickson & Bill Gunn

March 7, 2021

Lent 3

We Gather to Worship

**indicates to stand as you are able*

Masks must be worn at all times; no congregational singing.

As you prepare for worship, ponder this thought:

***“Just as your body needs sleep, your soul needs time
to rest in God.” - Craig Groeschel***

Musical Prelude

Gathering Words

*Introit: #108, vs. 1&2

**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.**

**The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,
who found in weakness greater power,
embraces us, though lost and flawed,
and leads us to his Rising Hour**

*Call to Worship:

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God,

All: we gather to proclaim God's handiwork.

One: God's laws are perfect. God's decrees are sure.

All: God's precepts are right. God's commandments are clear.

One: God's ordinances are true. God's awesomeness is pure.

All: We gather to worship God.

2.

Opening Prayer: (*seated*)

**We praise you, loving and eternal God, for your love of all
people expressed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.**

**We praise you for his commitment to justice, his zeal for true
worship of you, and his willingness to replace all other sacrifices
with the sacrifice of his own life.**

In his name we offer you our worship. Amen.

Welcome & Announcements

Extinguishing of the Third Lenten Candle:

Elvina Sobey & Jayme Campbell

One: On this third Sunday of Lent, we reflect upon the walls we
build between God and ourselves and others by our
disobedience to God's call for justice and commitment.

Two: God's laws call us to a world where all people are valued, not put
down. But we often do not treat everyone as important. We forget
God's way.

One: We are called to a right relationship with God and each other.
Sometimes we do the letter of the law, but neglect the spirit
in which God commands it.

Two: Sometimes doing what is right upsets others and brings with it a
high cost. Responding to God's call is not always easy.

(3rd candle is extinguished)

One: Let us pray:

**O God, you have given us the challenge of following your
way of justice. Help us to be brave when following your
way makes others angry with us. Help us to know your
will, and give us the strength to do it. Amen.**

Special Music – If I Have Wounded any Soul Today

- Elaine Dickson

The Word of God Proclaimed

Prayer for Illumination:

**As we hear and reflect on the scriptures this day, may the words
of our mouths, and the meditations of all our hearts, be
acceptable to you, O God, our strength and redeemer. Amen.**

3.

O.T. Lesson: Exodus 20:1-17 – *A Modern Day Paraphrase of the Ten Commandments*

*Responsive Reading: Psalm 19, p. 740-41, Refrain 1
- *Joan MacKnight Savoy*

Gospel Lesson: John 2:13-22 – *Jesus in the Temple*

Reflection on the Word

We Respond to God's Word

*Hymn: #642, Be Thou My Vision (vs. 1,2,4)

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Offering

*Offertory Choral Response: #544

In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today

to serve your cause and share your love

with all along life's way.

O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son,

teach us to give ourselves each day

until life's work is done.

*Offertory Prayer:

We pray a blessing on all of the gifts we offer, O God, that through them, the many whose lives are touched will benefit from knowing your love, poured out through us and others. And may we, too, experience your blessing, trusting that through our sharing, compassionate needs will be met, the distressed will be supported, lonely persons will find a friend, and the call to justice will be heard. Amen.

* Commissioning & Benediction:

Let us go forth, ready to follow the challenging way of Jesus Christ!

We will choose between justice and injustice; we will speak out and act for what is right; we will conquer our fear and journey the hard road of faithfulness.

May the holy wisdom of God guard your ways and guide your paths.

May the living truth of God enlighten our hearts and open our minds.

And may the living Spirit of God give you life, and life to the full!

Amen!

4.

*Hymn: #425, God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

God, dismiss us with your blessing;

fill our hearts with joy and peace;

let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace; O

refresh us, O refresh us,

travelling through the wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration

for your gospel's joyful sound;

may the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound;

may your presence, may your presence,

with us ever more be found.

Musical Postlude

We gratefully acknowledge the dedication of the bulletins in loving memory of Alice MacDermaid by Marjorie MacPhee.

Memorials

In loving memory of **Dawn Stephenson**, a donation to Local Funds has been received from Steven & Elizabeth Wallace.

In loving memory of **John MacPhee**, a donation to the Food Bank has been received from Lynn MacPhee.

Greeter: March 7 – Liz Mullin/March 14 – Liz Mullin

Recorders: March 7 – Helen Jones/March 14 – Helen Jones

Ushers: March 7 – Wayne Mullin/March 14 – Wayne Mullin

Power Point: March 7 – Juanita Hamilton/March 14 – Karen

Rose/March 21 – Debbie Benson/March 28 – Barry Campbell

Sound System: March 7 – Brian Savoy/March 14 – Don

Bowman/March 21 – John MacKnight/March 28 – Ernie MacLean

Offering Counters: March 7 – Juanita Hamilton, Carol

Johnston/March 14 – Karen Rose & Debbie Stymiest/March 21 –

Judy Morrison & Don Bowman/March 28 – Juanita Hamilton &

Marjorie MacPhee

5.

Announcements

Tuesday, March 9th – 1:30 p.m. – *Worship & Spiritual Development Team Meeting*

St. Patrick's Supper on Wednesday, March 17th (take-out only) with pick up from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. (Storm Date – Thursday, March 18th). Menu is Irish Stew Pot Pie, Mashed Potatoes, Coleslaw, Roll and your choice of dessert either: Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Icing or Blueberry Cake and Sauce. Tickets are \$15.00 a person and are on sale now through Karen at the church office. Stop in or call 773-9932 to book your tickets. (100 tickets being sold)

Please Register for Church on Sunday: Church attendance is a maximum of 50 people. Therefore, it is necessary for you to phone or email the church if you plan to attend the Sunday service 773-9932.

The Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Affirm Standing Committee are offering an educational event on the theme **Becoming an Anti-Racist Church.** This will be held on **Wednesday, March 10th from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.** using Zoom videoconferencing. If you are interested, speak to or email Rev. Charlene and she will send you the link to register so that you will then receive an email with the Zoom link.