

St. Andrew's United Church
188 Wellington Street
<http://www.standrewsunitedmiramichi.org>
Minister: Rev. Charlene Maguire MacKnight
Organist & Choir Director: Lois McKinnon

May 15, 2022
5th Sunday of Easter

Order of Service

*indicates to stand as you are able

We Gather to Worship

Musical Prelude

Welcome & Greeting

*Introit: #402, We Are One (vs.1)

**We are one as we come, as we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips there's a sense that God is near.
We are one as we sing, as we seek, we are found;
and we come needful of God's grace as we meet,
together in this place.**

*Lighting of the Christ Candle: *Gail Arsenault*

One: We light the Christ candle and we proclaim that Jesus' resurrection has forever changed who we are and has given us the courage to boldly proclaim our hope in Christ.

(The Christ Candle is lit.)

Sing: **Light up the candle every day,**

Jesus be with us here as we pray.

One: In this light, we celebrate new life, new joy, and new possibilities.

All: Jesus' Spirit is alive among us! Thanks be to God!

*Call to Worship:

In the darkest valley,

at the banquet table;

in the hard work of life,

2.

at the moments of ease;
in our day-to-day reality,
at times set aside—
like this time, now—
for worship, for listening, for paying attention;
with every step we take:
goodness and mercy follow us; our cups overflow.

Opening Prayer: *(seated)*

Loving Shepherd, you know our names; you care for us.

When we face darkness and death, walk beside us.

When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence.

When we are fearful, feed us at your table.

May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy

all the days of our lives. Amen.

Hymn: #124, Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (*SofG, vs. 1,2*)

— congregation seated

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
In thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, thine we are.**

We are Thine, do thou befriend us, be the Guardian of our way;

Keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray:

Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, hear thy children when they pray;

Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, hear thy children when they pray.

Prayer of Confession & Commitment:

L: Lord, we would follow you wherever you might lead.

All: Lord, we would follow you.

Forgive us when we stumble and when we stray.

Forgive us when, distracted, we lose our way.

Be the one to whom we turn, whose hand we hold,

the Shepherd who leads us safely to the fold.

Lord, we would follow you wherever you might lead.

Lord, we would follow you.

3.

Words of Assurance:

This is the good news in Jesus Christ: God loves us more than we love ourselves. God forgives us and sets us free to love others.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Choir Special Music: “Shepherd of Love”

Announcements of the Life & Work of the Church

The Word Proclaimed

L: In scripture, God speaks to each of us.

All: Let us listen for the word of God.

N.T. Scripture: Revelation 7:9-17 – *Colleen Dickson*

Psalm 23 (*sung - #747VU – cong. seated*)

Gospel: John 10:22-30

Reflection on the Word

We Respond to the Word

Choir Special Music: “Are You a Shepherd?”

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer:

Loving Shepherd,

You lead and guide, you walk alongside;

You prepare, you feed, you call, all of your sheep,

**even those of us who are lost, those of us who stray constantly,
those of us who stay close to your comforting staff.**

We are grateful for the lush green pastures of our lives,

**and we pause now to offer our thanksgivings for the goodness in
our lives ... (*silent prayers*)**

There are so many who walk in the shadows of fear and suffering and despair,

**and we pause now, to offer our prayers for the broken and
bleeding places in this world... (*silent prayers*)**

We also offer our prayers for the sheep of our own flocks,

4.

**in our families and friends, in this our church and our
community... (*silent prayers and names from Prayer Book*)**

Help us to discern needs and work to fulfill them. Strengthen and unify our congregation and show us how we can be the disciples you envision us to be.

**Return the sick to health and well-being and relieve the suffering
of those who have lost loved ones. Be with those who hunger for
friendship; give hope to all who are unable to find meaningful
employment; and reassure those who fear the challenges of old
age.**

O Loving Shepherd, we have all we need, as we live in You.

**In all the comings and goings of our living, guide us into your
paths of right relationships and make us instruments of your
peace and grace.**

In Jesus’ name we pray, continuing as he taught:

Our Father, who art in heaven ... Amen.

Offering

*Offertory Choral Response: #539

**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:

**Holy One, we offer our gifts, presented here and by PAR or e-
transfer, with gratitude for the many ways you care for us. Use
them, and our very lives, to share life and love in abundance.
Amen.**

*Hymn: #135 (SofG), Trust and Obey (vs. 1,3,4)

5.

*Commissioning & Benediction:

We go now, trusting in the good shepherd, committed to loving, not just in words, but in truth and action.
Believe in the name of Jesus, and love one another always, just as he has commanded us.

We go in peace to love and serve our God.
May God be at your side, even in valleys of death.
May Christ Jesus be the cornerstone of your life.
And may the Holy Spirit abide in you and tend you with love and mercy all the days of your life.

Amen.

Choral Blessing:

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

Musical Postlude

We gratefully acknowledge the dedication of the bulletins in loving memory of Brian Hicks (April 24, 2015) by parents, Dave & Brenda Hicks, sister, Charlene and brother-in-law Stacey.

Memorials

In loving memory of **Phyllis Comeau**, a donation to Local Funds has been received from Marjorie MacPhee.

Greeters: May 15 – Gail Arsenault & Liz Taylor/May 22 – Jacob & Nicholas Rose/May 29 – Emma & Abby Sweezey

Sound System: May 15 – Brian Savoy/May 22 – John MacKnight/
May 29 – Ernie MacLean

6.

Power Point: May 15 – Debbie Benson/May 22 – Mary Reynolds/May 29 – Lynn MacPhee

Offering Counters: May 15 – Dennis & Judy Morrison/May 22 – Brian Savoy, Debbie Stymiest/May 29 – Lynn MacPhee, Carol Johnston

This Week:

Tuesday, May 17th – 1:30 p.m. – *General UCW meeting and all UCW members are encouraged to attend*

Saturday, May 21st - 2:00 p.m. – *Memorial Service for Alice MacPhee. UCW and the Sunday Brunch Group are asked to sit as a body.*

Upcoming Week:

Wednesday, May 25th – 10:00 a.m. – *Church Council Meeting*

Thursday, May 26th – 6:00 p.m. – *Lesley Daigle gathering for a potluck supper at Colleen Dickson’s house 79 Percy Kelly Drive, Unit 121*

Saturday, May 28th – 9:00 a.m. – *Men’s Breakfast Meeting at the Portage Restaurant. Ladies are invited to attend.*

-10:30 a.m. – *Men’s Choir practice*

A **congregational meeting** for St. Andrew’s United Church (Chatham Pastoral Charge) is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the recommendation of the Search Committee for a new minister and to vote on issuing a call to that minister to serve our congregation. This meeting is extremely important! Please plan to attend. – Cynthia Duplessie, Chair of Council

Please Save the Date: *Rev. Charlene’s Retirement Party, Saturday, June 11th from 2:00 p.m. till 4:00 p.m. this is for our congregation to have some special time with Rev. Charlene and wish her well on her retirement. Please plan to attend. Another day will be planned for Rev. Charlene to receive visitors from outside the congregation and that date will be announced.*

7.

DEDICATION GOSPEL CONCERT – St. James & St. John United Church will be hosting an in-person Memorial Gospel Concert at the church, 556 King George Hwy, on Sunday, June 5th, at 7:00 PM. If you wish to dedicate a hymn in memory or in honor of a loved one, please call the church office at 622-1598; the form listing all the hymns is also placed on church FaceBook page. The deadline to request a memorial is Tuesday, May 31st. For those who wish to attend the concert without making a dedication, a free-will offering will be received at the concert. Featuring Susan Butler, Donna & Tyrone Hubbard, Blair Baisley, Megan, Molly & Ava Gallant, Nancy Russell, Rev. Alice, United Harmony & Kimberley Shaddick. The concert will also be livestreamed.