



United Church of Canada  
L'Église Unie du Canada

# St. Andrew's United Church

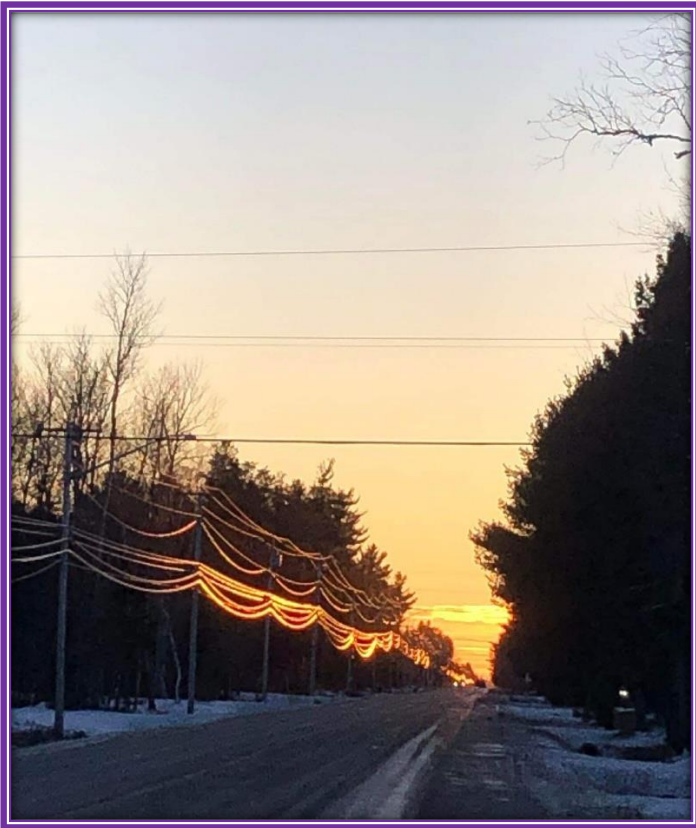


March 17, 2024.

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

## Our Mission Statement

"St. Andrew's United Church is a Christian Community of Faith  
that shares Christ's love through  
**Worship, Fellowship, Spiritual Growth, and Outreach.**"



*Endless God's love lines.*

*<Photo Credit: Frances Blakely >*

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# Sunday Worship Service

(March 17, 2024, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent)

**Worship Leader:** Rev. Eunkyu Ji

**Organist & Choir Director:** Lois McKinnon

**Greeters:** Margaret Moran Glidden & Barbara Doucet

\* *In highlighted parts, let us present ourselves to God by standing or sitting freely according to each one's physical condition. **If there is no highlight, remain seated.***

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## We Gather To Worship

**Music Prelude:** *Organist*

**Introit:** *Choir – MU #18, 'Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary'*

**Lighting the Christ Candle: Elizabeth Mullin**

*(Before worship: Light two purple candles and the Christ candle.)*

On the fifth Sunday in Lent, we move ever closer to Good Friday and to Jesus' suffering and death.

During the darkness of Lent, we are reminded of the new hope Jesus fulfilled on the cross. The new hope is a new relationship, a new covenant, that will be experienced between God and the people. Jesus said, "Only if a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies will it bring forth fruit." Let us consider what must die in our lives in order for new growth and a new spirit to be born within us.

*(Extinguish the 5<sup>th</sup> candle.)*

Let us pray together:

**God of love, you call us from darkness and despair to life and hope. Help us turn toward the bright light that Christ brings to the world. Open the possibility of a new life for us to rise again from the old darkness and despair. Amen.**

*Lenten Tenebrae Litany, The Whole People of God*

**Welcome:**

**\*Call to Worship:**

We welcome everyone to worship.

**Whether we are troubled, sad, or worried,  
whether we are celebrating, excited, or happy,  
God welcomes us in this place of worship.**

Everyone coming to worship today,  
the peace of God will guard our hearts and minds.

**We are gathered here to sing and pray to God.  
We will know that the Spirit of God is with us here.**

*Mary Anderson, Gathering L/E 2024*

**\*Opening Hymn:** VU # 660, "How Firm a Foundation"

**\*Opening Prayer:** *(together)*

**Our souls are troubled, Holy One,  
until they find their rest in you.  
When we live in fear of our mortality,  
help us face the future unafraid.  
Write the truth of Christ's words on our hearts:  
"Unless a grain of wheat  
falls into the earth and dies,  
it can only be a single seed.  
But if it dies, it bears much fruit."  
In our living and in our dying,  
draw us together with all your people.  
Amen.**

*B.J. Beu, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024*

**Prayer of Confession:**

*(Now, we are invited to reflect on ourselves before God. As the presider leads the prayer, join with your hearts in silence.)*

Engraver of the human heart,  
we long for your law of love to burst forth  
with every beat of our hearts.  
Work within us this day,  
that the majesty of your love  
may shine through us  
in everything we say and do.  
Put a new and right spirit within us, O Lord,  
that we may leave our failings behind  
and embrace the glory of our salvation,  
through Christ, our Lord.  
Now, we confess our weakness in silence.  
May our existence be renewed and filled with a new heart.  
*(a time of silent prayer)*

**Words of Assurance:**

The One who engraves our hearts is faithful, no longer remembering our sins. We are loved and accepted, for our gracious God has written this in our hearts.

**We are the people renewed by the love of Christ.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*B.J. Beu, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024*

**Sharing Time:**

**Hymn:** VU # 364, "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

*(Children leave for Sunday school after hymn)*

## The Word of God Proclaimed

### **Prayer of Illumination: Pat Boucher**

Our Saviour Jesus is God's fulfillment and joy for all creation. We are created in Christ to do every good work with Jesus. When we hear "Good News," the Word binds us to God, redeems us, restores us, and makes us whole. God's goodness and love will be our way of life. Amen.

*Ephesians 2*

### **Scripture Readings:**

Psalm 51:1–12 (VU pp. 776–777)

John 12:20-33

### **Ministry of Music: "Is Your Burden Heavy?"**

### **Message:**

## We Respond to God's Word

### **Announcements: Cynthia Duplessie**

### **Invitation to the Offering:**

Giving, giving, and being generous are very similar to planting a seed. A single seed can produce a bountiful harvest. Imagine how much impact we can make when we together generously plant our gifts in a community of faith, mission, and service. As followers of Jesus, let us sow a seed together.

*2024 Offering Invitations and Prayers, the UCC*

**\*Offering Hymn:** VU # 116, vs. 4 "Giver of the Perfect Gift"

**\*Offering Prayer:** *(Together)*

**With hearts washed clean and with spirits made new,  
we celebrate the joy of your salvation, O God.**

**May the tithes and offerings we share this day  
reflect the law of love  
you have written on our hearts.**

**May these gifts bear the fruit of your Spirit,  
and may they bless those who need it most. Amen.**

*B.J. Beu, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024*

### **Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer:**

- Sharing thanks or concerns
- People on Prayer Book –
- Peace for countries in wars
- Ecumenical Prayer Cycle (17 - 23 March 2024):  
Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania.

## **WE GO OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

*(Let us present ourselves to God, either standing up or sitting down)*

**\*Blessing Hymn:** VU #651, "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

### **\*Commissioning and Benediction:**

God has engraved the law of love in our hearts.  
Trust God's inner compass to guide us.

**We will try to discern God's still, small voice  
whispering in our hearts.**

We will go out into the world and listen to the sound of promise  
beating powerfully in our hearts.

**We will remember the loving heart of Christ in us.**

The grace of Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy  
Spirit be with all of us, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*B.J. Beu, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024*

**\*Choral Closing:** (Choir) MV #213, "Take Up His Song"

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### **Bible Readings for this week (Year B):**

**Jeremiah 31:31–34 / Psalm 51:1–12 / Hebrews 5:5–10 /  
John 12:20–33**

- **Jeremiah 31:31-34:** What are the covenant relationships in your life? How do you fulfill your part of the covenant with God?
- **Psalm 51:1-12:** What are the things that clutter your heart, limiting your availability to fully love?
- **Hebrews 5:5-10:** When have you offered your prayers "with loud cries and tears" as Jesus did? How does knowing Jesus' vulnerability impact your life of faith?
- **John 12:20-33:** How does this example of the grain of wheat help you to understand Jesus' crucifixion and death?

*The Upper Room, Disciplines 2024, [www.upperroom.org/disciplines](http://www.upperroom.org/disciplines)*

## Announcements

**Congratulations and Best Wishes are extended to Robert & Edna Price, who are celebrating their 68<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary today, March 17<sup>th</sup>.**

***The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the Taylor Family and also to Harriet MacNaughton on the death of Evelyn Taylor.***

### ■ Memorials:

- In loving memory of **Joyce Potter**, donations to Local Funds have been received from Cynthia Duplessie, Don & Judy Bowman, Dennis & Judy Morrison.
- In loving memory of **Callum MacPhee**, a donation to Local Funds has been received Cynthia Duplessie.
- In loving memory of **Hallam Curtis**, a donation to the Community Kitchen has been received from Donna & Coralie Curtis.

### ■ Worship:

#### 1. Welcome everyone who worships with us today.

- If you would like to become a new member, please leave a **'Welcome card'** on the offering plate.
- Leave your offering on the plate at the entrance before the service. If you miss it, please bring it to the office after service.

#### 2. We need **"Bulletin Cover Photos"** for each Sunday

The photo on the Bulletin cover is one of the ways we express our faith. For the Lenten and Easter Season, please submit photos for the Sunday bulletin to the church email.

#### 3. 2024 Lenten Season:

- Daily "Lent 2024 40 Days Reflection"
- Active participation for **"Give it up for the Earth!"** Campaign. (Fasting to reduce greenhouse gases, disposable products and food waste, fasting for recycling, fasting on media use, etc.)
- 5 Love Language cards to express "Love" to the world and others

#### 4. Worship Volunteers:

- **Greeters: March 24** – Bill & Evelyn Row/**March 29 (GF)** – Ferne MacLean/**March 31** – Bev Campbell & Shirley MacDonald
- **Sound System: March 17** – Brian Savoy/**March 24** – Barry Campbell/**March 29 (GF)** – Paul Rose/**March 31** – Barry Campbell
- **PowerPoint: March 17** – Barry Campbell/**March 24**–Jennifer Walker/**March 29 (GF)** – Karen Rose/**March 31** – Mary Reynolds
- **Offering Counters: March 17** – Brian Savoy & Barry Campbell/**March 24** – Dennis & Judy Morrison/**March 29 (GF)** –

Karen Rose & Helen Jones/**March 31** – Betty MacDiarmid & Karen Rose

**5. The Church Directories are in and can be picked up from the church office.** Anyone who had their picture taken will be receiving a free directory. If you did not have your picture taken but wish do purchase a directory you may do so from the church office for \$20.00.

■ **Regional & General Council News:**

**1. Upcoming Stewardship Events**

- **Getting Started in Stewardship:** The place to begin! Communities of faith that start here have better success on their stewardship journey. The 90-minute session and 3 follow-up assignments get you ready to proceed to other stewardship programs. **April 10, 2024**
- **Bequests and Estate Giving Spring 2024:** Join Jess Smith (United Church Foundation) and I for a two-session webinar on how your community of faith can set up your Planned Legacy Program and inspire and invite planned gifts. **April 24 and May 8, 2024**

■ **This Week:**

**1. Church Office hours:**

Monday – 9-4; Tuesday 9-4; Wednesday 9-4; Thursday 9-4; Friday 9-4

**2. Weekly Collection;**

Collection on Sunday, March 10 <sup>th</sup>	\$ 1,020.00
Weekly Par Collection	<u>\$ 1,286.77</u>
<b>Total for the Week of March 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>\$ 2,386.77</b>

► **Amount needed weekly to meet Budget \$3,962.00**

**3. Nursing Home Service at Losier Hall**

Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm. All are welcome to join the meditation service.

■ **Upcoming:**

- 1. Property & Financial Management Team Meeting:** Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- 2. Baked Haddock Supper: Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, from 4:00 p.m. till 5:00 p.m. (TAKE-OUT ONLY)** here at St. Andrew's United Church. We will serve baked haddock, mashed potatoes, peas, coleslaw and lemon cake for dessert. Tickets are \$15.00 a person.
- 3. On Sunday, March 24th (Palm Sunday),** there will be a **Cold Potluck Luncheon** following the morning Worship Service. (Examples: cold meat, salads, sandwiches, desserts, etc.)
- 4. Holy Week Services:**
  - **Maundy Thursday Service:** Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m.  
This will be a joint service with Loggieville-Black River Pastoral Charge at F.P. Loggie Hall.

- **Good Friday Service:** Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. here at St. Andrew's United Church.
  - **Easter Communion Service:** Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 a.m.
- 5. Church Council Meeting:** Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 a.m.

■ **Community Events:**

1. **Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>** – CGIT Alumni will be meeting at Mikes Bar & Grill at 11:00 a.m. All former CGIT members are invited to attend.
2. **Noon Lenten Services at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Bushville** at 12:15 p.m.
  - **March 20<sup>th</sup> “Put God First in Your Finances”** with Presider: Rev. Deacon Ted Quann and Preacher: Pastor Ray Arsenault.
3. **St Mary's Church is pleased to host Vienna- based pianist** John Dupuis in concert at St. Mary's Church, Wednesday, April 10 at 7pm. Advance tickets are \$30.00 adults, door \$35.00, students \$20.00, at door \$25.00. Tickets on sale at Brookdale Flower Shop, on line at eventbrite.ca or Susan at 506-622-1780. Reception to follow.
4. **Annual Tartan Day Dinner/Concert, Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**, Kin Centre. Tickets are \$40.00 each, by reservation only, call Susan 506-622-1780. Sponsored by the 67<sup>th</sup> Miramichi Folksong Festival and Highland Society of NB at Miramichi.
5. **The St. J&J Drama Troupe** is ready to hit the stage once again. Join us April 5, 6 & 7<sup>th</sup>, for *“Heaven's to Mergatroid”*, a Dessert Theatre, at the United Church Centre, 556 King George Hwy. Tickets are \$20 each and available at the United Church Office, Dickinson's Pharmasave, and Brookdale Flower Shop. For reservations, please phone 506-622-1598.
6. **Headstones Saddles made by Brenda Hicks or Jacky LeBreton** are now on sale by calling Brenda (773-6787) or Jacky (773-8002). They will also have them for sale each week at the Farmer's Market being held at the Curling Club.

■ **Minister's Office:**

**1. Pastoral Care and Pastoral Visit**

When you need pastoral care, contact Rev. JI or the church office. Visits to the minister's office are welcome anytime.

**E-mail:** [rev.ekji@gmail.com](mailto:rev.ekji@gmail.com)



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to visit the St Andrew's website.

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