



The United Church of Canada
L'Église Unie du Canada

St. Andrew's United Church

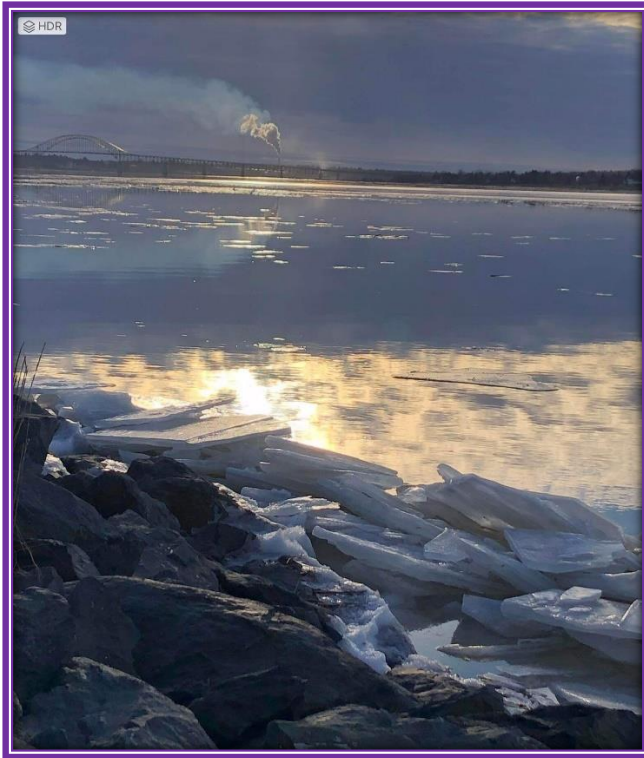


February 25, 2024.

2nd 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."



Break all frozen hearts! Light is coming!
<Photo Credit: Frances Blakely>

188 Wellington Street. Miramichi, NB. E1N 1M4
Tel & Fax: 506-773-9932
Church Email: chathamstauc@nb.aibn.com

Sunday Worship Service

(February 25, 2024, 2nd Sunday in Lent)

Worship Leader: Rev. Eunkyu Ji
Organist & Choir Director: Lois McKinnon
Greeters: Barbara Doucet & Donna Curtis

* *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.***

We Gather To Worship

Music Prelude: *Organist*

Introit: *Choir* – MV # 161, 'I Have Called You by Your Name'

Lighting the Christ Candle: *Linda Laviolette*

We think of Abraham and Sarah, who trusted in God's promise that they would have many descendants. When Isaac was born, he became a child of the covenant, as Abraham and Sarah had promised. Our baptism makes us children of the covenant, too.

(The Lenten candles are lit, except 1st candle.)

Let us pray together:

O God, we confess that we have put our hope in many things – our families, our jobs, our friends, and our possessions. Help us to refocus and put our trust in you. Give us strength to live up to the promises we have made as your covenant people. May your constant love be with us as we put our hope in you. Amen.

Lenten Tenebrae Litany, The Whole People of God

Welcome:

***Call to Worship:**

In promise and covenant, God calls.

In hope and trust, we respond.

In love and faithfulness, God saves.

In gratitude and joy, we come.

We worship and praise God's holy name with one heart and one mind.

Mary J. Scifres, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024

***Opening Hymn:** VU # 634, "Abraham to Sarah"

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

**In our lives and in the world,
we bear too much mourning.**

**We seek your presence, O God,
to make our hearts new and sustain us in your love.
With setbacks and crushed expectations,
we have known too much crying.
We crave your comfort, O God,
to make our dreams new and refresh us in your love.
Despite our striving, our hoping, and even our praying,
we feel too much pain.
We need your healing, O God,
to make our souls new and strengthen us in your love.
Be with us, O God, and make us your people.
Wipe away our tears and renew us in your love,
through our worship and in our lives.
Amen.**

Gill Le Fevre, Gathering LE 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.)

Faithful One, we want to believe.

Help our unbelief.

We yearn to follow faithfully.

Forgive our hesitant, stumbling steps.

Hold us by the hand, guide us with your love,
and cover us with your mercy and grace.

Help us answer your call, trust your promises,
and walk in your ways

all the days of our lives.

Now, we confess our weakness in silence.

O God of forgiveness, may we be born again by your grace.

(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance:

Christ's righteousness has become our righteousness. God's merciful love is enough to save us. All is forgiven. All is restored.

God's beloved are made righteous in Christ's grace.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Mary J. Scifres, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024

Sharing Time:

Hymn: VU # 561, "Take Up Your Cross"

(Children leave for Sunday school after hymn)

The Word of God Proclaimed

Prayer of Illumination: Joan MacKnight Savoy

God, we are renewed and redeemed in Christ. Following Christ, we are alive and called to love. This glorious gift is in the Word of God. When God's promise is declared, may we be renewed every day as your beloved children. Amen.

Romans 4

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 22:23–31 (VU p. 746 Part Three and Four)
Mark 8:31–38

Ministry of Music: “When We Are Living”

Message:

We Respond to God’s Word

Announcements: Merle Milson

Mission and Service Stories (*Minute for Mission*): Judy Donnelly

Birthday Box for WDR:

(sung seated, as people come forward to share their birthday box offering)

**Happy Birthday to you, to Jesus be true;
May God’s richest blessings, now rest upon you.
These gifts we now share, to show that we care
for all of God’s children, here and everywhere.**

Invitation to the Offering:

Taking up our cross means confronting injustice with sacrifice, radical service, and the power of love. We gather to take up our cross and follow the path of Jesus. Let us give our offering with our passion and devotion toward the kingdom of God.

2024 Offering Invitations and Prayers, The United Church of Canada

***Offering Hymn:** VU # 549, “For All Your Goodness, God”

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

**God of ancient days and futures not yet seen,
bring your eternal wisdom to our time of offering.
Bring your ancient faith and faithful love
to the gifts we now bring.
Transform the past with the promise of your future,
that together our gifts may merge with your Spirit
to bring transformation and hope to your world. Amen.**

Mary J. Scifres, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024

Service of Table: The Season of Lent

Word of Invitation:

We are one family in the love and grace of Christ.
Today, we are invited to the feast of joy and salvation
provided by Our Saviour.

God, who created heaven and earth,
created us in the image of God's glory.
God also willingly came to earth
in the form of a vulnerable human being
to become a sacrifice of salvation and reconciliation for us.
We will come to God's banquet and taste the joy of God's kingdom.
We will remember the blessings we have received
and the blessings we are called to be.
Come to be blessed.
Come to be fed.
Come, for the Spirit is calling,
inviting us to be nourished and born anew.

Let us give thanks and praise to God
because God is always with us.
All are welcome here.

Thanks be to God.

Invitation Hymn: VU # 467, "One Bread One Body"

Call to Give Thanks:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving:

Thanks and praise be to you, O God,
for you create life out of the dust,
and sustain us even in the desert.
We thank you that in the face of every temptation and trial,
every principality and power,
you are present to direct and guide,
to renew and revive.

We praise you for sending us Jesus,
your Suffering Servant,
to walk before us the way of the cross,

to turn us to you and to one another.

Therefore, we join the Lenten procession of pilgrims
and praise you along the way:

**Holy, holy, holy God,
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Institution of the Lord's Supper:

On the night in which he surrendered himself,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, saying:
**"Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Each time you do this, remember me."**

When the meal had ended, Jesus took the cup,
offered thanks, and gave it to the disciples, saying:
**"Drink. This cup is the promise of God, made in my blood.
Each time you drink from this cup, remember me."**

Affirmation of Memory and Hope:

Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace,
remembering Christ's life and death,
proclaiming his resurrection,
waiting in hope for his coming again.
Grant that, in praise and thanksgiving,
we may so offer ourselves to you
that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Prayer for Transformation:

Send, O God,
your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts,
that all who share in this loaf and cup
may be the body of Christ:
light, life, and love in the world.
In this hope and as your people, we praise you.

**Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, God most holy,
now and forever. Amen.**

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer:

- Sharing thanks or concerns. Birthday's this month.
- People on Prayer Book – **Merle Milson**
- Peace for countries in wars
- Ecumenical Prayer Cycle (25 February - 02 March 2024):
Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands

Now, we pray together as Jesus taught us,
“**Our Father...**”

Breaking the Bread and Filling the Cup:

(Breaking of the Bread)

Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.

Thanks be to God for the bread of life.

(Pouring of the Cup)

Jesus Christ, the True Vine.

Thanks be to God for the cup of blessing.

Come, for all things are now ready.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup: (In pews)

- *Communion Servers will move to bring bread and cups to the pews.*

- *Please wait until everyone receives bread and cup.*

- *Everyone will eat the bread and drink the cup together.*

- *When you pick up the bread and cup from the tray, you respond with “**Amen**”
or “**Thanks be to God.**”*

The body of Christ given for you.

Amen.

The blood of Christ poured out for you.

Amen.

Prayer After Communion: (together)

**We give thanks, almighty God,
that you have refreshed us at your table
by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ.
Strengthen our faith,
increase our love for one another,
and send us forth into the world
united in courage and peace,**

rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

WE GO OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

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

***Blessing Hymn:** VU # 337, "Blessed Assurance"

***Commissioning and Benediction:**

(The minister extinguishes the second Lenten Candle)

Today, we put out our second Lenten candle, as we think about those times when we have not trusted fully in God's promises.

Now, let us go forth with the voice of God calling your name.

We go in the love of God.

Go forth to hear Christ claiming us as his beloved friends.

We go in the mercy of Christ.

Go forth to follow where the Spirit sends us.

We go in the power of the Holy Spirit.

(All) We hold each other's hands and move forward into the world. As Christ called us, we will boldly invite the world and our neighbours into the kingdom of God.

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 2021

***Choral Closing:** (Choir) MV # 212. "Sent Out In Jesus' Name"

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Bible Readings for this week (Year B):

**Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16 / Psalm 22:23–31 / Romans 4:13–25 /
Mark 8:31–38 or Mark 9:2–9**

- **Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16:** What is the basis of your relationship with God? How comfortable do you feel in it?
- **Psalm 22:23–31:** How do you find hope in troubling times?
- **Romans 4:13–25:** How easily do you live in God's grace? In what areas do you find yourself "reckoning" your righteousness?
- **Mark 9:2–9:** When have you found it difficult to believe in things you may not fully understand? What helps you to trust in God?

The Upper Room, Disciplines 2024, www.upperroom.org/disciplines

Announcements

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

- Anna MacIntosh and Family on the death of her sister, Linda Lyons who passed away February 11th at Shannex in Fredericton
- Sherman & Shirley MacDiarmid, John MacKnight and Joan MacKnight Savoy on the death of their nephew, Daryl Gammon.

■ Memorials:

- In loving memory of **Linda Lyons**, a donation to Local Funds has been received from her sister, Anna MacIntosh.
- In loving memory of parents; **Harry B. Campbell (deceased Feb. 22nd, 1960), Catherine A. Campbell (deceased March 1st, 2005) and also sister; Thelma J. (Campbell) Gould (deceased April 9th, 2017)**, a donation to St. Mark's Cemetery has been received from Phyllis, Bill & Sherry McCoombs.
- In loving memory of **Callum MacPhee**, a donation to Local Funds has been received from Florence Glynn.
- In loving memory of **Daryl Gammon**, a donation to Local Funds has been received from Sherman & Shirley MacDiarmid.

■ 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:

- 1) "Lent 2024 40 Days Reflection" will be greatly useful to the daily Lenten Bible Study. (Read the given Bible verse each day. Read the questions and meditate. End with your own prayer or the Lord's prayer.)
- 2) The theme of this year's National Ecumenical Lent Campaign is **"Give it up for the Earth!"** During this year's Lent, all United Churches will work toward "Act/Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis."

(Fasting to reduce greenhouse gases, disposable products and food waste, fasting for recycling, fasting on media use, etc.)

3) Lenten piggy bank coin collection to support environmental organizations.

4. Worship Volunteers:

- **Greeters:** **March 3** – Jennifer Walker & Dana Gunn/**March 10** – Sam & Carolyn Shirley/**March 17** – Janice & Ray Carter/**March 24** – Bill & Evelyn Row
- **Sound System:** **Feb. 25** – Barry Campbell/**March 3** – Ernie MacLean/**March 10** – Paul Rose/**March 17** – Brian Savoy
- **PowerPoint:** **Feb. 25** – Nathan Robichaud/**March 3** – Karen Rose/**March 10** – Mary Reynolds/**March 17** – Barry Campbell
- **Offering Counters:** **Feb. 25** – Judy & Dennis Morrison. **March 3** – Karen Rose & Brian & Davida Adams/**March 10** – Betty MacDiarmid & Cynthia Duplessie/**March 17** – Brian Savoy & Barry Campbell

5. **Income Tax Receipts for the 2023 year** are now ready and on the back table by the church office for pickup.

■ Regional & General Council News:

1. Singing Songs of Hope to Support Mental Health

Webinar : Our spirituality is our unique SONG: our sense of Self; connection to Others, understanding of the Natural order of things and our relationship to God.

This webinar will be an opportunity to dive deeper into our understanding of spirituality, mental health and the impact a community of faith can have on providing support.

For registration, visit at <https://ucceast.ca/>

■ This Week:

1. **Today, Sunday Feb. 25th** – Sacrament of Communion and Birthday Box for WDR

2. Church Office hours:

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

3. Weekly Collection;

Collection on Sunday, Feb. 18 \$ 495.00

Weekly Par Collection \$ 1,286.77

Total for Week of Feb. 18 \$ 1,781.77

Amount needed weekly to meet Budget \$3,962.00

4. **Non- perishable items** are needed at Miramichi Food Bank.

Your donations would be greatly appreciated.

■ **Upcoming:**

1. **Next Sunday, March 3rd**, is our monthly Hymn Sing. Please be ready to begin at 10:50 a.m. and have your favourite hymns selected from “Voices United.”

■ **Community Events:**

1. **CGIT Alumni are meeting on Monday, Feb. 26th** at 11: 30 a.m. at Pizza Delight Chatham. All former CGIT are invited to attend.

2. **The 200th Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer** will be held on Friday, March 1st at 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul’s Anglican Church, Bushville.

■ **Minister’s Office:**

1. **Pastoral Care and Pastoral Visit**

Pastoral care will happen as people request the minister. 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



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