

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH AMHERST

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www.firstbaptistamherst.com

Senior Minister: Rev. Jeff G. White

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jgwhite@ns.aliantzinc.ca

Minister of Families & Outreach: *vacant*

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Byron Corkum

Organist & Choir Director: Kevin Dupuis

Church Custodian: Shauna McCallum

Administrative Assistant: Angela Marks

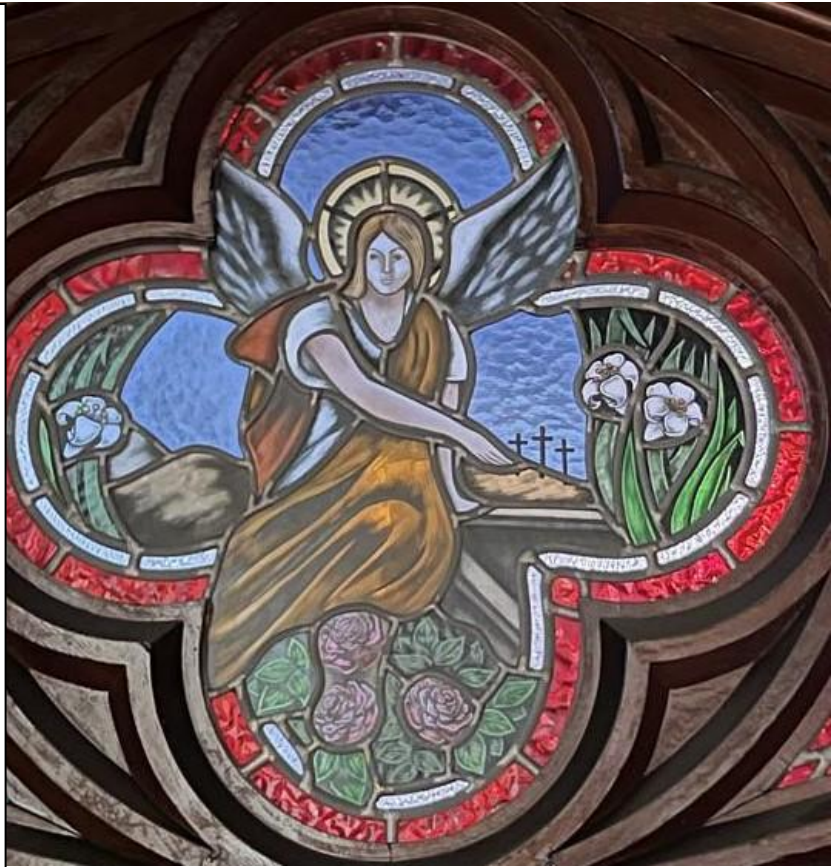
Worship

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024, 10:30 am

Welcome to our worship and fellowship.

Masks are welcome and optional in our building. * *Stand, as you are able.*



PRELUDE

Kevin Dupuis

*WELCOME

Jeff White

*INTROIT **Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions.**

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

(Words and music: Marty Haugen © 1994 by GIA Publications Inc.)

*CALL to Worship

leader & people

The Spirit of God welcomed creation into being: **our Creator welcomes us.**

The people of God walked the eons with faith: **our Spirit guides us.**

The earth and the cosmos were touched by Christ: **our Saviour blesses us.**

Now let us spend this hour in sacred ways: **let this be a timeless moment.**

Now let us sing and hear, speak and pray, rest and move: **hallelujah! Amen.**

*HYMN

"It's a Song of Praise to the Maker"

p. 5

PRAYER of Approach (A.C.T.S.) and the Lord's Prayer (# 629)

in unison

Adoring You, mighty and merciful God, we have come together to worship.

Confessing again how we have failed, we bow and become honest with You.

Thanking You, Holy Maker of all goodness, we count our many blessings.

Seeking help, we pray to bless the whole world, starting with ourselves.

All this in Jesus' name, by His power and authority, who taught prayer:

Our Father...

HYMN # 494 “Jesus Bids Us Shine” vs. 1

**Jesus bids us shine, with a clear, pure light, Like a little candle burning in the night;
In this world of darkness we must shine, You in your small corner, and I in mine.**

STORY TIME

HYMN # 494 “Jesus Bids Us Shine” vs. 3

**Jesus bids us shine, then for all around, Many kinds of darkness in this world abound —
Sin, and want, and sorrow: we must shine, You in your small corner, and I in mine.**

(Activities for children are not available upstairs today.)

PRAYER for when you’ve been hurt by the church **in unison**

(Kate Bowler & Jessika Richie, *The Lives We Actually Have*, 2023, pp. 118-119)

This prayer may not be yours, today. Maybe it was your prayer in the past. It likely is the prayer of some people we know, today, who left the fellowship. Let us pray it for them and for us.

**God, you saw me walk away.
I had to.**

**For what was supposed to have been
a refuge, a community of hope, purpose,
mutual encouragement,
distorted all I understand you to be.**

**Oh God, lead me to the heart of love,
so I might find the healing I need,
and protect the reverence I have for you.**

**For you do not consume, but rather feed.
You do not destroy, but build up.
You do not abandon your little ones,
but insist that they belong in your arms.**

**Enfolded here, I see you now,
the God who loves us to the end.
For though I walked away, you didn’t.**

**You found me. And will lead me.
Let’s now find the others.**

Amen.

CHOIR “Our Lord Reigns”

SCRIPTURE Acts 8:26-40

Audrey Patriquin

***HYMN** “I Met a Stranger on the Road”

**(1) I met a stranger on the road
who read a book alone,
whose skin was dark and language strange,
whose status was unknown.
And yet he read my sacred text,
this pilgrim from abroad,
and asked, “Where can I find a guide
to lead me to this God?”**

**(2) I told the story of the Christ
whose life denounced each wall,
whose love expands our narrowed sights:
the Lamb raised up for all.
And when I asked if he believed,
I saw my view was flawed:
we both encountered grace that day,
we both were led to God.**

**(3) For when we draw our boundary lines dividing out from in,
then Christ stands on the other side; exclusion is our sin.
Praise God for strangers on the road – the different and the odd –
the pilgrim guides who take our hand and lead us back to God.**

(David Bjorlin © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc.)

EPISTLE

1 John 4:7-21

Ed Colquhoun

SERMON

“Gospel Unlimited”

Jeff White

SILENT Meditation

CELEBRATION of Ministry

OFFERING

*RESPONSE

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise Holy Spirit evermore, Praise Triune God, whom we adore.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

PRAYERS of the People

*HYMN

“My Love Colours Outside the Lines”

(1) **My love colours outside the lines,
exploring paths that few could ever find;
and takes me into places
where I’ve never been before,
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.**

(2) **My Lord colours outside the lines,
turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
and takes me into places
where I’ve never been before,
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.**

[chorus] **We’ll never walk on water
if we’re not prepared to drown,
body and soul need a soaking
from time to time.
And we’ll never move the grave stones
if were not prepared to die,
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.**

(3) **My soul longs to colour outside the lines,
tear back the curtains, sun, come in & shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries
where I’ve never been before,
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.**

[chorus]

(4) [repeat verse 3]

[chorus]

(Gordon Light © 1995 Common Cup Company)

*BENEDICTION (Sending & Blessing for the beloved community, Rev. Le Anne Clausen de Montes)

Let us go forth from this place

We go forth by foot, by car, by bicycle;

We go forth with walker, cane, or wheelchair;

We go forth as the livestream ends.

How shall we live, transformed by God’s love?

We may encounter the stranger, the hungry, the lonely,

Let us welcome them, feed them, befriend them.

We may encounter those who intend to do us harm.

Let us return good for evil, and we ask God to help us be safe.

We may encounter those who are angry at us or afraid of us.

Let us bear the love which conquers fear.

Let us extend the Beloved Community to all people.

Let us go with God.

*CHORAL Benediction

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 He 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.

(Nancy Price, Don Besig, © 1988 by Harold Flammer Music, a Division of Shawnee Press, Inc.)

POSTLUDE

Kevin Dupuis

[You may remain seated to hear the postlude music.]

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May 5 will be Communion Sunday and monthly benevolent offering. We will also officially welcome and install Marlene Quinn as our **Minister of Christian Education** for a one year term. A reception will follow with a light lunch.

Christie Fund Committee: Brief meeting on **Sunday, May 12** following the morning service. **Congregational Meeting** on **Sunday, May 19** to review/approve the recommendations of the Christie Fund Committee.

CBAC Prayer Link: This week, pray for the Saint-John Kings Association of churches in New Brunswick. Thank God for the impact that they have on their neighbourhoods and for those who lead and serve within their congregations. Pray that God would continue to guide their ministries and that the Gospel would be made known through them.

Gospel Music: Gospel Music with Sim Rushton and Lawry MacLeod on **Monday, May 13 at 6:00 pm** at the **A & E Centre Amherst Centre Mall**. Freewill offering with proceeds to the Amherst Food Bank.

Schedule-Sun., April 28 – Mon., May 6

Sun, 28	10:30 am	Worship Service
Wed, 1	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	11:00 am	Prayer Meeting
	4:00 pm	Board of CE
Thur, 2	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Fri, 3	3:00 pm	Wedding Rehearsal
Sat, 4	2:00 pm	Wedding Ceremony
Sun, 5	10:30 am	Worship Service

1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

Induction Service for Rev. Marlene Quinn

Mon, 6	3:30 pm	IODE
	6:30 pm	Search Committee

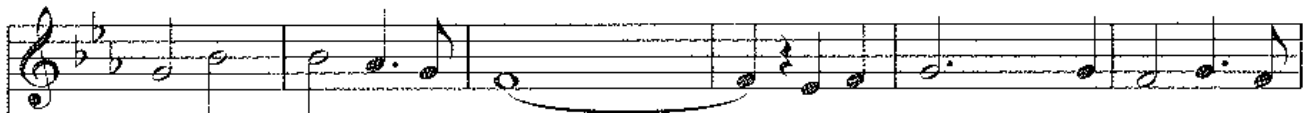
Offerings for Sunday, April 21

Envelopes	\$1,091.04
Plate	\$ 32.50
CBAC	\$ 45.00
Choir Fund	\$ 8.00
Restoration	\$ 5.00
Benevolent	\$ 70.00
Brunch	\$ 273.20
Easter	\$ 10.00
TOTAL	\$1,534.74

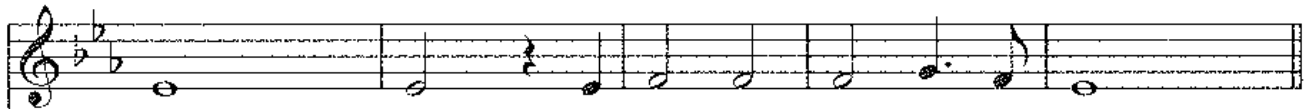
It's a Song of Praise to the Maker



1 It's a song of praise to the Mak - er, the
 2 It's a call of life to the Giv - er when
 3 It's a hymn of love to the Lov - er; the
 4 It's the chor - us of all cre - a - tion; it's



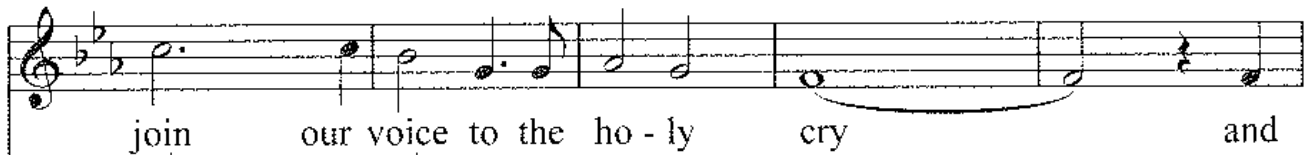
thrush sings high in the tree. It's a song of praise to the
 waves and wat-er-falls roar. It's a call of life to the
 bum - ble - bees hum a - long. It's a hymn of love to the
 sung by all liv ing things. It's the chor - us of all cre-



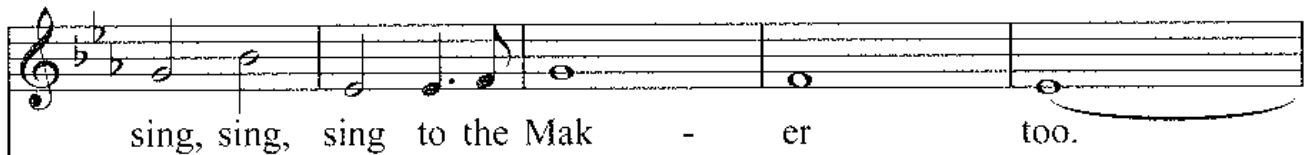
Mak - er, the gray whale sings in the sea,
 Giv - er when high tides break on the shore,
 Lov - er; the sum - mer breeze joins the song,
 a - tion; a song the u - ni - verse sings,



And by the Spir - it you and I can



join our voice to the ho - ly cry and



sing, sing, sing to the Mak - er too.

Words: Ruth Duck, 1992

Music: Ron Klusmeier, 1992

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