

Mountain View United Church
85 MacBeath Ave., Moncton NB E1C 6Z3
February 18, 2026

Worship Leader
Music Leader
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Rev. Jacob Shaw
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Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

God is good, all the time... all the time, God is good.

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

We gather to celebrate God's light. We also confess our nature, which often seeks to snuff out God's light. Let us pray, fast, and seek refuge in the Lord our God, as we come to find a deeper appreciation for our Savior.

Opening Prayer:

Gracious God, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us as we pause to reflect on the demands of following the Gospel. You summon us to stand firm against temptation, to turn from evil, and to pursue lives marked by justice and mercy. In humility, we

confess how often we falter and how deeply we groan under the weight of this calling. Too many times we drift from Your path, only to grieve the consequences later.

So today, as we step toward the cross and enter this holy season that leads to Easter, we intentionally quiet our hearts to listen for Your voice. We come ready to confront the demands of faithful discipleship and to honor the costly sacrifice of Your Son—Jesus, who bore the cross to break the chains of sin, guilt, and brokenness that held us captive.

Lord, we resolve not to squander Your extravagant love, but to let it overflow in our words, our choices, and our daily reflection. Stay near to us now and walk with us through every step of this Lenten journey. Amen.

Hymn: Be Thou My Vision

VU 642 v. 1-3

- 1 Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart; naught be all else to me save that thou art, thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping thy presence my light.**
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife; I ever with thee, and thou in my life; thou loving parent,**

thy child may I be, thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

- 3 Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight be thou my dignity, thou my delight, thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower; raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

Scripture 1: Isaiah 58: 1-3a read by Debbie Ellison

“Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins. For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them. ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?’

Reflection 1

Hymn: Dust And Ashes Touch Our Face VU 105

- 1 Dust and ashes touch our face, mark our failure and our falling. Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow, take us as disciples, washed and wakened by your calling.

R Take us by the hand and lead us, lead us through the desert sands, bring us living water, Holy Spirit, come.

2 Dust and ashes soil our hands - greed of market, pride of nation. Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow, as we pray and struggle through the meshes of oppression. R

3 Dust and ashes choke our tongue in the wasteland of depression. Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow, through all gloom and grieving to the paths of resurrection. R

Scripture 2: Isaiah 58:3b-5

read by Rev. Jacob Shaw

“Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

Reflection 2

Hymn: Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes

VU 107

- 1 Sunday's palms are Wednesday's ashes as another Lent begins; thus we kneel before our Maker in contrition for our sins. We have marred baptismal pledges, in rebellion gone astray; now, returning, seek forgiveness; grant us pardon, God, this day!
- 2 We have failed to love our neighbours, their offences to forgive, have not listened to their troubles, nor have cared just how they live; we are jealous, proud, impatient, loving overmuch our things; may the yielding of our failings be our Lenten offering.
- 3 We are hasty to judge others, blind to proof of human need; and our lack of understanding demonstrates our inner greed; we have wasted earth's resources; want and suffering we've ignored; come and cleanse us, then restore us; make new hearts within us, Lord!

Scripture 3: Isaiah 58: 6-9a read by Debbie Ellison

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide

the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

Reflection 3

Hymn Amazing Grace

VU 266

- 1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved
a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am
found, was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
grace my fears relieved; how precious did that
grace appear the hour I first believed.
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have
already come; 'tis grace that brought me safe thus
far, and grace will lead me home.
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me, this word my
hope secures; God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Scripture 4: Isaiah 58:9b-12

read by Rev. Jacob Shaw

“If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

Reflection 4

Prayer of Confession

Lord of Heaven, we come before You today, confessing that we fall short of Your glory. We seek You as our loving Father, our rock and refuge, standing in awe of Your power, wisdom, and majesty.

We long to follow Your will and embrace the call to repentance. Help us grieve the sins we have committed—against You, Your creation, and one another—both those we recognize and those hidden from us. Forgive our wicked thoughts, words, and deeds.

Kindle in us a steady trust in Your grace, a safe haven for our hearts. Open our eyes to our failings so we may turn from sin and the dust-and-ashes nature of our frailty, and instead live righteous, godly lives.

In Your mercy, pour out Your love as we walk this path of faith.

Moment of Silence

Lord, we thank You for Your boundless mercy and grace. May Your Spirit remain with us always. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Be Thou My Vision **VU 642 v. 4-5**

4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always; thou and thou only, the first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

- 5 Great God of heaven, after victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Benediction

With our hearts calling out to God, we embark on our Lenten journey, with an appreciation that God makes room for the wicked to return to him, to reconcile and make new, to be freed from the fate of Dust and Ash. For those would wish to stay in reflective prayer for a while, you are welcome too, otherwise, may the Spirit of the Lord be with, go in peace.

Postlude

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