

The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge

First United Church, Bathurst
www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

August 15, 2021

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Greeters** Mike Kierstead
Custodian Steve White Margaret Payne-Chenard

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 Psalm 111 Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58	1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11),22-30,41-43 Psalm 84 Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69
<i>We welcome Sandra Boone who is leading us in worship today – Thank you!</i>	

The asterisk * identifies those times in the service where the congregation is invited to stand as able.

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

We light our Christ Candle, reminding us that Jesus Christ is the light of the world. We bring this light into our lives and then spread it around the world.

The Christ Candle is lit.

CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsively)

One: Come, and praise God! In the company of the God's people, let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: Great are the works of God, full of glory and majesty.

One: Our God is gracious and compassionate;

All: our God is merciful and forgiving;

One: our God is faithful and trustworthy,

All: Our God is just and good.

One: So come, let's worship God together.

All: God's praise will last forever!

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP:

VU #375

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

(Refrain)

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,

Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, Wind, wind on the sea.

GATHERING PRAYER:

***GATHERING HYMN:**

VU #218

"We Praise You, O God"

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator in grateful devotion our tribute we bring
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you,
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers, through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us, but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever we praise!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (responsively)

One: Eternal God, you have given us the beautiful sunrises of our lives.

All: Sometimes we do not notice them.

One: You have given us the harmonious songs of every kind of bird of the air.

All: Sometimes we do not pay attention.

One: You have given us the soft touch of another's hands.

All: Sometimes we do not feel it.

One: You have given us the aromas of lovely flowers and good food.

All: Sometimes we do not smell them.

One: You have given us the mysteries of the universe to discover and unfold.

All: Sometimes we do not consider these.

One: Instead, we pollute the air and water.

All: Yet you still love us.

One: We continue to create mounds of garbage.

**All: Yet you continue to forgive us.
Show us the way to use our creativity and imagination
to repair the damage we have done and to restore your
holy gift of a healthy planet.**

Amen

CHORAL RESPONSE: "How Deep the Peace" MV #95

**How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose wrongs are forgiven.
How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose hearts are healed.**

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER:** (*responsively*)

...The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

SHARING A STORY:
(*with those of all ages*)

SINGING A SONG:

MV #10

"Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom"

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,
she who danced when earth was new,
Follow closely what she teaches,
for her words are right and true.
Wisdom clears the path to justice,
showing us what love must do.

Listen to the voice of Wisdom,
crying in the marketplace.
Hear the Word made flesh among us,
full of glory, truth, and grace.
When the word takes root and ripens,
peace and righteousness embrace.

Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;
nurture all who seek rebirth.
Spirit guide and close companion,
bring to light our sacred worth.
Free us to become your people,
holy friends of God and earth.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Catherine Eddy

Proverbs 9:1-12

REFLECTION: "Rev Hilde Seal"

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC: Emma Vickers
"His Eye is on the Sparrow"
(Previously recorded July 2020)

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Pat MacIntosh

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:

***OFFERING PRAYER:** (in unison)

Holy One, we delight in giving back and paying forward through our gifts and donations here today. Bless these gifts abundantly for the benefit of whomever they service, wherever they serve. Amen.

MEDITATIVE MUSIC:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

THE LORD'S PRAYER: VU #921 (in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

***CLOSING HYMN:** VU #633
"Bless Now, O God, the Journey"

Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make, the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take. The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round, then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.

Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way; your hope burns through the terrors, whose love sustains the day. We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound. Together we are seeking the road where faith is found.

Divine Eternal Lover, you meet us on the road. We wait for land of promise where milk and honey flow. But waiting not for places, you meet us all around. Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.

BLESSING:

CHORAL CLOSING "Take Up His Song" MV #213

***Take up his song of peace and go into the world.
Take up his song of peace in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives;
lay them down in peace, lay them down,
and take up his song.***

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE:



Church News

Summer Hours - the church office is closed on Fridays. The hours are now Monday to Thursday 9 AM to 3 PM Closed 12 to 12:30

Tuesday, August 17th the office will close at 2:15 PM

TAKE OUT Beef BBQ will be held on September 16th from 3:30 PM to 6:00 PM. \$15 for adults and \$6 for children. As there are a limited number of tickets they will be sold on a first come-first served basis. Please contact a member of the *Ways & Means Committee* or drop by the church office.

Sponsored by Hatheway Auto Group

HELP - You are invited to contribute school supplies/monetary donations to the local Volunteer Center from August 15-29, as able, in support of needy families, preparing for school start-up. Most required supplies include: multi colored duo tangs, along with pencils and pens (blue & red). The items may be brought to the office/narthex. If you prefer to give a monetary donation, please write a cheque to the **Bathurst Volunteer Center** & designate it for **1st United School Supplies**. Same may be brought to the church office or mailed to the center at 464 King Ave, Bathurst, NB, E2A 1P5 and in turn, the Center will forward a receipt. For more info, contact Helen Knowles at 546-9563.

Peanut Butter Update – As of August 12, 2021, 371 jars of Peanut Butter have been collected to go to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Peanut butter can be dropped off at the church office anytime during office hours; cheques can be delivered or mailed to the Bathurst Volunteer Center at 464 King Ave., Bathurst NB E2A 1P5. Please indicate on your cheque that it is for the purchase of Peanut Butter for the First United contribution.

Rev. Neal Palmer is on vacation and study-leave through to September 4th. Rev. Sue White from Central United Church, Clifton, will be available for pastoral emergencies. Rev. Sue may be reached by calling 547-5745. Please forward any prayer request emails to the office at firstadmin@nb.aibn.com.

Church News

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS will remain in place until early in the fall except now you may choose to remove your mask when you are at your seat. **Congregational singing is allowed with your mask in place.**

If you plan to attend the service, please call the church office at 546-3532 by **Thursday** morning, if possible, and give Margaret the name(s) and phone number(s) for yourself and anyone who will be with you. The physical distancing seating plan will remain in use. On-line services will continue, on a delayed basis, as the in-person service will be recorded and then uploaded to the church website and Facebook page early in the week.

Community News

Stonehaven New Bandon Community Chapel Service will hold the annual service on Sunday, August 22 at 1:00 PM at the chapel in Stonehaven. Reverend Sue White will be the guest speaker. Donations made to the chapel, perpetual care or cemetery fund will be accepted and tax receipts will be issued. Please place your donation in an envelope with your name and address.

St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, will be having a Spaghetti Supper Take-Out on Saturday, September 11th from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for children under 12 and are available from Don Goodspeed (546-5387), the Church Office (546-3225) or at the door. Masks are mandatory and all Covid-19 protocols will be in place.

SCRIPTURE READINGS – COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE

PROVERBS 9:1-12

“Woman Wisdom’s” Invitation

- ¹ Wisdom built her house;
she has carved out her seven pillars.
- ² She slaughtered her animals,
mixed her wine,
and set her table.
- ³ She sends out her female servants; she issues an invitation
from the top of the city heights:
- ⁴ “Whoever is naive turn aside here,”
she says to those who lack sense.
- ⁵ “Come, eat my food,
and drink the wine I have mixed.
- ⁶ Abandon your simplistic ways and live;
walk in the way of understanding.”

Wise advice

- ⁷ Whoever instructs the cynic gets insulted;
whoever corrects the wicked gets hurt.
- ⁸ Don’t correct the impudent, or they will hate you;
correct the wise, and they will love you.
- ⁹ Teach the wise, and they will become wiser;
inform the righteous, and their learning will increase.
- ¹⁰ The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the LORD;
the knowledge of the holy one is understanding.
- ¹¹ Through me your days will be many;
years will be added to your life.
- ¹² If you are wise, it is to your benefit;
if you are cynical, you will bear it all alone.

A SUMMER POEM

BY ETHAN BRUNELLE

Once on a summer day,
I was happy in a different way.

I realized I had two months to spare,
of enjoying life without a care.

I spent it with the ones I love,
and thanking God up above.

Thanking God for the times I had,
the times of good and
the times of bad.

I thank God for all his care,
But also for the fresh summer air.

I hope to find more times like these,
days at the cabin
with a nice warm breeze.

I hope for more times like that,
Under the stars where we sat.

I wish summer would never end,
But to school I must tent.

I’ll miss you summer,
But I won’t fuss.
I’ll see you soon in ten months plus.



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

L'ÉGLISE UNIE DU CANADA



LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND.

*God's call to love our neighbours
has NEVER BEEN STRONGER.*



Good news!

**The Government of Canada will match your donation
dollar for dollar until September 6.**

You can purchase one vaccine with a donation of \$25, or as many as you like, through [Gifts with Vision](#). We're working with our Mission & Service partners and UNICEF to make sure the vaccines get where they're most needed.

No one is safe until everyone is safe.

By now, you've probably heard that a hundred times. And here in North America, we're doing what we can to keep everyone safe from COVID-19.

[But today, we are asking you to go further.](#)

Our Mission & Service partner ACT Alliance reports that out of all the vaccines administered around the world, **less than 2% reached Africa and less than 7% reached South America**. Many countries in the global South and East won't even be able to start a vaccine program until 2022. If this continues, these countries won't reach vaccination goals until 2024...if ever.

People in these countries need access to the COVID-19 vaccine now, not in 2022 or 2023 or 2024. And we have a way for you to help make that happen.

This is your chance to make a gift that will express how much you care, not only for your family member or friend, but for the person who will receive the vaccine. **We hope you'll take a moment to [give that life-saving gift today](#).**

To donate online please go to:

<https://giftswithvision.ca/collections/featured/products/pay-it-forward>

By Phone: Call 1-844-715-7969 toll free and have your credit card handy and ask for Vaccine purchase.

By Mail: Make cheque payable to The United Church of Canada. In the memo line write: Vaccine purchase. Mail to Gifts with Vision, c/o The United Church of Canada, 3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 200, Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4.