

*The United Church of Canada*  
*Bathurst Pastoral Charge*  
**First United Church, Bathurst**  
[www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca)

**March 26, 2023**

**Minister** Rev. Neal Palmer    **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels    **Custodian** Lester Scott  
**Audio & Visual Technicians** Lester Scott & Donald Eddy  
**Greeters** Harvey & Julie Spence

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45	Matthew 21:1-11 Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29
The bulletin today has been placed in loving memory of <b>Andrea Clowater, Hudson Clowater and Kenneth Bernier</b> by Wayne and Colette Clowater	

*The asterisk \* identifies those times in the service where you are invited to present yourselves, body, mind, and spirit, as is comfortable for you today...*

*GATHERING*

**MUSIC AS WE GATHER**

**\*WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** *(in unison)*

**As we gather to worship, let's respectfully pause to remember we live and work and worship on lands that are, by law, the unceded territory of the original peoples, the Mi'kmaq. May we live with respect on this land, and live in peace and in friendship with its people.**

**LENTEN CANDLE-LIGHTING PRAYER** *(responsively)*

...Today we take one step further on our Lenten journey, travelling in the shadow of our teacher, hoping to follow faithfully in his Way.

**We keep our senses attuned, attentive to God's Child, the Beloved. Even when what we experience makes us uncomfortable or afraid, we don't turn away.**

*Five Lenten Candles are lit.*

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP** - "Hold us in your grace"

***Hold us in your grace, O God,  
 hold us in your grace.  
 Hold us in your grace, O God,  
 hold us in your grace.***

***Hold us,  
 hold us in your grace.  
 Hold us,  
 hold us in your grace.***

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(responsively)* *(Inspired by Psalm 130)*

...Push away the stone and wonder what glory could be.

**We believe there is more than this sorrow.**

Come out into the morning light and find others hoping and waiting for love to mend hearts again.

**Our souls come together to watch and wait.**



**GATHERING PRAYER**

\***GATHERING HYMN** – “Jesus, Tempted in the Desert” – VU #115

Jesus, tempted in the desert,  
lonely, hungry, filled with dread:  
“Use your power,” the tempter tells him;  
“turn these barren rocks to bread!”  
“Not alone by bread,” he answers,  
“can the human heart be filled.  
Only by the Word that calls us  
is our deepest hunger stilled!”

Jesus, tempted at the temple,  
high above its ancient wall:  
“Throw yourself from lofty turret;  
angels wait to break your fall!”  
Jesus shuns such empty marvels,  
feats that fickle crowds request:  
“God, whose grace protects, preserves us,  
We must never vainly test.”

Jesus, tempted on the mountain  
by the lure of vast domain:  
“Fall before me! Be my servant!  
Glory, fame, you’re sure to gain!”  
Jesus sees the dazzling vision,  
turns his eyes another way:  
“God alone deserves our homage!  
God alone will I obey!”

When we face temptation’s power,  
lonely, struggling, filled with dread,  
Christ, who knew the tempter’s hour,  
come and be our living bread.  
By your grace, protect, preserve us  
lest we fall, your trust betray.  
Yours, above all other voices,  
be the Word we hear, obey.

**LENTEN TENEBRAE** (*responsively*)

(*Speakers – Charlotte & Courtney Woods*)  
(*Candle Lighters/Extinguisher – Katie, Avery & Grace Scott*)

*...Two Candles are lit, as well as the Christ Candle...*

One: Jesus, you wept over your friend Lazarus.

Two: Do you still weep for us?

One: Do you weep when forest fires rage, when homes are burnt,  
animals die, and the smoke blows? Do you weep as floods destroy  
homes and livelihoods?

Two: Do you weep for those suffering from illness and for their  
families? Do you weep for those who live with a myriad of worries,  
anxiety, and depression?

One: Do you weep for injustice, for those who experience ongoing  
racism, bullying, and discrimination of all sorts?

Two: Do you weep for those who have no more tears to shed, who  
have no more prayers to say, who have no more dreams to dream?

One: Then, we are willing to shed our tears with you. We shed tears  
for the world you love.

*The fifth candle is extinguished...*

**CHORAL RESPONSE** – “Don’t Be Afraid” - MV #90

***Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger,  
my love is stronger than your fear.  
Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger  
and I have promised,  
promised to be always near.***

Two: Let us pray.

**Holy One,  
who weeps for us and with us,  
we know you are in our pain and in our suffering.  
We also know you are in our deepest longings.  
We long for your kingdom to come.  
We pray that our tears of sorrow will lead to tears of joy.  
Then, may our tears of joy turn into a celebration  
as we dance our way into a revolution of your love.  
Amen**

**\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER** (*responsively*)

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

**And also with you.**

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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

**\*SINGING A SONG** – “Come, Dare to Be”

Come dare to be  
all that you are in Christ;  
be what his loving, be what his thinking  
see in your person:  
you are eternal light.

All that you have,  
he gave to you at first;  
challenge and courage, will and commitment,  
spring from one fountain:  
so you will never thirst.

From yoke or bond  
his love has set you free;  
free to love others, praising and serving  
Christ who is present  
in human lives we see.

Even today  
you are what you will be;  
judged and forgiven, from death arisen,  
take up life's fulness,  
for Christ has made you free!

*ENGAGING*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*Judy Losier*

John 11:1-45

**REFLECTION**

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**GIFT OF MUSIC**

*RESPONDING*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

*Martha Vickers*

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD**

**\*OFFERING HYMN** – “These Gifts We Bring”

***These gifts we bring with grateful hearts,  
to reconcile, make new.  
Gather us in grace, show us the way,  
to live our lives in Truth  
to share Your love in all we do.***

*Words & Music: Pat Mayberry ©2016*

*Arrangement: David Kai ©2016*

**\*OFFERING PRAYER** (*in unison*)

**Creator and Creating One,  
we're invited to share life.  
We offer these gifts and pray  
they may bring hope and life  
to all who receive them.  
Amen**

## SHARING OUR CONCERNS

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER – VU #921 (Ecumenical Version) *(in unison)*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kindom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kindom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen**

*GOING OUT (as Spirit people)*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*CLOSING HYMN – “Holy Spirit, Truth Divine” – VU #368

Holy Spirit, truth divine,  
dawn upon this soul of mine.  
Voice of God and inward light,  
wake my Spirit, clear my sight.

Holy Spirit, love divine,  
glow within this heart of mine.  
Kindle every high desire,  
purify me with your fire.

Holy Spirit, power divine,  
Fill and nerve this will of mine.  
Boldly may I always live,  
bravely serve, and gladly give.

Holy Spirit, law divine,  
reign within this soul of mine.  
Be my law, and I shall be  
firmly bound, forever free.

Holy Spirit, peace divine,  
still this restless heart of mine.  
Speak to calm this tossing sea,  
grant me your tranquillity.

Holy Spirit, joy divine,  
gladden now this heart of mine.  
In the desert ways I sing;  
spring, O living water, spring!

#### \*BLESSING

#### \*CHORAL CLOSING –

VU #586

“We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection”

We shall go out with hope of resurrection;  
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;  
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;  
tales of love that will not let us go.  
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;  
we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;  
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
within the vision of new life in Christ.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;  
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;  
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,  
expressive love alive in every heart.  
We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping,  
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,  
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story,  
including all in circles of our love.

*(The Christ Candle, Lenten Tenebrae & Lenten candles are  
extinguished.)*

### POSTLUDE

# Church News

This Week at First United – March 27 <sup>th</sup> to March 31 <sup>st</sup>		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
	9:00 AM	Ways & Means Team - RMR
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Thursday	4:15 PM	Choir practice

**Church office hours** – Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

**Peanut Butter** – Once again this year we are setting a goal of **900 jars** of peanut butter to donate to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Up to March 23<sup>rd</sup> we have collected 244 jars.

On behalf of the **Pastoral Care Team of our First United Church Family**, as well as others representing our Bathurst community and many other nearby communities, I wish to thank *Linda Knowles-Macpherson* and *The Treble Makers* for the March 18<sup>th</sup> afternoon of enjoyable vocals, instrumentals and humour! Such a wonderful contribution of the group's time and talents was enjoyed by all in attendance, who generously donated to our collection of items for those in need. Thanks to all who performed and who attended!

**Gwen Sturgeon**

# Community News

**Free Tax Clinics – KC Irving Center -  
April 3 to 6 from 9 AM to 3 PM**

Do you need help with your tax return? The Community Volunteer Tax Program (CVITP) is collaboration between the Canada Revenue Agency and community organizations. If you have a modest income and a simple tax situation, volunteers from CVITP may be able to complete your tax return for you, free of charge.

An individual with income less than \$35,000, a two person family with income less than \$45,000, plus \$2,500 for each additional person in the family can get their return done **free**.

If you are unable to attend the clinic at KC Irving Center contact either Margaret Payne-Chénard or Mike Kierstead (548-4393) and an arrangement can be made for preparing your return.

# Community News

**A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST** will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 – 10:00 am**. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food. Free will offering at the door.



**SCRIPTURE READING** *(New Revised Standard Version)*

**JOHN 11:1-45**

1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill.

3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

4 But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus,

6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?"

9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world.

10 But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them."

11 After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him."

12 The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right."

13 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.

14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead.

15 For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

16 Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,

19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.

20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,

26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

28 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."

29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.

30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him.

31 The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

32 When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

33 When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

34 He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."

35 Jesus began to weep.

36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days."

40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me.

42 I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me."

43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

45 Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

*May God bless to our understanding this significant part of our Christian story...*