

The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge
First United Church, Bathurst
www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

April 9, 2023

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Colossians 3:1-4 John 20:1-18	Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31
<p><i>The bulletins today are placed in loving memory of</i> Teri McLean Disney by her parents, <i>Eldie & Nora McLean</i> <i>and</i> Edgar & George Brown by the <i>Brown family</i></p>	

*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**

(responsively & in unison)

...Before new life springs from the ground

there is a seed... *(Moment of silence)*

Before the sun shines on a new day

there is the setting of the moon... *(Moment of silence)*

Before we know the joy of community

there is aloneness... *(Moment of silence)*

Before music is heard

there is stillness... *(Moment of silence)*

Before Easter alleluias are shouted

there is a time to remember... *(Moment of silence)*

...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 TENEBRAE *(responsively)*

The Ronalds' family

...One: Christ is risen!

Two: He has risen, indeed.

Hallelujah!

One: In Christ's resurrection, God has spoken.

Two: This indeed is God's world.

One: God's power is stronger than the earthly powers.

Two: God's way of peace and justice will ultimately prevail.

One: This is the news we have been waiting for.

Two: Christ is risen.

One: He has risen, indeed.

Hallelujah!

The candles are relit, beginning with the Christ candle.

At the lighting of each candle...

One & Two: Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Hallelujah!

***GATHERING HYMN –** VU #155 (Verse 1)
"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!

Two: Let us pray...

**God of All,
yours is the glory.
Your heartbeat echoes in our heartbeat.
Your breath is our breath.
Your vitality pulsates in us and throughout this vast universe.
You are the creator of the universe.
In you, we live and love and rejoice in the gifts of life.
We thank you for the gift of Easter resurrection that we may
put our ultimate trust in your goodness and gracious love.
In the unconquerable spirit of the risen Christ, we pray.
Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN (cont'd) –** VU #155 (Verses 2 - 4)
"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

Hymns of praise then let us sing hallelujah!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!
sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!

But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!
our salvation have procured; hallelujah!
now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!
where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!

Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!
praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!
praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

CHORAL RESPONSE – "Jesus, You Fill Our Hearts" – MV #101

***Jesus, you fill our hearts with your love,
our minds with your peace,
and our lives
with your joy.***

SHARING A STORY (with those of all ages)

Cheryl & Mya Brewster

John 20:1

***SINGING A SONG – "Small Things Count" VU #361**

Small things count, so Jesus said:
cups of water, crumbs of bread,
small things done because we're kind
count as big things in God's mind.

Small things make the big things grow:
grains of yeast inside the dough,
puffs that fill a big balloon,
notes that make a happy tune.

Every hair that's on our head,
every sparrow, Jesus said,
God takes care of, counts and knows,
God loves us from top to toes!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**SCRIPTURE READING***Wayne Lord*

John 20:1-18

REFLECTION**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION****GIFT OF MUSIC** – *"Flowers will bloom in the desert"**RESPONDING***MINUTE FOR MISSION***The Ronalds' family***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.*

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

Holy One,
as the women drew near the tomb on Easter morning,
ready to give care to a loved one,
may we reach out
with actions of care, justice, and compassion.
As the women left the empty tomb
and shared the amazing news of resurrection,
may we witness to the life
rising up within and all around us.
Amen

***COMMUNION HYMN** – "Bread of Life, Feed My Soul" – MV #194

Bread of life, feed my soul,
as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.
Bread of life, fill my heart
with the grace and mercy you impart.

I have heard your voice calling,
"Come, my friend, and share
in the feast that is laid out for you
to show how much I care."

Bread of life, help me live
a life as pure and true as Jesus did.
Bread of life, help me see
the boundless life of Christ for you and me.

I have heard your voice calling,
"Come, my friend, and share
in the feast that is laid out for you
to show how much I care."

Bread of life, feed my soul,
as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.
Bread of life, fill my heart
with the grace and mercy you impart.

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

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

INSTRUCTIONS**INVITATION**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(responsively)*

...Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to God!

Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

...And so, with the risen Christ, who makes all things new by the power of his resurrection, we join in the song of a new day, singing...

"Holy, Holy, Holy" – MV #203

*O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heaven, creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name
always!*

...Great is the mystery of faith.

We remember Jesus' death.

we proclaim Christ arisen.

We await the full revelation of love incarnate.

...We gather these and all our prayers, thankful we may turn to you as to a loving mother, saying together...

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom 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 kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever...**

"Great Amen" – MV #205

***Amen, amen, O Holy One!
Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One,
Hosanna and Amen!***

The bread of tomorrow.

The cup of new life.

Congregational Response – "Amen" or "Thanks be to God"

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(in unison)*

**For the bread we have eaten,
for the juice we have tasted,
for the life we have received,
we thank you, God.
Grant that what we have done
and been given here,
may so put its mark on us,
that it will always remain in our hearts.
Grant that we may grow
in Christian love and understanding,
and that ours may be lives of faithful action.
Amen**

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** –

VU #175

"This Is the Day That God Has Made"

Refrain:

This is the day that God has made!

Rejoice! Rejoice, and be exceeding glad!

This is the day that God has made!

Rejoice! Rejoice! Hallelujah!

Christ has conquered death at last,
left the tomb that held him fast!
Gone the sorrow, gone the night,
dawns the morning clear and bright!

(Refrain)

Jesus lives who once was dead,
lives forever, as he said!
Risen now our Saviour, King;
songs of gladness let us sing!

(Refrain)

***BLESSING** *(responsively)*

...Beyond death is abundant life.

We will live it.

Beyond the shadows of hatred and isolation is the light that draws us into community.

We will follow it.

Beyond the stone-covered tomb is a dance called resurrection.

We will move with it.

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Amen

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH** *(Tune Promise VU #703)*

***As we go into the future,
As we tell of the Good News,
We will show our love for others,
Just as Christ has told us to.
We will tell the wondrous story,
Of a love that's made for you,
And it's all because of Easter –
Sing a joyous Hal-le-lu!***

(The candles are extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

Church News

This Week at First United – April 10 th to April 15 th		
Monday	Church Office Closed	
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Thursday	9:00 AM	Ministry & Personnel Team
	4:15 PM	Choir practice
Saturday	By-Election Advance Polls – DEMH GYM	

Church office hours – Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Please note the office **will be closed** Monday, April 10th.

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 April 6th we have collected 256 jars.

Prayer Request Box - If someone has a prayer request you can write the request at church or do it at home and put it in the box when you arrive on Sunday morning. The box will be brought to Rev. Neal when the offering is brought forward. What is in the box will be seen by Rev. Neal only.

LIVESTREAM AND SOUND VOLUNTEERS - First United Church is in need of several individuals who would like to assist with the live stream and sound ministry. This ministry provides members of our faith community the ability to connect with our services when they cannot attend in-person. The time commitment is small and flexible. Training and support in the use of the equipment is provided. In order to consistently offer this important service we require your assistance.

Flowers for Mother's Day - We will be having flowers placed in our sanctuary in honor of Mother's day. Those wishing to contribute to the Mother's Day flower fund may place an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning or drop it in at the office during the week between 9 AM and 3 PM. Please mark clearly on the face of the envelope – **Mother's Day Flowers** with your **name, PAR or envelope number** and **to whom the dedication is in memory of**. An insert will be included in the bulletin on Mother's Day, May 10th with your dedications. **Please have your dedications in the office by Tuesday, May 9th.**

SCRIPTURE READING *(New Revised Standard Version)*

JOHN 20:1-18

1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.

4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.

6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there,

7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;

9 for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

10 Then the disciples returned to their homes.

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;

12 and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

17 Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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



Photo: Milton Howard
 Description: Lily of the valley, Williams Farm, Abbotsford, BC.
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The Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada



La mission & le service de l'Église Unie du Canada



B20-16

*He is not here,
 but has risen.*

Luke 24:5

*Il n'est pas ici, mais
 il s'est réveillé
 de la mort.*

Luc 24,6

