

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

April 16, 2023

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Audio & Visual Technicians Ralph Jamieson & Donald Eddy
Greeters Margaret Payne-Chénard & Mike Kierstead

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31	Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4,12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35
<i>The bulletin today is in loving memory of Betty & Cletus Lavigne placed by Judy, Macky and Jennifer</i>	

*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.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

...It's in his name, we light this candle.

The Christ Candle is lit.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP - "There Is Room for All" – MV #62

***There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;
there is room for all, sheltered in God's love.
And I rejoice and sing,
"My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."
There is room for all, there is room for all!***

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – "Called by Earth and Sky" – MV #135

Refrain

*Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.*

Precious these waters, endless seas,
deep ocean's dream, waters of healing,
rivers of rain, the wash of love again.

Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
wind born and free. Breath of the Spirit,
blow through this place,
our gathering and our grace.

Refrain

Precious these mountains,
ancient sands; vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening,
rooted and strong, Creation's faithful song.

Precious the fire that lights our way,
bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone,
our faith and justice one.

Refrain

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.

*This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky,
called by earth and sky.*

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.***

***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** –

“It Only Takes a Spark” – VU #289

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing:
that’s how it is with God’s love,
once you’ve experienced it:
you spread God’s love to everyone,
you want to pass it on.



What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
that’s how it is with God’s love,
once you’ve experienced it:
you want to sing, it’s fresh like spring,
you want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I’ve found—
on God you can depend, it matters not where you’re bound;
I’ll shout it from the mountain top;
I want my world to know:
the Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Gary Branch

John 20:19-31

REFLECTION - “The Most Important Thing You Can Do to Fight
Climate Change: Talk About It” - *Dr. Katharine Hayhoe*

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC – “Spirit of Life”

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Pat MacIntosh

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** (*responsively*)

Creating One,
we're grateful for all that protects and cares for *Creation*:
the sunlight and water that sustains life,
the earth that grounds and nourishes life,
and the earth-beings that care for and protect life.

We give thanks for all whose actions care for your good works!

As we care for *Creation*,
provide us, we pray, with the humility and curiosity needed to
continually learn about the marvels of your works, and to deepen our
understanding of how our actions, good and bad, affect all of
Creation.

We give thanks for the opportunity to learn and grow with your good works!

Although the journey is hard,
and our hearts might be afraid and filled with doubts,
may we continue to act and lean towards climate justice,
with the confidence and strength of your presence guiding us.

May we continue to follow in the way we're being led, with hopeful and daring hearts, until we've realized justice and peace for all.

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** – “Blessed Assurance” – VU #337

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
born of the spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

Refrain:

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song
praising my Savior all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain:

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with God's goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain:

***BLESSING**

*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 Christ Candle is extinguished.

POSTLUDE

Church News

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.

Church News

This Week at First United – April 17 th to April 21 st		
Monday	By-Election Advance Polls – DEMH GYM	
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
	7:00 PM	Christian Development - RMR
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 April 13th we have collected 258 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.

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.**

The Upper Room for May and June are in the Narthex as well as on the table under the office window. Please feel free to take one. A container for donations is located with the publication.

Community News

A take-out lobster supper is being held at **Central United Church in Clifton** on Saturday May 13th. For tickets, please contact Lois Archibald (506-548-8927). The cost this year is \$30 per person.

SCRIPTURE READING *(New Revised Standard Version)*

JOHN 20:19-31

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book.

31 But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

