

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

September 10, 2023

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Genesis 3:14-19; 4:8-16 Psalm 139:7-12 Romans 5:12-17 Matthew 12:38-40	Joel 1:8-10, 17-20 Psalm 18:6-19 Romans 8:18-27 Matthew 3:13—4:2
<i>Today's bulletins have been placed in loving memory of James Knowles by Joyce & Bill MacLeod and Family</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 *(responsively)*

When we light a candle, we usually carry it to where we're going and then set it down.

Then, we go about doing whatever we're doing within its light.

Jesus is another kind of light, a candle that lights up our minds, our hearts, and our spirits.

We experience this as grace, as call, as empowerment, but it's a light we don't set down. Because, we don't actually determine where it guides us.

We light this Christ Candle

as the light we carry with us.

The Christ Candle is lit...

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP - "This Is the Day" – MV #122

***This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad!
This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad!
Singing hal-le-lu, singing hal-le-lu,
singing hal-le-lu! We will rejoice and be glad!
Singing hal-le-lu, singing hal-le-lu,
singing hal-le-lu! We will rejoice and be glad!***

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING PRAYER

(Time of silence "to listen to creation" before prayer begins)

***GATHERING HYMN** – "God We Praise You for the Morning"
Verses 1 - 5 VU #415

God, we praise you for the morning;
hope springs forth with each new day,
new beginning, prayer and promise,
joy in work and in play.

God, we praise you for creation,
mountains, seas, and prairie land.
Waking souls find joy and healing
in your bountiful hand.

God, we praise you for compassion,
all the loving that you show;
human touching, tears, and laughter,
help your children to grow.

God, we praise you for your Spirit,
Comforter and daily friend,
restless searcher, gentle teacher,
strength and courage you send.

God, we praise you for the Savior,
come that we may know your ways.
In his loving, dying, rising,
Christ is Lord of our days.

REMEMBERING (*responsively*)

*(Take soil sample, rub it between your fingers, and then share with
the person next to you a special memory of the soil, the
paddocks/enclosures or wild creatures in the country.)*

We remember the dry land that rose from the waters at the beginning
of creation and the plants that emerged from the soil to cover the
ground with vegetation.

**We remember with delight the gardens and the fields of our
childhood, the places where we played in the sand, when we
felt close to the ground, to bright flowers and baby animals.**

We remember, rejoice, and give thanks

for *Land*, for soils that sustain our life.

PRAYER OF HUMILITY (*responsively*)

We are dust.

We shall return to dust.

The land is filled with treasure.

**Sometimes, we have taken treasure from the land and left it
broken.**

The land is rich to nourish and sustain.

**Sometimes, we strip it of goodness, turning fertile plains into
wastelands.**

The land is plentiful and full of variety.

**Sometimes, we fight for control. From a desire for more, it
becomes killing fields instead of sanctuary.**

The land cries out in agony,

and the people cry out in misery.

The land longs for mercy,

and the people yearn for comfort and care.

Holy One, are you there?

Do you care? (*Time of Silence*)

CHORAL RESPONSE – “And When You Call for Me”

MV #96

***And when you call for me,
I have already answered.
And when you call for me,
I am already there.***

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

...The Spirit of Love and Peace be with you all.

And also with you.

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

Land's Story...

***SINGING A SONG** – “Each Blade of Grass” – MV #37

Each blade of grass, ev'ry wing that soars,
the waves that sweep across a distant shore,
make full the circle of God.
Each laughing child, ev'ry gentle eye,
a forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky,
make full the circle of God.

Each silent paw, ev'ry rounded stone,
the buzz that echoes from a honey'd comb,
make full the circle of God.
Each fire-brimmed star, ev'ry out-stretched hand,
the wind that leaps and sails across the land,
make full the circle of God.

Each icy peak, ev'ry patterned shell,
the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,
make full the circle of God.
Each cosmic hue, ev'ry creature's way,
all form the beauty of this vast array,
making full the circle of God.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 3:14-19; 4:8-16

Psalms 139:7-12

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC – “As the Wind Song through the Trees”

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION/YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

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** (*responsively*)

Holy One,
what can we offer, what can we bring?

You are the ground of everything:

the source of all that is;

the hope on which we stand;

the promise that reaches out an open hand

and leads and holds us fast.

We bring our hopes, our dreams, and our fears.

We bring our hands, our hearts, and our tears.

Amen

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

INVITATION TO & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER – VU #916 (A Paraphrase) *(in unison)*

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo
through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In the times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever.**

Amen

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** – VU #563
"Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"

Jesus, you have come to the Lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.

Refrain
*O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.*

You know so well my possessions;
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
you will find there my nets and labor.

Refrain

You need my hands, full of caring
through my labours to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving.

Refrain

You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me.

Refrain

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH** – "I Wish You the Blessing"

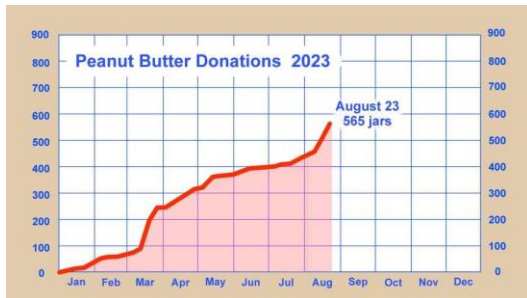
***We wish you the blessing of faith to sustain you,
friends to support you, challenge to stir you,
songs to empower you, peace to refresh you,
tears to release you, laughter to heal you,
love to nurture your soul.***

The Christ Candle is extinguished.

POSTLUDE

Church News

Regular Office Hours are now back in effect – open Monday to Friday – 9 AM to 3 PM.



Peanut Butter – Our pledge this year to the Bathurst Volunteer Center is **900 jars**. As of September 7th, **584** jars have been donated.

Choir Practice will be starting for the fall season on Wednesday, September 13th at 6:30. We meet for approximately an hour. Anyone who enjoys singing, please feel free to attend. New members are always welcome!



TAKE OUT BBQ Beef Supper will be held on Thursday, September 21st from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Tickets are now available - **\$17** 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 from 9 AM to 3 PM Monday to Friday.

Sponsored by Hatheway Auto Group

BACK TO SCHOOL - The Community Outreach Sub-Team requests your help in providing a variety of school supplies for needy students. These items will be donated to Terry Fox Elementary School & distributed as necessary. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Community News

St. George's Anglican Church Hall, 432 King Avenue will hold a **Yard Sale** on **Saturday, September 23rd from 8 AM to 12 PM.**

Community News

"Help Lesotho" Calendars - The Anglophone School District – North has been sponsoring "Help Lesotho" since 2006 as part of its global awareness initiative. As a fundraiser where all of the money raised goes to help finance its work with orphans, vulnerable children, and grandmothers in Lesotho, Africa; "Help Lesotho" has 2024 calendars for sale at a cost of \$15.00. You are invited to support this initiative with your donation. Gary Branch (506-546-9208) or via email (egbranch@rogers.com) will be taking orders for these calendars until October 10, 2023. Payment can be made in advance by cash, cheque, or e-transfer, or when the calendars are delivered in November. Cheques are to be made payable to "Help Lesotho". Thank you for your support of this initiative.



SCRIPTURE READINGS

GENESIS 3:14-19; 4:8-16

14 The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

16 To the woman he said, 'I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.'

17 And to the man he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, "You shall not eat of it", cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.

19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

8 Cain said to his brother Abel, 'Let us go out to the field.' And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

9 Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Where is your brother Abel?' He said, 'I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?'

10 And the Lord said, 'What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground!

11 And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.

12 When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.'

13 Cain said to the Lord, 'My punishment is greater than I can bear!

14 Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me.'

15 Then the Lord said to him, 'Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance.' And the Lord put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him.

16 Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

PSALM 139:7-12

7 Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

9 If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"

12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

May the Spirit bless to our understanding these significant parts of our Christian story...