

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

**November 12, 2023**

**Minister** Rev. Neal Palmer    **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels    **Custodian** Lester Scott  
**Greeters** Charles Ramsey & Linda Knowles MacPherson  
**Audio & Visual Technicians** Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy

*All musical selections reprinted under license #4-606499, One License for Churches*

<b><u>Lectionary for today</u></b>	<b><u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u></b>
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 Psalm 78:1-7 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13	Judges 4:1-7 Psalm 123 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30
<p><i>Today's bulletins have been placed in loving memory of</i>  <b>John Duncan</b>  <i>by Sharon, Stephen, Michael and families</i>            &amp;  <b>Glendon Branch</b>  <i>whose death occurred on November 3, 2023</i>  <i>by Elizabeth and Gary Branch and family</i></p>	
<p><i>We welcome <b>Rev. Blair Lewis</b> who is leading us in worship today – Thank you!</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 & TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** *((in unison))*

*...Please join me in our Territory Acknowledgement...*

***Ancient and modern people have inhabited and continue to inhabit this land on which we worship. This is the traditional land of the Mi'kmaq people, and we are deeply grateful to be here and to ground ourselves in the land which has been a place where people have lived for thousands of years.***

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:** *(in unison)*

**We are the church!**  
**We follow where the Spirit leads,**  
**daring to be risk takers wherever we go!**  
**We are filled with the breath of the Holy Spirit!**  
**May the blessing of God, Creator and Giver of Life,**  
**the Son, Life of God incarnate,**  
**and the Holy Spirit, bearer and power of new life**  
**among all people**  
**be with us now as we light the Christ candle.**

*The Christ Candle is lit...*

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP:**      "Come Build a Church"  
*(Seasons of the Spirit – volume 7)*

**Come build a church with soul and spirit,**  
**come build a church of flesh and bone.**  
**We need no tower rising skyward;**  
**no house of wood or glass or stone.**

**Come build a church with human frailty,**  
**Come build a church of flesh and blood.**  
**Jesus shall be its sure foundation.**  
**It shall be built by the hand of God.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**GATHERING PRAYER:**

**God of power and love,  
you raised Jesus from death to life,  
resplendent in glory to rule over all creation.  
Free the world to rejoice in his peace,  
to glory in his justice,  
and to live in his love.  
Unite all humankind in Jesus Christ your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN:** "Seek Ye First the Kingdom" VU #356

**PRAYER OF HUMILITY:** *(responsively)*

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.  
The hatred which divides nation from nation,  
race from race, class from class,

**O God we pray for forgiveness**

The covetous desires of people and nations  
to possess what is not their own,

**O God we pray for forgiveness**

The greed which exploits the work of human hands,  
and lays waste the earth,

**O God we pray for forgiveness**

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

**O God we pray for forgiveness**

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned,  
the homeless, the refugee,

**O God we pray for forgiveness**

The lust which dishonours  
the bodies of men, women, and children,

**O God we pray for forgiveness**

The pride which leads to trust in ourselves and not in God,

**O God we pray for forgiveness**

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,  
as God in Christ forgave you.

**THE ASSURANCE OF OUR FAITH:**

This is the Good News in Jesus Christ:  
God loves us more than we love ourselves.  
God set us free to love others.  
Thanks be to God.

**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 Peace be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**SHARING A STORY** *(with those of all ages)*  
*Mya Brewster, Weston Brewster & Brooke Knowles*

*Matthew 25:1-2*

**\*SINGING A SONG** – "Teach Me God to Wonder" VU #299

*ENGAGING*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READING** *Cheryl Brewster*

Psalms 78:1-7 Part One VU Page 792

Matthew 25:1-13

**REFLECTION:** "Hope Filled Living"

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**GIFT OF MUSIC** – "Bring Many Names"

*RESPONDING*

**YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS** (*formerly Minute for Mission*)  
*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*)

**God of all peoples and God of all places,  
we present these offerings,  
that they may be used to extend your liberating reign.  
With them, we offer our varied ministries,  
that each of us may be part of your answer  
to the cries of the world. Amen.**

**SHARING OUR CONCERNS:**

This morning in our pastoral prayer we remember all who are ill in hospital or at home.

**(Moment of Silence)**

We remember those who are living in long-term care who are facing significant health challenges and all who are searching for a path forward in the presence of uncertainty.

**(Moment of Silence)**

We remember all who are living in a time of grief and loss that they may know the comforting presence of loved ones and your Holy Spirit.

**(Moment of Silence)**

We remember in prayer, all who are undergoing medical interventions, either in hospital or at home. May the power of your love be a source of strength and hope today and in the days ahead.

**(Moment of Silence)**

We remember all people of all ages, living in the Holy Land, who are experiencing grief and loss during a time of war. We remember those who have been enduring warfare in Ukraine.

May peace return to all countries ravaged by war.

**(Moment of silence)**

**We pray for the peace of the world, O God.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

The Spirit helps us in our weakness;  
for we do not know how to pray as we ought,  
but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

*Romans 8:26*

We pray:

for those who make decisions about the resources of the earth,

**that we may use your gifts responsibly;**

for those who work on the land and sea, in city and in industry,

**that all may enjoy the fruits of their labours  
and marvel at your creation;**

for artists, scientists, and visionaries,

**that through their work we may see creation afresh.**

*Silence*

We thank you for giving us life;

**for all who enrich our experience.**

We pray:

for all who through their own or others' actions  
are deprived of fullness of life;

**for prisoners, refugees, those differently able,  
and all who are sick;**

for those in politics, medical science, social and relief work,  
and for your Church;

**for all who seek to bring life to others.**

*silence*

We thank you that you have called us to celebrate your creation.

**Give us reverence for life in your world.**

We thank you for your redeeming love;

**may your Word and Sacraments  
strengthen us to love as you love us.**

*silence*

God, our Creator, bring us new life.

**Jesus, Redeemer, renew us.**

Holy Spirit, strengthen and guide us.

**Amen.**

**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.**

*GOING OUT (as Spirit people)*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN:** "Lord, Speak to Me"

VU #589

**\*BLESSING:**

May the road rise to meet you,  
may the wind be always at your back,  
may the sun shine warm upon your face,  
may the rains fall soft upon your fields,  
and until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

*Gaelic*

**\*\*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

## This Week at First United – November 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>

Monday	<b>Office Closed in lieu of Remembrance Day</b>	
	9:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH Gym
Tuesday	6:00 PM	Bathurst Pastoral Council Meeting - RMR
Wednesday	9:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH Gym
Saturday	8 AM to 1 PM	Bathurst Community Market - DEMH

**Church Office Hours** - Monday to Friday – 9 AM to 3 PM.

**TAKE OUT Turkey Supper** will be held on Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Tickets are \$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  
Kenny's Trucking Ltd. & Shine House  
(A Division of Stothart Automotive)*

As part of our **Stewardship Program** here at First United, information on Planned Giving through Wills and Bequests will be made available to our congregational membership this fall. All members are encouraged to review this information and take the appropriate steps pertaining to your wishes. The information will be available later this year from the church office. Below you will find a stewardship scripture verse and quote relating to the same.

"And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." *Luke 12:15*

**Plan tomorrow today.**

*You can do this by including your church in your estate planning with a bequest or gift of insurance*

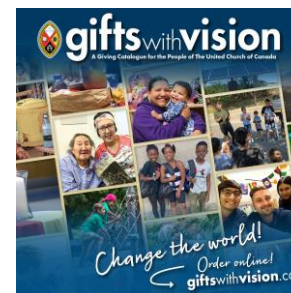
# Church News

**Peanut Butter** – Our pledge this year to the Bathurst Volunteer Center is **900 jars**. As of November 8<sup>th</sup> **734** jars have been donated.

**Bathurst Pastoral Council** will meet on **Tuesday**, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Ruth Morrison Room.

**Christmas Hymn Sing** will be held at **First United Church** on **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 2 PM in the sanctuary. This will be a unique concert as it will be the combination of the choirs of First United Church and Central United Church in Clifton. Tickets are \$10.00 each and are available from choir members or from the First United Church office. Limited amount of tickets available at the door. Reception following the concert.

**Welcome to Gifts with Vision for 2023–2024!**



[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]

**Gifts with Vision** are opportunities for you to make a difference in someone's life—during Advent and Christmas, or at any time of year—by giving gifts from the comfort of home, with no packaging or wrapping needed.

This year's new gifts include [solar power](#) for the United Theological College in Zimbabwe, [backpacks full of school supplies](#) for children who live under the poverty line, a [biofuel pilot project](#) run by women in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and making the United Church camp experience possible for children in underserved communities in the Maritimes—along with many others. You'll also recognize lots of returning gifts, like [Operation Backpack](#), [Return of the Buffalo](#), and [A Kindergarten in a Refugee Camp](#).

See all the Gifts available and find out more by visiting the [Gifts with Vision website](#), and pick up a catalogue in the narthex.

**FSLDW Affirm Zoom Webinar is scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM. Theme: Welcoming Gender Diversity:** A discussion on gender identity in our communities of faith. Capt. Rev. Beatrice Gale has been a United Church minister for 16 years. She joined the Canadian Army early 2017 and is the first openly transgender chaplain in the Canadian military. Register at: [Affirm Webinar](#) or go to the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council website, under the Affirm Committee.

### **Hello from FSLDW President Elizabeth**

Recently I had the delight to sit on the altar steps of the Mt. Allison University chapel and chat with Rev. Ellie Hummel (she/her), Multi-faith Chaplain and Spiritual Care Coordinator, at Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB. Check out the Region FB page for photos.

An ordained United Church clergy person, Ellie came to NB after several years serving as chaplain in Concordia University, Quebec. As Ellie and her partner have settled into Maritime life, Ellie is happy to share that they recently installed solar panels and are excited to watch the first pictures of energy transformation.

Ellie's face shines as she talks about her passion for the ministry at Mt. Allison. The walls of the chapel reflect that same light with inter-faith symbols from around the world. Those of you with fond memories of studying at Mt A will be amazed at the transformation.

Ellie explained how "Whenever there is a crisis anywhere in the world, it becomes very personal right here on campus." Be it Sudan, the Philippines, Ukraine, Russia or Gaza and Israel, when violence erupts or tragedy strikes, hearts ache at Mt. Allison. On campus, the crisis is not some distant story, for indeed the sadness and fear draw close.

Ellie sits, listens and tries to hold a sacred and safe space for all. I am grateful for Ellie's campus ministry and all such ministries across the region.

She is also happy to share her coordinates should anyone wish to be in contact. Rev. Ellie Hummel (she/her) Multi-faith Chaplain and Spiritual Care Coordinator Mount Allison University Sackville, NB E4L 1E2 Canada 506-364-9239 ©Mt Allison University. Please hold this important ministry to the light.

In Peace, Elizabeth (she/her)  
President FSLDW Region An Affirming Ministry  
[elizstevenson@gmail.com](mailto:elizstevenson@gmail.com) 506-650-4812

## *Community News*

**The North Shore Shrine Club** is raising funds to help sick children by the sale of calendars and fruit cakes. The funds are used to pay for the transportation of sick children to the Shriners Children's Hospital in Montreal. The calendars are \$20 each and you have the chance to win a prize each day of the year. The fruit cakes – 3 cakes per box – are \$23 per box. To order a calendar or cakes please contact Harvey Spence at 506-546-2742. Thank you!

**Tea and Tunes** – There will be a time for fellowship for seniors at Evangel Pentecostal Church, 150 Basin Street, on **Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM**. Come enjoy the music. Sweets, tea and coffee will be served. Free Admission

**A Family and Community Breakfast & Bake Sale** will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 8 to 10 AM**. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food. Free will offering at the door.

The Anglican Parish of New Bandon is holding its annual **Christmas Craft & Bake Sale** on **Saturday, November 18, 2023**. It will be held at Christ Church Hall in Clifton from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. A continental style breakfast will be served with tea and coffee at a cost of \$10 per person. We hope you can join us once again for this event.

The Annual **Scottish Feast of Saint Andrew** event at Gowan Brae Golf and Country Club will be held on **Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM**. For further information please contact Isabel MacLaggan

Central United Church in Clifton will be having a **Roast Pork Take-Out Supper** on **Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4 to 6 PM**. For tickets please call Lois Archibald at 506-548-8927. Tickets are \$15 per person.

*Faith*

makes all things possible,

*Love*

makes all things easy,

*Hope*

makes all things work, and

*Family*

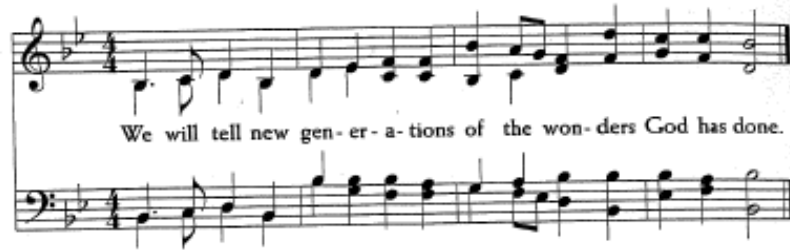
makes life worth living.

792 PSALTER

Psalm 78

Refrain

Joachim Neander 1680



Part One (1-7)

Give heed to my teaching, O my people,  
turn your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will reveal the hidden meaning of things in the past.

What we have heard and known,  
what our parents have told us,

we will not hide from their grandchildren,

but declare to the next generation  
the testimony that you gave to Jacob  
and the law you appointed in Israel,

which you commanded them to teach their children,

that the next generation might know them, children yet unborn,

and these in turn should arise, and tell their children,

that they should put their trust in you,

and not forget your great deeds,

but keep all your commandments. R

MATTHEW 25:1-13

The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

**1** Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.

**2** Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.

**3** When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them;

**4** but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

**5** As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.

**6** But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him."

**7** Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.

**8** The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out."

**9** But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves."

**10** And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut.

**11** Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us."

**12** But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you."

**13** Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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