

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

March 3, 2024

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

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Exodus 20:1-17	Numbers 21:4-9
Psalms 19	Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22
1 Corinthians 1:18-25	Ephesians 2:1-10
John 2:13-22	John 3:14-21

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)

...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 (responsively)

(As we follow the path of Jesus, we light one additional candle for each Sunday of Lent.)

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.

Three Lenten Candles are lit.



MV #115

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP –

"Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New"

Behold, behold, I make all things new, beginning with you and starting from today. Behold, behold, I make all things new, my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

The heavens are telling God's glory,

we gather to proclaim the Spirit's handiwork.

God's laws are perfect.

The Holy One's decrees are sure.

God's precepts are right.

The Holy One's commandments are clear.

God's ordinances are true.

The Holy One's awesomeness is pure.

GATHERING PRAYER *(Based on Psalm 19:14) (in unison)*

**As we gather for worship this morning,
may the words of our mouths,
and the meditations of *ALL* our hearts,
be acceptable to you,
Our God, rock and redeemer.
Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN** – “Let Us Build a House”

MV #1
(Verses 1, 4 & 5)

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

LENTEN TENEBRAE *(responsively) Brooke Knowles & Anne Brooks*

...Four Candles are lit, as well as the Christ Candle...

One: We live in a world of many divisions: class, gender, religion,
race, and politics.

Two: It's not easy to risk our vulnerabilities in order to get to know
someone who seems different.

One: Though the Spirit welcomes all people, invites the gifts of all
nations, and celebrates the uniqueness of each culture, we live in
poverty when we remain separated.

Two: Our lines of separation diminish our togetherness and diminish
our humanity.

One: Like the Samaritan woman at the well, we are thirsty for a drink
that will quench our deepest yearnings.

Two: We long to drink deeply at the well.

One: Yet, we remain thirsty and live a life of quiet desperation.

The third 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,
you said, “Ask, and it will be given to you;
search, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened.”
We, therefore, pray
that you'll quench our deepest thirst
for acceptance, love, and peace.**

**Fill our cup with your spirit till it overflows.
May we drink to our hearts content at the well.
May we live a life of blessings
by giving to others what we've been given
with generosity, courage, and hope.
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*)

John 2:13-22

***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 fullness,
for Christ has made you free!

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Anne Brooks

Exodus 20:1-17

[Based on] Psalm 19

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC - "When We Are Living"

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Martha Vickers

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

THE OFFERING IS GATHERED

***OFFERING RESPONSE** –

VU #541

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.***

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

**Creator and Creating One,
bless these gifts, our gifts.
May they be a beacon of light.
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 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.
Amen**

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** – “Though Ancient Walls” VU #691

Through ancient walls may still stand proud
and racial strife we fact,
though boundaries may be lines of hate,
proclaim God's saving act!

Refrain:
Walls that divide are broken down;
Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;
Christ is our liberty!

When vested power stands firm entrenched
and breaks another's back,
when waste and want live side by side,
it's Gospel that we lack.

Refrain

The truth we seek in varied scheme,
the life that we pursue,
unites us in a common quest
for self and world made new.

Refrain

The church divided seeks that grace,
that newness we proclaim;
a unity of serving love
that lives praise to God's name!

Refrain

This broken world seeks lasting health
and vital unity.
God's people by God's Word renewed,
cast off all slavery!

Refrain

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL CLOSING** – “An Old Irish Blessing”

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be ever at your back.
May sun shine warm upon your face
and the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, and until we meet again,
May you be held in the hollow of God's hand.

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

POSTLUDE

Church News

This Week at First United – Feb 26 th to March 2nd		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Tuesday	9:00 AM	Ways & Means - RMR
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Thursday	4:15 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market

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 February 29th, 2024 we have collected 130 jars.

The Annual General Meeting of Bathurst Pastoral Charge/First United Church will be held following the church service on Sunday, March 17, 2024.

The 2023 Annual Report is now printed and ready for pick up. If you take a report home please remember to bring it with you to the annual meeting as there have been a limited number of copies printed.

Confirmation Classes: If anyone is interested in attending confirmation classes, please contact Rev. Neal or the church office at 506-546-3532.

A Saint Patrick's Gathering sponsored by the Pastoral Care Team will be held at First United Church, 309 Saint Patrick Street, Bathurst, on **Thursday, March 14th from 1 PM to 3 PM.** (Snow date Friday, March 15th)

Music will be provided by The Treble Makers. There is no admission fee. A voluntary donation towards the life and work of First United Church or a non-perishable item for the church pantry would be appreciated. Everyone is welcome!

Members of the group include: Linda Knowles MacPherson - Piano; Donald Eddy- Clarinet & Guitar; Ann Marie Hocquard - Voice & Percussion; Julia Henry - Trumpet & Voice; Charles Ramsey - Voice; Karen McCrea - Violin & Voice; Hazen McCrea - Bass Guitar

Church News

Pastoral Care: If you, or anyone you know, is in need of a pastoral visit, please contact Rev. Neal Palmer or any member of the Pastoral Care Team. Please help this ministry by keeping us informed. Thank you!

First United Church will begin Live Streaming our Sunday services soon

As you know, we already video tape our services each Sunday for broadcast on our website and our Facebook site later in the week and as well we record the services on CDs for those unable to attend in person. Live Streaming, however, will allow almost instant transmission to Facebook and our website. For the most part, cameras will be focused on the front of the church and the congregation will be seen only from behind for the most part, similar to what you see on Facebook or our website currently.

Our technical team will do everything possible to ensure the best quality of the live-stream service. Unfortunately there are times when the internet connection at the venue or where you are viewing from may cause interference and buffering.

Once we receive the link for live stream access we will provide it to you both via bulletin announcement and an email message.

As part of our **Stewardship Program** here at First United, information on Planned Giving through Wills and Bequests is available to our congregational membership. All members are encouraged to review this information and take the appropriate steps pertaining to your wishes. The information is available from the church office.

Below you will find a stewardship quote relating to the same.

"You can give without loving,
but you can never love without giving."

~ Robert Louis Stevenson

Church News

Thank You to all who supported the Sunrise Breakfast held on February 25th and a huge thanks to all the volunteers who make these events possible. A special thanks to our sponsors for this event, **Jean Coutu (Beresford) & Websolutions.ca**. At the time of bulletin preparation we did not have a final tally of the funds raised. Our next Ways and Means event will be the *Roast Pork supper* (sit down or take out) to be held on Thursday, March 28, 2024.

PAR Cards – There are cards now available in the narthex for any congregants who donate through PAR. We have an additional supply of cards on order.

Thank you to our volunteers in February:

Counters – Shirley Sealy, Jini Palmer and Gayle Ferron; **Greeters** – Margaret Payne Chénard and Mike Kierstead; **Lenton Tenebrae Candle Lighters & Readers** – Helen Knowles & Brook Knowles and Cheryl Brewster & Mya Brewster; **Your Generosity Matters** – Martha Vickers, Sally Ronalds, Bev Murphy and Anne Wilson; **Scripture Readers** – Judy Losier, Gary Branch, Helen Knowles and Cheryl Brewster; **Hospitality & Friendship** – Nancy Jagoe and Pam Smith; **Sound System** – Brenda Parrott, Shirley Allain and Ralph Jamieson and **Videographer** – Don Eddy as well as to Josh Gammon for uploading our services to the website and Facebook.

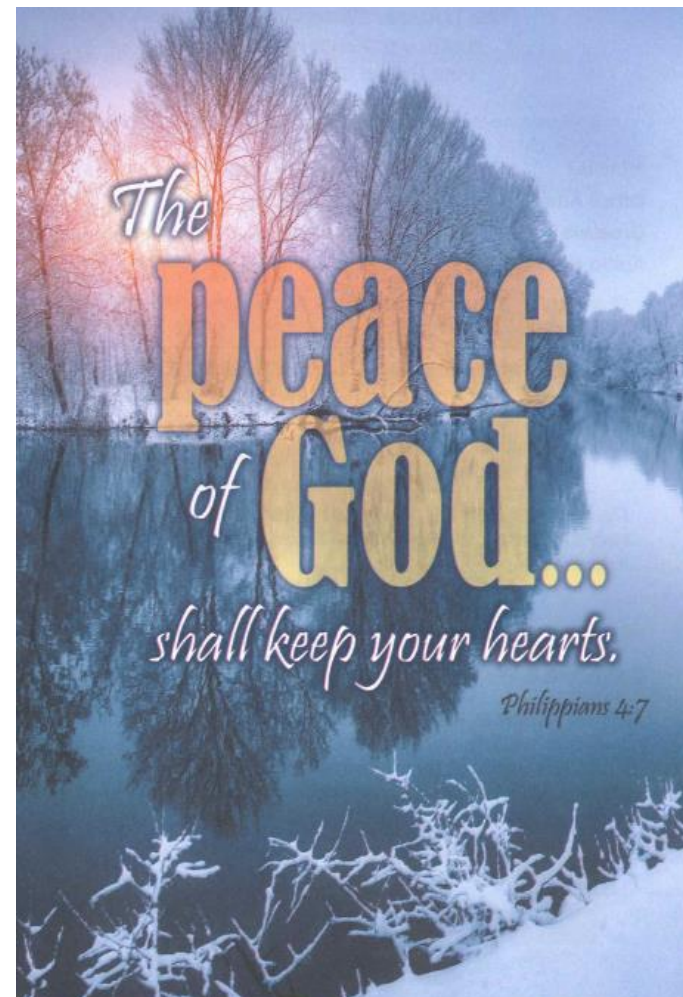
Community News

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, March 9th from 8:00 – 10:00 am**. As this community event serves to fund our local mission projects, we rely on donations and ask that you consider a minimum donation of \$ 8.00 to help defray costs. We appreciate your kindness and support. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food.

Community News

There will be a **Seniors Card Game** held on **Wednesday, March 13th at 1 PM** at Central United Church Hall, Clifton. Refreshments will be provided. Bring a friend and your favourite card game. (There will be playing cards available.) It will be cancelled if there is inclement weather.

Melodies for Missions featuring the *Bathurst Jazz Band* and *Alysa Collins*, **Sunday March 17th at 2:30 p.m.** at Evangel Pentecostal Church, 150 Basin Street. Tickets \$10.00. Children 12 and under free. In support of the Evangel Mission Team. Contact Glen or Joyce Daley 506 546 3764



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Anne Brooks

EXODUS 20:1-17

1 Then God spoke all these words:

2 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

3 you shall have no other gods before me.

4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me,

6 but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

8 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.

9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

10 But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.

11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

12 Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

13 You shall not murder.

14 You shall not commit adultery.

15 You shall not steal.

16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

[BASED ON] PSALM 19

How Beautiful Is God's Creation!

I look up and think, "How beautiful is God's Creation!"
There is so much blue sky today;
there are so many puffy white clouds;
there is the sun moving across the sky, from east to west.

On some days the clouds come together
to pour rain down on me and the earth;
filling the rivers, the lakes and the seas.
But on days and nights like this,
there is only this amazing huge sky above.
It seems so separate from the earth,
like an upside-down bowl placed upon our world.

But, of course, all are connected in God's creation!
And I am part of it all – this awesome nature.
My actions connect with everything – earth and sky, water and air.
Like a pebble dropped into water,
what I do in my life makes ripples
that move out further and further,
touching things that are far away from me.

Nothing I do is hidden from God and God's creation.
So, I have learned that more important than anything
is to care for creation, to keep it from harm, to love it,
like I love my most valuable possession or tastiest sweet.

God, I have such thoughts and words of love for you and your creation.

Please accept them as my gift
and my promise to you, dear Creator,
to live faithfully always.

May God bless to our understanding these significant parts of our faith story...