

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

March 19, 2017
Third Sunday of Lent

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Clergy | Rev. Blair Lewis | Organist | Martha Vickers |
| Office Adm. | Isabel Clouston | Greeters | Gayle Ferron |
| Custodian | Alan Wilcox | | Haines Scott |

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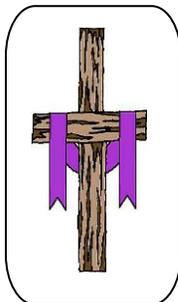
| <u>Lectionary for today</u> | <u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u> |
|---|---|
| <i>Exodus 17:1-7</i> <i>Psalm 95</i> <i>Romans 5:1-11</i> <i>John 4:5-42</i> | <i>I Samuel 16:1-13</i> <i>Psalm 23</i> <i>Ephesians 5:8-14</i> <i>John 9:1-41</i> |

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

*The asterisk * identifies those times in the service where the congregation is invited to stand as able.*

Organ Prelude:

***Choral Opening:** *'Spirit, Open My Heart'* **#MV 79**
Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.



Welcoming:

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:

Announcements:

The Candles of Lent, Our Journey of Faith:

(4 candles and the Christ candle are lit before the service.)

Today is the 3rd Sunday of Lent.
Lent is a time to think about the things that block us from following God's way of loving and caring for this world and one another. Today we will extinguish our 3rd Lenten candle. This candle represents fear. As the candle is extinguished, let us pray in silence for God to remove the fear within us and in our world that stops us from trusting God.

(Extinguish the 3rd Lenten candle, and then pause for a moment of silent prayer.)

Knowing that God accepts us for who we are, but loves us into who we can be, let us join together in this song.

Choral Response: *'Take, O Take Me as I Am'* **#85 MV**
Take, O take me as I am;
Summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart
And live in me, in me.

Call to Worship:

One: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
All: In you, O God, I place my trust.
One: Make known your paths.
All: Lead me in your truth.
One: Your kingdom is coming near.
All: Be present in our midst.
One: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
All: In you, O God, I place my trust.

Prayer of Approach:

One: Faithful Maker of rainbows,
your loving presence is with us now,
even as it was with Noah
in the days of the flood,
and continued with Jesus
through his trials in the wilderness.

**All: Make your paths known to us,
that we may walk in your ways
and abide in your truth.
For it is you who holds our hearts,
it is for you that we wait. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn:** 'Water Flowing from the Mountains' #87 MV

Water flowing from the mountains.
Water flowing o'er the earth.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water gives us birth.

Refrain

*Drink deep this source of life.
Drink deep and know.
For living water sings, and living water brings
the love that makes our spirit grow.*

Water rushing down the rivers.
Water rushing to the sea.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water makes us free.

Refrain

Water springing from the dry place.
Water springing in the sun.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water for each one.

Refrain

Children of All Ages:

The Lord's Prayer:

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding:

God of forgiveness and new beginnings,
you feed our hearts with compassion,
and nourish our souls with the bread of heaven.
As Jesus fed the hungry crowds,
He knew that they needed both physical bread
and the bread of heaven;
fill us with your generous spirit
and make us one with Christ. Amen.

Scripture Readings: Wayne Lord
Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7
Responsive Psalm: Psalm #95 #814 VU
New Testament Lesson: John 4:5-26

***Hymn:** 'There is a Green Hill Far Away' #152 VU

Message: "Living Water"

Anthem: 'Song of the Cross'

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Minute for Mission:

Presentation of Gifts and Self to God:

Choral Response:

*Give what you can,
Take what you need.
For the body of Christ, is enough to feed.
The hungry for Spirit and the thirsty for love.
Give thanks when you can to our God up above.*

***Prayer of Dedication:** (in unison)

**Ever-present God,
with this offering, we present also ourselves:
all that we have been,
all that we are,
and all that we shall become,
and our resolve to walk in your way.
Accept us and our offering, we pray for Jesus' sake.
Amen.**

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

**Lord, you know who we are.
You know everything we have done.
We thirst for things that will never satisfy us.
We commit ourselves to things that will never last.
We worship things that will never bring salvation.
Still, you offer us the gift of living water.
Still, you offer us the gift of eternal life.
Forgive us, O Lord, and give us this living water,
so that we may never thirst again. Amen.**

Choral Response: *'And When You Call for Me'* #96 MV
*And when you call for me,
I have already answered.
And when you call for me,
I am already there.*

Assurance of Pardon:

In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus,
we are assured that there is no sin so terrible
that God cannot forgive,
no hurt so terrible that God cannot heal.
God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free.
Receive the forgiving love of God.

Reflective Music / Silent Prayer:

Pastoral Prayer:

One: Let us pray.

O Lord our God, open our hearts,
and guide our prayer to the light of your Spirit.
In communion with the universal church, help us to pray for
the welcome that we extend to our neighbors.

**All: Our God, we want to follow all your Commandments –
to love only you,
not worshiping the things of this world;
and to love our neighbor freely,
not desiring for ourselves something they possess.
We pray for healing and reconciliation
or trust that has been broken, hostility that has flared,
or misunderstanding that has grown.**

One: Restore us not only to one another,
but reconcile us to ourselves and to you, loving God.
Through restoration we discover hope,
we pray that you will grant us new beginnings
and new possibilities for our lives.

**All: Gracious God,
we pray for those who are ill in mind, body, or spirit;
for those isolated from the community;
for those burdened by guilt or grief,
by depression or despair.**

**All: With your help O God
may our church family be free to reach out
toward those who long
for a community of welcome and fellowship.**

One: Send us out in love, with open eyes, ears, and hearts.
Make us true neighbors to one another
and true children of your own calling.
We pray in the name of Christ,
who has come to set us free. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn: 'By the Well, A Thirsty Woman' #117 MV**

By the well, a thirsty woman
found the life that you could give.
We, too, thirst like empty vessels –
fill us full that we may live.
Jesus, source of living water,
Well-spring bubbling deep with-in,
By the waters of our baptism
wisdom purpose life begin.

Plant us firm, like trees by water,
send our roots down deep in you,
quench our parched and thirsty spirits
with your water, pure and true.
Jesus, source of living water,
Nourisher of all on earth,
By the waters of our baptism
quicken growth and give new birth.

May we be your streams of justice,
as the water, may we move
through your people – by your Spirit
showing mercy, sharing love,
Jesus source of living water,
Ground-swell forcing truth to view,
By the waters of our baptism
Set us free to live for you.

***Commissioning:** (in unison)
Hear our prayers, God of grace.
Help us to live full lives;
working according to your purpose,
in peace, justice, and mercy, in all we do.
Through Jesus Christ to whom,
with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all power and glory.
Now and forever. Amen.

***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 snow fall softly upon your fields,
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of his hand.
Gaelic

*** Choral Closing:**
'Stay with Us through the Night' #182 VU vs.1
Stay with us through the night.
Stay with us through the pain
Stay with us, blessed stranger
Till the morning breaks again.

Organ Postlude:

*If we had no winter,
the spring would not be so pleasant;
if we did not sometimes taste of adversity,
prosperity would not be so welcome.*
~Anne Bradstreet~

Church News

This Week at First United –March 20 –March 25

| | | |
|-----------|--------|-----------------------------|
| Monday | 9-11am | Badminton – DEMH Gym |
| | 6:15 | Beavers – Rms. 1,2&3 DEMH |
| Tuesday | 2pm | Bible Study – Eddy Rm |
| | 4pm | Pastoral Council – Eddy Rm. |
| | 6:15 | Cubs & Scouts – DEMH GYM |
| Wednesday | 9-11am | Badminton – DEMH Gym |
| | 9-12pm | TAB – Rms. 1,2&3 |
| | 6:30pm | Choir Practice |
| Thursday | 7:00pm | Christian Dev. - RMR |

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2017

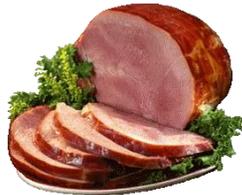
900

Total to Date

222

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect 16-17 jars of peanut butter per week.

The Volunteer Center supplies, on average, 500 households monthly.



Ham & Scallop Supper

Thursday, March 30, 2017

Adults \$ 15 - Children (12 & under) \$ 6

5:00-6:30pm

Take outs available 4:00 -5:30pm

Advance Tickets Sales only

Tickets available from Ways and Means Team members and at the church office 546-3532

The Upper Room for March and April are in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one. A container for donations is located with the publication.



Memorial Hymn Sing Sunday, April 30, 2017, 10am
Extra copies of the Hymn Selections and return envelopes can be found in the Narthex.
Please forward requests to the office by April 7, 2017.

Notice from the Property Management Team For security reasons, all doors to the sanctuary will be kept locked except the one closest to the office. To enter the church during business hours, please use the St. Patrick Street entrance.

Miller Bursary Guidelines: The recipient of the Miller Bursary must be a student from BHS or ESN, a member of First United Church and have achieved the highest overall average of those eligible.

Community Events

The Ladies Auxiliary to Herman J. Good VC Branch 18,

Royal Canadian Legion

Ham Supper: Includes coffee, tea, and dessert

Sunday, April 2, 2017 Served from: 5:00pm-6:00pm

Cost: \$14.00 Tickets are on sale at the Legion.

For its upcoming **spring concert, Choeur Louisbourg** will be presenting real gems of the Baroque period, spanning three generations of Italian composers from the era, namely Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643), Isabella Leornarda (1620-1704) and Tomaso Albinoni (1671-1751). The choir will be accompanied by excellent musicians performing on baroque violins and continuo. Sunday, April 2, at 2 pm, Bathurst RHSJ Chapel, Vallée-Lourdes Street. Tickets on sale at the door: \$25. Student: \$10. For the complete detail: concertnb.ca.

Family & Community Breakfast Saint George's Church Hall
Saturday, April 8, 2017 8:00 – 10:30 am

Exodus 17:1-7 New International Version (NIV)

Water From the Rock

17 The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

² So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?"

³ But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

⁴ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

⁵ The LORD answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

⁶ I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.

⁷ And he called the place Massah^[a] and Meribah^[b] because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

John 4:5-26 New International Version (NIV)

⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"

⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.^[a])

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?"

¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,

¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

¹⁷ "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband.

¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet.

²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹ "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.

²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

²⁵ The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

²⁶ Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."