

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

Oct. 8, 2017

Thanksgiving Sunday

Clergy	Rev. Blair Lewis	Organist	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Isabel Clouston	Greeters	Peggy & Francis Scott
Custodian	Alan Wilcox		

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20</i> <i>Psalm 80</i> <i>Philippians 3:4b-14</i> <i>Matthew 21:33-46</i>	<i>Exodus 32:1-14</i> <i>Psalm 23</i> <i>Philippians 4:1-9</i> <i>Matthew 22:1-14</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:**

'As Those of Old Their First-fruits Brought' # 518 VU vs. 1
As those of old their first-fruits brought
Of vine-yard, flock, and field
To God, the giver of all good,
The source of bounteous yields,
So we today our first-fruit bring:
The wealth of this good land,
Of farm and market, shop and home,
Of mind and heart and hand.

Welcoming:

The heavens declare the glory of God!
The skies proclaim God's handiwork.
The day pronounces God's glory without a sound,
the night expounds God's knowledge without a word,
and yet their voices goes out through all the earth.
Let us join our voices with the voice of creation.
In declaring God's glory!

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:

Announcements:

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

One: As we light the Christ Candle
on this Thanksgiving Sunday
we prepare for worship and offer thanks to God.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: We live in an ever changing world,
may your light show us the way
as we experience the changing colors of this new season.
May the light of God's love
make the colors of nature even more vivid.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: God has gathered us into a church family
where friendship, support and life giving empowerment
are an important part of daily life.
We thank God for friends and neighbours.

**All: Let us worship God with love,
thanksgiving, and praise.**

Call to Worship:

One: O come, let us sing to the Lord;

**All: let us make a joyful noise
to the rock of our salvation!**

One: Let us come into God's presence with Thanksgiving;

**All: let us make a joyful noise
to him with songs of praise! (Psalm 95:1-2)**

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)
**Lord our God, great, eternal, wonderful,
utterly to be trusted.
You give life to us all;
you help those who come to you;
you give hope to those who appeal to you.
Set our hearts and minds at peace
so that we may bring our prayers to you
confidently and without fear,
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn:** *'Come, You Thankful People Come'* #516 VU

Children of all ages:

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding:

O God, the gospel of your Son comes to us
not in words alone, but in power.
Let your Holy Spirit teach us
so that we may receive with understanding
what you have revealed,
and eagerly do what you have commanded;
through Jesus Christ your Son who shows us the way. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Isabel MacLaggan

Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

***Responsive Psalm:** Psalm 19 #740-741 VU (Refrain 2)

Gospel Lesson : Matthew 21:33-46; 22:34-40

***Hymn:** *'Long Before My Journey's Start'* #63 MV

Long before my journey's start,
When in my youth I searched in my heart,
I would pray for her, wait for her,
Wisdom, my road, my goal, and my star.

From the blossom to the seed,
Long has she filled my cup in need,
May I cling to her vine, taste of her wine,
Wisdom, my life, my perfect design.

When I stretched my hands to the sky,
When in despair my soul raised a cry,
I was saved by her gaze, led in her ways,
Wisdom, my love, the light of my days.

Message: "A Rule of Love"

Anthem: *'Great Is Thy Faithfulness'*

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Presentation of Gifts and Self to God:

***Choral Response:** *'We Bring Our Gifts to Share'*

*We bring our gifts to share,
and lift our grateful prayer
That with our faithful care,
Our world will grow.
Through work of minds and hands
in gestures small or grand,
Let willing hearts expand the love You sow.*

Prayer of Dedication: (in unison)

**Almighty God,
we give you thanks and praise
for your love shown to us
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Receive the offering of our lives and our gifts
in union with Christ's offering for us.
We dedicate our gifts to you
in the spirit of your gift of liberation
to us through Jesus Christ.
We present our gifts in a spirit of love and hope.
Amen.**

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

**O God into your presence we come,
our heads bowed
in the traditional sign of humility and obedience.
Perhaps, O God,
we deceive ourselves in what we do.**

**It may be that we are not at all humble,
but proud of our station in life.
We are educated, we are secure,
we are United Church members.
Perhaps, we are not even that obedient.
We require others to make restitution for their sins,
while we expect
only grace and mercy for our failings.
Yes, we may fool ourselves,
but what great mercy it is that we cannot deceive you,
O Lord.
We know that you see us as we are;
we trust your love to be real.
Teach us repentance
that we may not only ask your pardon
but truly experience your forgiveness and, in turn,
that we will love and forgive those
who sin against us. Amen.**

*(Caril E. Bayma, Royster Memorial
Presbyterian Church, Norfolk, Virginia: adapted)*

Choral Response: *'How Deep the Peace'* #95 MV
***How deep the peace, the confidence.
Of those whose wrongs are forgiven.
How deep the peace, the confidence.
Of those whose hearts are healed.***

Words of Assurance:

No matter where we are, God is there.
No matter what we have done, God forgives.
No matter our reluctance to accept God, God has accepted us.
With that assurance, receive forgiveness,
and live in fullness and in hope.

Silent Prayer and Reflection:

Pastoral Prayer:

All: Lord of all being and source of every blessing,
we thank you for all good things:
for life and love,
for health and food,
for work and home,

**for nature's beauty and comfort,
for human skills and laughter,
for memory and hope,
for everything which gives us
pleasure, nourishment, and strength.**

One: This morning in prayer we remember
all who bear the cross of suffering,
the sick in body or in mind.
We remember all those who are troubled
by the sin or suffering of those they love;
for all who were absorbed in their own grief,
that they may be raised to share the sorrows
of their brothers and sisters,
and know the blessed fellowship of the cross.
We remember all perplexed
by the deeper questions of life,
and overshadowed with doubt
that light may arise in their darkness.
We remember all who are lonely and sad
in the midst of others joys,
that they may know you as their friend and comforter.
We pray for all who are facing serious health challenges,
that they may find their strength in you,
and light at evening time.
In our prayer we share our concern
for all forgotten by us, but dear to you.
In the name of your Son our risen Savior
we offer our prayers. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer:

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn:** *'Praise God for the Harvest'* #517VU

Commissioning: (in unison)

**We are surrounded by the wonderful love of God,
which will not let us go,
which holds us, enfolds us, forgives us,
empowers us, encourages us,
and gives us hope.
Let us go forth with confidence and joy
to live full lives to which God calls us.**

Church News

This Week at First United –Oct. 9– Oct. 14

Monday	Office Closed	Thanksgiving.
Tuesday	2pm	Bible Study – Eddy Rm
	6:15	Cubs/Scouts – DEMH Gym
Wednesday	9am-12	TAB - Rms 1,2 & 3
	9am -11am	Badminton - DEMH
	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Thursday	1:30	Pastoral Care Team - RMR
	7pm	Christian Development - RMR

Blessing:

May God bless you and keep you.
 May God's face shine upon you
 and be gracious to you.
 May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace.
Numbers 6:24-26

* Choral Closing: 'May God's Sheltering Wings' (#214 MV)

***May God's sheltering wings,
 his gathering wings protect you
 May God's nurturing arms,
 his cradling arms sustain you,
 And hold you in his love
 And hold you in his love.***

Organ Postlude:

*To speak gratitude
 is courteous and pleasant,
 to enact gratitude
 is generous and noble,
 but to live gratitude
 is to touch Heaven.
 ~Johannes A. Gaertner~*

The bulletin today has been placed
in loving memory of Frankie and Burns Branch
 by the Branch girls

in loving memory of Lillian Comeau
 by Herman

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2017 **900**
 Total to Date **801**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect
 7-8 jars of peanut butter per week.
 The Volunteer Center supplies, on average,
 500 households monthly.



Church School will be beginning for the fall season on October 15th. This semester will run for 8 weeks. The White Gift service will be held on Dec. 10th. We are looking forward to having the children and youth back with us.

Observer Would you like to receive the Observer, a United Church of Canada publication? For a new subscription, please contact the church office at 546-3532 before Monday, Oct 19, 2017. The annual subscription rate is \$25 (Tax included) Renewals are also payable at the office.

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

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.

Highlandview Cemetery will be holding a work day on Saturday October 14, 2017, between 9 am and noon. Work to be done includes general cleanup, leveling grave sites and trimming hedges. All are welcome to help. *"Many hands make light work."*

Thank You: The Ways and Means team would like to express a sincere thank you to all who helped in anyway with our Beef BBQ. The meat, cooked by Ray Lavigne was delicious and the selection of desserts supplied were absolutely fantastic. A profit of approximately **\$ 2700.00** was realized. The next supper, sponsored by the Ways and Means team, will be the Turkey Supper on November 30.

Annual Remembrance Service

Each year, on the Sunday immediately prior to Remembrance Day, we honour our war veterans as well as those who lost their lives in war. Our *Remembrance Service* will be held Sunday, November 5. Those wishing to place memorial crosses in the sanctuary are reminded to contact the Legion office directly.

Community Events

"Help Lesotho" Calendars

The "Lesotho Initiative" Committee of the Anglophone School District -North has been sponsoring "Help Lesotho" since 2006 as part of its global awareness initiative. As a fund raiser where all of the money raised goes to help finance its work with orphans, vulnerable children, and grandmothers in Lesotho, Africa; "Help Lesotho" has 2018 calendars for sale at a cost of fifteen dollars. You are invited to support this initiative with your donation. Please contact Gary Branch (egbranch@rogers.com)(546-9208) or Audrey Ronalds (audrey.ronalds@nbed.nb.ca) (549-5995) who will be taking orders for these calendars until October 17, 2017. Payment can be made in advance by cash or cheque or when the calendars are delivered. Cheques are to be made payable to "Help Lesotho".

Family & Community Breakfast

Saturday, October 14, 2017 8:00 – 10:30 am
Saint George's Church Hall 432 King Avenue

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

Royal Canadian Legion
Ham Supper Includes coffee, tea, and dessert
Sunday, October 15, 2017 Served from: 5:00pm-6:00pm
Cost: \$14.00 Tickets are on sale at the Legion.

A Spaghetti Supper in aid of Cuba inter-faith mission 2017 will be held on **Saturday, Oct. 21st from 4:00 – 6:00 pm** at Holy Family Church Hall, 430 St. Peter Avenue. Tickets are \$ 10.00 for Adults and \$ 5.00 for children under 12. Take-outs are available. Call Don or Maxine Goodspeed at 546-5387 or Saint George's Church Office at 546-3225 for tickets or information.

Saint George's Guild Coffee Party & Bazaar,

Saturday, October 28, 10:00 am – 12 Noon, Saint George's Church Hall, Tickets – \$ 10.00 available by calling Church Office at 546-3225 or at the door

Bathurst Christian Women invite you to our Luncheon at Gowen Brae, 150 Youhall Dr, Bathurst on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 \$17 from 11:30am - 1:00pm, doors open at 11:00am. Linda Knowles MacPherson and group "Notes on the Bay" will play music, and Patricia Peppard of Pugwash, NS will bring her message of "I Never Promised You a Rose Garden". **Reservations are required before Saturday, October 21.** Please contact Joanne at 542-1118 or ejgodin@rogers.com or contact Connie at 546-2127.

Old Fashioned Turkey Dinner, November 4, 2017 – 5p.m. Evangel Pentecostal Church, 150 Basin Street. Tickets \$12.00. Assorted desserts will be auctioned. A limited number of Take-Out meals are available for \$14.00. Contact Joyce or Glen Daley at 546-3764.

*Forever on Thanksgiving Day
The heart will find the pathway home.
~Wilbur D. Nesbit*

Thanksgiving Delights

*On Thanksgiving Day we're thankful for
Our blessings all year through,
For family we dearly love,
For good friends, old and new.*

*For sun to light and warm our days,
For stars that glow at night,
For trees of green and skies of blue,
And puffy clouds of white.*

*We're grateful for our eyes that see
The beauty all around,
For arms to hug, and legs to walk,
And ears to hear each sound.*

*The list of all we're grateful for
Would fill a great big book;
Our thankful hearts find new delights
Everywhere we look!*

By Joanna Fuchs

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 New International Version (NIV)

The Ten Commandments

20 And God spoke all these words:

²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before^[a] me.

⁴“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

⁷“You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

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

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land 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 give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

¹⁸ When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance

¹⁹ and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.”

²⁰ Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.”

Matthew 21:33-46 New International Version (NIV)

The Parable of the Tenants

³³“Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place.

³⁴ When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

³⁵ “The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third.

³⁶ Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way.

³⁷ Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said.

³⁸ “But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’

³⁹ So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

⁴⁰ “Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

⁴¹ “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.”^[a]?

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.

⁴⁴ Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”^[b]

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them.

⁴⁶ They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

Matthew 22:34-40 New International Version (NIV)

The Greatest Commandment

³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together.

³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:

³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”^[a]

³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.

³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[b]

⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”