

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

March 11, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Communion

Minister	Rev. Blair Lewis	Organist	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Isabel Clouston	Greeters	Gayle Ferron
Custodian	Alan Wilcox		Shirley Sealy

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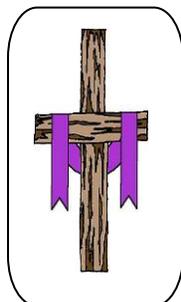
<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Numbers 21:4-9</i> <i>Psalm 107</i> <i>Ephesians 2:1-10</i> <i>John 3:14-21</i>	<i>Jeremiah 31:31-34</i> <i>Psalm 51</i> <i>Hebrews 5:5-10</i> <i>John 12:20-33</i>

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

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Musical 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:

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:

Announcements:

The Candles of Lent, Our Journey of Faith:

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

One: Today is the fourth 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 fourth Lenten candle.
This candle represents pride.
As the candle is extinguished
let us pray in silence for God
to remove any pride within us and in our world;
that makes us feel more important than others
and stops us from asking for God's help when we need it.

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

**All: 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: Young and old and middle-aged,
individuals and families,
soft-spoken and outspoken,

**All: we hear our names
being called to join in worship.**

One: This house of worship
is a place to pursue God's vision for all people:

**All: unity and joy and faith
expressed through different gifts.
Let us worship together!**

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)
O Lord our God,
you have called us to prayer;
stir our hearts with the thought of your goodness,
and grant us the spirit of true devotion.
May we worthily praise your Son
who suffered and went down to death,
that he might open to us the gates of eternal life.
We offer our prayer
in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:**
'O God, How We have Wandered' #112 VU

Children of All Ages:

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding:
Eternal God,
in the reading of the scripture,
may your Word be heard;
in the meditations of our hearts,
may your Word be known;
and in the faithfulness of our lives,
may your Word be shown. Amen.

Scripture Readings: Gary Branch
Old Testament Lesson: Numbers 21:4-9
Responsive Psalm: Psalm 107 #831 Parts 1&2
New Testament Lesson: John 3 :14-21

***Hymn:** *'Come, O Fount of Every Blessing'* #559 VU

Message: "The Art of Faith"

Anthem: *'Creator God, You Gave Us Life'*

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

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)
All: Gracious God,
we acknowledge and
confess in your presence
the smallness of our love,
the narrowness of our concern,
the denial of our true humanity.
Through our careless hands have slipped
opportunities not taken,
people not cared for,
days not celebrated.
We are ashamed and sorry
for the ways of our unfaithfulness,
and ask for reassurance and forgiveness.

One: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
All: have mercy on us.
One: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
All: have mercy on us.
One: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
All: grant us peace. 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.

There is no joy that does not come from God's hand.
There is no pain that does not echo in God's heart.
Let us bring our thanksgivings
and concerns before God.
Let us come before God as we receive our communion.

Silent Prayer / Reflective Music:

THE SERVICE OF THE TABLE:

An Invitation to the Table:

***Our Communion Hymn:** *'We Gather Here'* #469 VU

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer:

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.
All: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.
One: Blessed are you gracious God, Creator of light,
Giver of all life, and Source of love;
we bless you for all your gifts.
We praise you for this Sunday of remembrance
and of hope and for the wonder of this time of joy.
**All: We praise you, O God.
We thank you, O God.**
One: For Jesus Christ, in whom you gather
the hopes and fears of all the years,
we bless your Holy Name.
We join with all your people of every time and place
we share our thoughts and prayers with God
our source of hope.
On this Communion and Dedication Sunday,
we celebrate our Lenten faith;
your presence is alive
through the power of the resurrection.

Choral Response: (Sanctus and Benedictus # 942VU)
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;
holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

One: On the night before Jesus died
he had supper with his disciples:
he took bread; thanked you as we have thanked you;
broke the bread and gave the bread to his friends saying:
take this, all of you, and eat it.
This is my body, given for you.
Each time you do this, remember me.
After supper he took the wine; thanked you for it
and passed a cup of wine to his friends saying:
this cup is the new promise
God has made with you in my blood.

Each time you do this and drink from this cup,
remember me.
Remembering his death and celebrating his resurrection;
we await with hope his coming again
to bring peace and justice to the earth.
We affirm the mystery of our faith.

**All: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

One: Send O God, your Holy Spirit upon us
and what we do here;
that we and these gifts touched by your Spirit,
may be signs of life and love
to each other and to all the world.
Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit all glory is yours;
God most holy, now and forever.
We gather these and all our prayers,
thankful that we may now turn to you in one voice:

All: Our Father, Who art in heaven..... Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup:

Sharing of the Bread and Cup:

Post Communion Hymn:

'Sent Forth by God's Blessing' #481 VU

*(The congregation is now to move to the Donald Eddy Hall
for the dedication of our new artwork)*

Prayer:

Eternal God,
you are the source of all light;
you nourish and gladden all things in heaven and on earth.
Bless the works of art that depict our journey of faith we pray.
May the bright beams of your love
illumine the lives of all your people;
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Dedication of Paintings:

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
this is a day of rejoicing.
We have come together
to dedicate the paintings
in the Donald Eddy Hall of First United Church.
Let us open our hearts and minds to God
who inspired us in ages past,
who sustains us this day,
and who guides us into the future.
Let us worship God!

Comments by the painters: Marie Oliver and Adrienne Hazen

Dedication prayer:

Giver of all good gifts,
it is by your power that all things are made holy.
We give you thanks for your marvellous wonders,
and for the work of human hands.
Be with us now as we receive beautiful art work;
we offer thanks for the skill and the gift of the artists.
We ask for your blessing
and dedicate the paintings to your service.
May your face shine upon what we do here this day,
that all might draw nearer to you and praise you. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

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 love of God,
the grace of Christ,
and the light of the Spirit
bless you and keep you in the way of truth.

Church News

This Week at First United –March 12- March 17

Monday	9-11am	Badminton
	6:15pm	Beavers - Rms 1,2 & 3
Tuesday	2pm	Bible Study – Eddy Rm
	6:15	Scouts - DEMH GYM
Wednesday	9am	TAB – Rms 1,2 & 3
	9 -11am	Badminton
	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Thursday	7pm	Christian Dev. - RMR
Friday	1:30-3:30	St. Patrick's Entertainment

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**

Total to Date **152**

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.



Notice of 2018 Congregational Annual Meeting

Please note: The 2018 Congregational Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 18, 2018, following the church service. Annual reports are available in the Narthex.

As a follow-up to the request for change in pastoral relations in order to retire received from Rev. Blair Lewis at our worship service on February 25 we will be selecting persons to serve on the Joint Needs Assessment Committee for our Pastoral Charge at the annual meeting on March 18, 2018. This election will be pending approval of Presbytery.

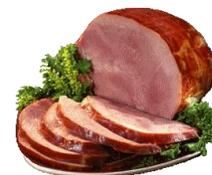
The Joint Needs Assessment Committee Report that is prepared in consultation with Miramichi Presbytery will be the guiding document in declaring a vacancy and our search for a new minister.

Any member or adherent of our congregation who would like to serve on this committee please contact Sandra Boone at 546-5453 or by email:boonies@nb.sympatico.ca

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.

The Ministry and Personnel committee is looking for individuals who would be willing to fill in for the Office Administrator and/or the Custodian during vacation time or when sick. If you are interested please contact the office at 546-3532.

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.



Ham & Scallop Supper

Thursday, March 22, 2018

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

Clean up crew needed: The Ways and Means team are looking for people who would be willing to have their names placed on a list to work on the clean-up crew after their functions. You would not be asked to work at all the functions. Even a couple of times a year would be appreciated.

Call the church office to volunteer 546-3532

A St Patrick's Gathering sponsored by the Pastoral Care Team will be held on Friday, March 16th, in the Ruth Morrison Room from 1:30-3:30pm. Music will be played by Linda Knowles MacPherson, Donald Eddy, Archie Fowlie, and their music group, "The Treble Makers". A light lunch will be provided. Everyone welcome.

Community Events

Saint Patrick's Day Baked Ham Supper and Entertainment

Saint George's Anglican Church Hall

Saturday, March 17th at 5:00 pm

Adults \$15.00 Children (under 12) \$7.50

Tickets available - Church Office - 546-3225

Myrna Good-Hollett - 546-5955

Glenda Stickles - 548-8360

Nancy Pitre - 548-5112

Central United Church: Pancake Supper Saturday,
April 7, 2018 4:30-6pm Tickets: Adults \$10 12 & under \$5.
Take-outs available Contact: Preston Knowles 546-4068

Country & Gospel Music Night Saturday, April 28, 2018 7pm
Christ Church Hall, Clifton. Featuring: The Country Capers, Bernard
Arseneau, John & Isabel Clouston and others. Free will offering -
for the Anglican Parish of New Bandon. Contact: Allen Miller 544-
5625

Development & Peace "Share-Lent" Campaign Soup Lunch,

Sunday March 11th 12 noon. Holy Family Church Hall.

Homemade Soups, Rolls, Desserts. Tea. Coffee. Tickets - Adults
\$10.00 Children \$5.00 Family: \$20.00 . Tickets at the door.

St. Patrick's Events

Friday, March 16th , come out to the Heritage museum and show off
your GREEN for St. Paddy's day. Refreshments will be served at
the Irish booth.

Saturday, March 17th , an Irish mass will be celebrated in the Holy
Family church on St. Peter's Ave. at 2pm. Father David Ferguson
will preside.

Saturday evening there will be a St. Patrick's supper and
entertainment starting at 5pm at the Gowan Brea dining room.

Tickets, while they last, are available from Pat Murphy.

Call 547-5525. Tickets are \$27.00 each.

Numbers 21:4-9 New International Version (NIV)

The Bronze Snake

⁴ They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea,^[a] to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way;

⁵ they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

⁶ Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died.

⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸ The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live."

⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

John 3:14-21 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,^[a] ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."^[b]

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.