

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

**April 22, 2018**

**Minister** Rev. Blair Lewis      **Organist** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Isabel Clouston      **Greeters** Robert & Beth Sullivan  
**Custodian** Alan Wilcox

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Acts 4:5-12</i>	<i>Acts 8:26-40</i>
<i>Psalm 23</i>	<i>Psalm 22</i>
<i>I John 3:16-24</i>	<i>I John 4:7-21</i>
<i>John 10:11-18</i>	<i>John 15:1-8</i>

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

*We welcome Linda Knowles-MacPherson today and thank her for leading our music.*

## THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

### Musical Prelude:

### Choral Opening:

*'This is the Day That God Has Made'*      **#175 VU**  
***This is the day that God has made!***  
***Rejoice! Rejoice, and be exceeding glad!***  
***This is the day that God has made!***  
***Rejoice! Rejoice! Hallelujah!***

### Welcome:

Worship the Lord in holy splendour;  
tremble before God, all the earth.  
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exalt,  
and everything in it.

*Psalm 96:9, 11*

### Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:

### Announcements:

### Lighting the Christ Candle:

One: As we light the Christ Candle we celebrate life and offer thanks to God who has given us this beautiful earth and all that grows; all that lives upon it.

### All: Thanks be to God.

One: God has given us breath to live and spirit to sing.

### All: Thanks be to God.

One: God has gathered us into a community of care and worship.

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

### Call to Worship:

One: God of the poor and unprotected,  
whose love is fierce,  
whose righteousness burns  
brighter than the brightest fire.

**All: Fill our hearts with holy indignation when peace by way of justice is denied. Grant us the courage to follow Christ, wherever that may lead; for yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, in time and for eternity.**

### Prayer of Approach:

One: Holy Trinity, you are Sacred Three, Blessed One.

**All: Ever present God, we pray to you— Creator, that we may give forth new life; Christ, that we may be rooted deeply in this life; Spirit, that we may soar beyond possibilities. May your awesome and comforting ways be our ways. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn:** 'Are You a Shepherd?' #126 MV

Are you a shepherd, good shepherd who leads us  
Safely through danger, while calming our fears?  
Are you a father who shelters and feeds us,  
Shares in our laughter and wipes away tears?

*Refrain:*

*Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,  
But you are greater than all that we know.  
Holy and living, loving and giving,  
God, you are with us wherever we go.*

Are you a mother, good mother who bears us,  
Comforts, protects us and helps us to rest?  
Are you a teacher who daily prepares us,  
Challenging students to offer their best?

*Refrain:*

Great, gentle shepherd, forever beside us,  
Lead all your children in paths that are right.  
Great, loving parent, wise teacher, you guide us.  
We want to love you and bring you delight.

*Refrain:*

**Children of All Ages:**

**\*The Lord's Prayer:**

**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**Prayer for Understanding:**

O God as we hear the Scripture lessons this morning,  
we pray that the pure light  
of your divine knowledge will shine forth in our hearts.  
May we open our eyes to see and understand  
that we may comprehend the precepts of your gospel,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Scripture Readings:**

Catherine Eddy

**New Testament Lesson:** I John 3:16-24

**Responsive Psalm:** Psalm 23 # 747VU

**Gospel Readings:** John 10 :11-18

**\*Hymn:** 'He Leadeth Me' #657VU

**Message:** "Jesus is the Good Shepherd"

**Anthem:** 'Mansion Over the Hilltop'

**THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS**

**Presentation of Gifts and Self to God:**

**Choral Response:**

*'Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow'* #541 VU

***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.***

**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)

**Holy God,  
in your gracious presence  
we confess our sins and the sins of this world.  
Although Christ came to be with us  
to bring liberation and peace,  
we are a people divided against ourselves,  
as we cling to the values of a broken world.  
The profit and pleasures we pursue  
lay waste the land and pollute the seas.  
The fears and jealousies that we harbour  
set neighbour against neighbour,  
and nation against nation.**

**We abuse your gifts of imagination and freedom,  
of intellect and reason,  
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.  
Heal and forgive us.  
Set us free to serve you in the world  
as agents of your reconciling love.**

**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:**

Here is the good news for you:  
God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself,  
not counting our trespasses against us.  
So it is that you can be assured that your sins are forgiven.

**Silent Prayer / Reflective Music:**

**Pastoral Prayer:**

One: Almighty and merciful God,  
from whom comes all that is good,  
we praise you for all your mercies:  
for your goodness that has created us,  
your grace that has sustained us,  
your wisdom that has challenged us,  
your patience that has borne with us,  
and your love that has redeemed us.  
Help us to love you and all your children,  
and to be thankful for all your gifts,  
by serving you and delighting to do your will.  
In Jesus' name, we pray.  
This morning in our prayer we remember:  
all who are tired, having too much to do,  
all who are surrounded by the love of family and friends,  
all who are lonely.  
Thank you for hearing us in every situation of life.  
Help us to support one another always:

rejoicing with those who rejoice,  
and weeping with those who weep.  
We want to be joined together  
as members of the body of Christ,  
loving one another and serving the world.

**All: Like Jesus, we want to respond  
to each human being who crosses our path  
with sensitivity and compassion.  
This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH**

**\*Closing Hymn:**

*'Make Me A Channel of Your Peace'* #684 VU

**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.**

**Blessing:**

God the Father bless you and keep you,  
God the Son save you and direct you,  
God the Spirit teach you and guide you,  
this day and ever more.

**\*Choral Closing:**

***As we go into the future,  
As we tell of the Good News,  
We will show our love for others,  
Just as Christ has told us to.  
We will tell the wondrous story,  
Of a love that's made for you,  
And it's all because of Easter –  
Sing a joyous Hal-le-lu!***

See *Gathering* Lent 2011 pg. 81  
"Choral Sending Forth" (Tune Promise VU 703)

**Organ Postlude:**

# Church News

## This Week at First United –April 23- April 28

Monday	9-11am	Badminton
	9am	Ways & Means – Eddy Rm
	6:15	Beavers – rms 1,2,&3
	7pm	JNAC - RMR
Tuesday	2pm	Bible Study – Eddy Rm
	6:15	Scouts - DEMH GYM
Wednesday	9am	TAB – Rms 1,2 &3
	9 -11am	Badminton

The bulletin today is  
*in loving memory of*  
**Arthur Bond**  
 placed by Dot, Cora & Helen.

### **Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre**

Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**

Total to Date **228**

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.



### *Sunrise Breakfast*

(pancakes, sausages, baked beans, scrambled eggs, hash browns, toast, juice, coffee & tea)

**TODAY**

8:30 a.m. to noon  
 Donald Eddy Memorial Hall  
 \$10.00 adults - \$3.00 children

**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.

**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



**Flowers for Mother's Day.** If you would like to donate towards flowers for our sanctuary in honor or in memory of your mother or another woman who has played an important part in your life, donations can be dropped in the offering plate on Sunday or brought to the office. An insert will be included in the bulletin on Mother's Day, May 13<sup>th</sup>, with your dedications. Cut off day for dedications is Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.

*Mothers*  
*hold their children's hands for a short while,*  
*but their hearts forever.*  
 ~Author Unknown~

## Community Events

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

**RSVP Ministries** invites you to our Golden Oldies Luncheon at House of Lee – Grand Buffet, 315 Main Street, Bathurst on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 \$17.50 from 11:30am - 1:00pm, doors open at 11:00am. "Golden Oldies" Evelyn MacNeil, a gifted musician, will energize us with favourite tunes from former years, and Sandra Scott-Grebenc of Bathurst will deliver her message on "Making Life Decisions". **Reservations and cancellations are necessary before Saturday, April 21.** Please contact Joanne at 542-1118 or [ejgodin@rogers.com](mailto:ejgodin@rogers.com) or contact Connie at 546-2127. Note: for those who have dietary restrictions, please contact Joanne for the alternate meal.

### **Saint George's Guild Coffee Party and Bake Sale**

Saint George's Anglican Church Hall 432 King Avenue  
Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 10 am to 12 noon  
Tickets \$ 10.00  
Available from Church Office (546-3225)

**The Annual Ecumenical Fishermen's Service** will be held on Sunday April 22, 2018. 7PM Christ Church in Clifton  
The general public are invited and welcomed to come and join in the blessings of the fisheries for 2018.  
The offering received will be donated to the Janeville Elementary Healthy Learners program.

### **Family & Community Breakfast**

Saturday, May 12, 2018 8:00 – 10:00 am  
Saint George's Church Hall 432 King Avenue

### **1 John 3:16-24 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

<sup>17</sup> If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

<sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

<sup>19</sup> This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence:

<sup>20</sup> If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

<sup>21</sup> Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God

<sup>22</sup> and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup> And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

<sup>24</sup> The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

### **John 10:11-18 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

<sup>12</sup> The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.

<sup>13</sup> The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

<sup>14</sup> "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—

<sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

<sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

<sup>17</sup> The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again.

<sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."