

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

April 29, 2018

Minister	Rev. Blair Lewis	Organist	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Isabel Clouston	Greeters	Margaret Payne-Chénard
Custodian	Alan Wilcox		Mike Kierstead

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Acts 8:26-40</i>	<i>Acts 10:44-48</i>
<i>Psalms 22</i>	<i>Psalms 98</i>
<i>I John 4:7-21</i>	<i>I John 5:1-6</i>
<i>John 15:1-8</i>	<i>John 15:9-17</i>

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

We welcome Linda Knowles-MacPherson and the Men's Choir today and thank them 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:

O God, in whose mercy we find our peace,
in whose presence we find our place,
in whose world we find our calling:
grant us grace so to hear and accept your Word
that we may be faithful followers
of your will and your way all our days.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. *VU 911.*

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD: Announcements:

Lighting the Christ Candle:

One: In the wilderness, water brings life.

All: Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

One: When we light the Christ candle
we celebrate the fact that in the word of God,
the good news gives light.

All: Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

One: In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior,
nourish us everyone.

All: Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.

One: Here is the water of life, the word that feeds,
the food for eternity.

We come to praise and offer thanks
for the vine that gives all goodness.

Call to Worship:

Prayer of Approach:

One: God's Spirit calls to our spirits,

All: inviting us to worship.

One: God's Spirit calls to our spirits,

All: inviting us by love.

One: God's Spirit calls to our spirits,

**All: calling us by name,
calling us to grow in faith,
calling us to be made new.**

One: We come to worship in solidarity.
God brings life and light to the world
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**All: God you are our Creator, Sustainer,
and Redeemer, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Let all the world give you praise,
today and every day, for ever and ever.**

Amen.

*Opening Hymn:

'Come in, Come In and Sit Down' **#395 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.
Come, Holy Spirit, through your word may we be guided
Into the love of God for all the world. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Chesley Eddy

New Testament Lesson: I John 4:7-21

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 22 # 746VU Parts 3&4

Gospel Readings: John 15 :1-8

*Hymn:

'The Church is Wherever God's People' #579VU

Message: "Jesus is the True Vine"

Anthem: *'Will Your Anchor Hold'*

A New Creed: (in unison)

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,**

**to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

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)

**Music and laughter,
hands and minds,
curiosity and compassion:
what an abundance of gifts we have!
All these gifts are symbolized in our offering.
Let us commit ourselves in service,
as we worship God with our offering.**

Traditional Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

**O God you are most holy and merciful,
we acknowledge and confess in your presence,
our sinful nature.
We are prone to evil and slothful in good
and all our shortcomings and offenses against thee.
Thou alone knowest how often we have sinned,
in wandering from thy ways,
in wasting thy gifts, in forgetting thy love.
But thou, O Lord, have pity upon us,
who are ashamed and sorry
for all wherein we have displeased thee.**

**Teach us to hate our errors,
cleanse us from our secret faults, and forgive our sins,
for the sake of thy dear Son our Savior.
O most holy and loving Father,
send thy purifying grace into our hearts;
we beseech thee, that we may henceforth
live in thy light
and walk in thy ways,
according to the commandments
of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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:

God the Creator brings you new life,
forgives and redeems you.
Take hold of this forgiveness,
and live your life in the spirit of Jesus

Silent Prayer / Reflective Music:

Pastoral Prayer:

One: God you are our Creator,
you did not create us to live in isolation.
You have not made us all alike.

**All: We pray for our families,
with whom we live day by day.
By all that we do and say
help us to build up the faith
and confidence of those we love.
When we quarrel help us to forgive quickly.
Help us to welcome new members
into our families without reserve,
and not to neglect those who in our eyes
have become less interesting or more demanding.**

One: We pray for the places where we work,
that there we may be workers
who have no need to be ashamed.
Whether those we work with being many or few,
may we help to give them the sense
that they are personally wanted and cared for.

**All: We pray for the communities to which we belong,
that we may be good citizens.
Make us willing to accept responsibility
when we are called to it;
make us willing also to give place to others,
that they too may have their opportunity.**

One: We pray for the generation to which we belong,
those with whom we share a common fund of memory,
standards of behavior and a common attitude
toward the world.

**All: Grant that the presence of Christ
may be so real to us
that we may be able to help our generation
to see him also as our contemporary.
We pray for all who are living
with illness or injury
that they and their loved ones
may know the liberating power of your love.
This morning especially we pray for the families
of the deceased and the injured persons
from Toronto who are going through
a very difficult time in their lives.**

One: God into your world we come
and from your world finally we must go:
we thank you for all those people, great and humble,
who have maintained the fabric of the world's life
in the past and left us a great inheritance.

**All: May we take up and encourage what is good,
and hand it on to those who come after,
believing that our work in your name
will not be wasted.**

The Lord's Prayer:

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn:**

'Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love #574 VU

Commissioning: (in unison)

**May the grace of God,
deeper than our imagination;
the strength of Christ,
stronger than our need;
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
richer than our togetherness;
guide and sustain us today
and in all our tomorrows.**

Blessing:

Go into the world in peace.
Love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
with all your strength,
and love your neighbour as yourself.

Mark 12:30-31

***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 30 – May 5

Monday	9-11am	Badminton
	6:15	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
Thursday	1:30pm	Pastoral Care - RMR

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**

Total to Date **237**

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.



The Upper Room for May and June 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.

Calling all Graduates: If you are a potential graduate of the class of 2018 for either BHS or ESN please advise the church office by June 12. The First United Church service honoring our graduates will be held on June 17, 2018.

Community Events



Chicken Salad Take-Out

Friday, May 25, 2018

Sponsored by Friends of First United

Pick-up times

11:30a.m.-1 p.m. & 4-5:30 p.m.

\$12. Adults \$6. Children (under 12)

Tickets available at:

First United Church office 546-3532

Thank You to all who supported the Sunrise Breakfast held on April 22nd \$ 1300.00 was raised. Thanks to all the volunteers who make these events possible. Be sure to mark your calendar for our next Ways and Means event, the Beef BBQ, to be held on Sept. 27, 2018.

The Ways and Means Sub-Team would like to express our sincere thanks to the congregation of First United Church for your continued support for our many meals. We are inviting you to attend a FREE lunch in the DEM Hall next Sunday, May 6, following the church service. We will serve you turkey soup, tea biscuits, cupcakes, and tea or coffee.



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 13th, with your dedications. Cut off day for dedications is Monday, May 7th.

*A mother understands
what a child does not say.*

~Author Unknown~

Family & Community Breakfast

Saturday, May 12, 2018 8:00 – 10:00 am

Saint George's Church Hall 432 King Avenue

WORKSHOP May 5 (10-1)

Searching Irish Roots (esp. Co. Cork)

Bathurst Archives/Museum (across street from Sacred Heart Cath)

Free or free will offering.

Bring family info and computer if you wish

TOUR OF IRELAND Sept 30-Oct 14, 2018

Visit tourist sites AND places off the beaten track. Local bilingual

N.B. organizer. 28 passengers max.

Email 137maritimetravel.ca

Phone 1 506 622 1100

Check details at www.maritimetravel.ca

*Let us be grateful to people
who make us happy,
they are the charming gardeners
who make our souls blossom.*

~Marcel Proust~

Prayer For Fishermen

For all the fishermen on earth

I say this prayer today

Be generous to them, O Lord

And help them on their way

As once you talked to Peter and

He cast his humble net

So may their daily catch become

As great as it can get

But also in my prayer I ask

This miracle again

That they not only search the sea

But try to fish for men

To fish for souls to do Your will

And spread Your gospel true

As Your disciples on this earth

To praise and honor You

I pray that every fisherman

wherever he may be

Will turn his thoughts to You and to

The Sea of Galilee

By: James J. Metcalfe

John 4:7-21 New International Version (NIV)

God's Love and Ours

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit.

¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.

¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.

¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

John 15:1-8 New International Version (NIV)

The Vine and the Branches

¹⁵ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful.

³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.