

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

June 17, 2018
Graduation Service
Father's Day

Clergy	Rev. Blair Lewis	Organist	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Isabel Clouston	Greeters	Nora McLean
Custodian	Alan Wilcox		Gary Branch

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>I Samuel 15:30-16:13</i> <i>Psalm 92</i> <i>II Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17</i> <i>Mark 4:26-34</i>	<i>I Samuel 17: 32-49</i> <i>Psalm 107</i> <i>II Corinthians 6:1-13</i> <i>Mark 4:35-41</i>

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

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

Organ Prelude:

Procession of Graduates: `Land of Hope and Glory'

Welcoming:

One: Stir up the wills of your people, O God.
 Move us into new ways of living.

All: Stir up the minds of your people, O God.
Move us into deeper ways of thinking.

One: Stir up the hearts of your people, O God.
 Move us into fuller ways of loving.

All: Stir us thoroughly, O God.
Let us worship you afresh.

Welcoming One Another:

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:

Announcements:

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

One: As we light the Christ Candle
 we celebrate life and offer thanks to God
 who has given us the opportunity to learn
 and discover meaning in and direction for our lives.

**All: May our Graduation Service
 be a time of thanksgiving
 as we celebrate a time of new beginning.**
Thanks be to God.

One: God has given us breath to live and spirit to sing.
 May the light of the Christ Candle be our source of light.

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: Jesus said: Love one another.

**All: We come to worship God who is love,
 that we may learn to love one another.**

One: Jesus said: no longer do I call you servants;
 now I call you my friends.

**All: We come to worship God,
 whose friends we are in Christ.**

One: Let us sing praise to God,
 and live in love and friendship
 through Jesus Christ.

***Opening Hymn: `Come in, Come in and Sit Down' #395 VU**

Prayer of Approach:

One: This morning we say our prayer of thanks to you our God,
 for you have sent your Holy Spirit into our midst;
 the spirit of wisdom and might.
 You bring us into communion with you
 and with one another.
 In prayer we thank you for people of every age;
 we offer praise to you for kindling the fire
 of creativity in our graduates.

**All: With your help O God
may they work to heal the divisions
that exist in our world.
May they find career paths
that will open doors to them;
may they be enabled
to discover their way
to make a difference in our world.**

One: You sent your son Jesus into this world
with a message of love and acceptance for all people.
May that message inspire us to move forward
in a spirit of love, faith, and hope. Amen.

The presentation of the Graduates:

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding:

Loving God,
you speak to us in so many ways:
in the song of a bird,
in the babbling of a brook,
in the voices of our friends,
in the hug from Mom or Dad,
In the voice of our teachers and fellow students.
Help us to understand your loving message
of hope for the future.

Scripture Lessons:

New Testament Lesson: *Romans 12 :1-18* Madison Lee

Responsive Psalm: *Psalm #20 #742 VU* Gary Branch

Gospel Lesson: *Mark 4 :26-34* Madison Lee

***Hymn:** *'We are the Singers'* **insert**

Introduction of the Guest Speaker: Jennifer Lavigne

Message to the Graduates: Mauryah McLaughlin

Extending Appreciation: Jennifer Lavigne

A Gift of Music: BHS Choir

'How Can I Keep from Singing'
'Shout Allelu!'

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;
we thank you for the abundance of gifts we have!
All these gifts are symbolized in our offering.
We commit ourselves in service to you our God,
as we worship You with our offering.**

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

**You asked for my hands,
that you might use them for your purpose.
I gave them for a moment,
then withdrew them for the work was hard.**

**You asked for my mouth,
to speak out against injustice.
I gave you a whisper, that I might not be accused.**

**You asked for my eyes,
to see the pain of poverty.
I closed them, for I did not want to see.**

**You asked for my life,
that you might work through me.
I have a small part, that I might not get too involved.**

**O God, forgive me for my calculated efforts to serve you
only when it is convenient for me to do so,
only in those places where it is safe to do so,
and only with those who make it easy to do so.**

**O God, forgive me,
renew me,
send me out as a usable instrument,
that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross.**

Amen. South Africa

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:

Take comfort in the assurance
that even those things that are hidden from memory,
or are too deep for our words,
are not beyond God's forgiving love.
God, who knows us completely,
bestows pardon and peace.

Reflective Music:

Silent Prayer:

Pastoral Prayer:

One: In our prayers, let us give thanks for the gifts of God,
and pray for those who work in God's vineyard, saying:

All: we give you thanks, blessed Spirit.

One: For the bounty of the earth,
for the goodness within the human heart,
for power to change and the will to learn,
let us give thanks:

All: we give you thanks, blessed Spirit.

One: For all those who work for healing,
for people in the caring ministries,
for ecologists and researchers,
for pastoral care workers and friends,
for the hands of Christ in the world,
for others we may wish to name . . .
let us give thanks:

All: we give you thanks, blessed Spirit.

One: For all those who learn and teach,
for Graduates who are preparing
to enter a new chapter in their lives;
for apprentices and supervisors,
for students and resource people,
for program directors and camp leaders,
for schools and educators,
for wisdom and knowledge and guidance,
let us give thanks:

All: we give you thanks, blessed Spirit.

One: For those who struggle for liberation and justice,
for all who freely give so that others may live;
for mission and development workers,
for those who risk their lives for others,
for those who work for human rights,
for those who speak truth on behalf of the oppressed,
for all who bear witness to the way of Christ,
let us give thanks:

All: we give you thanks, blessed Spirit. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:



THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn:** *'Wherever You May Go'* #216 MV

Chorus:

Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.

Say the word and I will stay,
I will never go away,
We will travel side by side
and God's love will be our guide.

Chorus:

From beginning to the end
I will always be your friend,
When you need me, I'll be there,
you can trust my faithful care.

Chorus:

Commissioning: (in unison)

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

Gaelic

Blessing:

May the blessing of God,
the giver of every good and perfect gift;
and the Christ, who summons us to service;
and of the Holy Spirit, who inspires generosity and love,
be with us all.

Recessional: *'Land of Hope and Glory'*

Organ Postlude:

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Church News

This Week at First United –June 18 – June 23

Wednesday	3:00pm	Office Closed
Friday	Closed	Summer Hours

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2018

900

Total to Date

316

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect
20-21 jars of peanut butter per week.

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



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

Summer Hours: Starting June 1 until the end of August the church office hours will be Monday - Thursday, 8-4. Closed 12-1.

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.

*We cannot always build
the future for our youth,
but we can build our youth
for the future.
~Franklin Delano Roosevelt~*

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Community Events

NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a meeting of the congregation of First United Church **TODAY** following the regular Sunday morning Worship service.

The purpose of this meeting is two-fold:

- To present the report of the JNAC (Joint Needs Assessment Committee) and obtain the approval of the congregation to forward the report to Miramichi Presbytery for their approval.
- To choose individuals to serve on the Search Committee for our new minister. Once chosen these names will also be forwarded to Presbytery for their approval.

Interested members of our congregation are welcome to submit their names as potential members of the Search Committee. Please contact Sandra Boone by phone at 546-5453 or by email at boonies@nb.sympatico.ca if you feel you might like to be a committee member. Once the congregation has chosen the committee members and we have received Presbytery approval, the Search Committee will commence their work.

*Learn to enjoy every minute of your life.
Be happy now.
Don't wait for something outside of yourself
to make you happy in the future.
Think how really precious
is the time you have to spend,
whether it's at work or with your family.
Every minute should be enjoyed and savored.
~Earl Nightingale~*

St. Luke's Presbyterian Church A fund-raising yard sale and used book sale will be held at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, 395 Murray Avenue, Bathurst at 9:00 am on Saturday June 2 and June 30. Included with the yard sale are a large number of used books. There will be a wide range of genres available, fiction (most genres including children's) and non-fiction (self-help, cook books, hobbies, war, devotional/inspirational, biographies etc). There will also be a limited number of music related items, yard sale items and crafts. New items added weekly. Proceeds to support the mission work of the Atlantic Mission Society.

RSVP Ministries invites you to our Healthy Summer Snacks Luncheon at House of Lee – Grand Buffet, 315 Main Street, Bathurst on Wednesday, June 27, 2018 \$17.50 from 11:30am - 1:00pm, doors open at 11:00am. Kayla Daigle, dietitian with Sobey's will speak to us about healthy summer snacks, and Esther Martin, special guest speaker from Cloridorme Quebec will deliver her message on "Finishing well". **Reservations and cancellations are necessary before Saturday, June 23.**

Please contact Joanne at 542-1118 or ejgodin@rogers.com or contact Connie at 546-2127. Note: for those who have dietary restrictions, please contact Joanne for the alternate meal.

*Climb
Every Mountain
Ford
Every Stream
Follow
Every Rainbow
'Til You Find Your
Dream*

*~Mother Abbess
The Sound of Music~*



A New Beginning

*As you make a new beginning in your life, graduate,
be aware of important things
you didn't learn in school:*

*As you pursue your dreams,
remember to take time to help and serve others
even if doing so slows you down a little.*

*As you explore and develop your unique talents,
remain humble,
realizing that your special abilities
are gifts from God.*

*As life hands you challenges, welcome them
as ways to become smarter and stronger.*

*As you acquire material things,
know that your most important possessions
are honesty, integrity,
and the desire to make a difference.*

Congratulations, graduate.

*May your new path take you where you want to go
and also bring you pleasant surprises!*

By Joanna Fuchs



Graduation

2018

Andrew Arseneau

Connor Branch

Parker Lane

Annisa Lee

Madison Lee

Benjamin MacLeod

Bradley Matchett

Jonathan Ronalds

Liam Roy

Matthew Scott

Cameron Walker

Special music provided today by:

BHS Choir

Trumpeter: Jeff MacQuarrie

Romans 12:1-18 New International Version (NIV)

A Living Sacrifice

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Humble Service in the Body of Christ

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,

⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your^[a] faith;

⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;

⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,^[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Love in Action

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.^[c] Do not be conceited.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.

¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Mark 4:26-34 New International Version (NIV)

The Parable of the Growing Seed

²⁶ He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground.

²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.

²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.

²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

³⁰ Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it?

³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth.

³² Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

³³ With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand.

³⁴ He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.