

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

**July 15, 2018**

<b>Minister</b>	Rev. Blair Lewis	<b>Organist</b>	Martha Vickers
<b>Office Adm.</b>	Isabel Clouston	<b>Greeters</b>	Bev Murphy
<b>Custodian</b>	Alan Wilcox		Pat Thibideau

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<b>Lectionary for today</b>	<b>Lectionary for next Sunday</b>
<i>II Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19</i> <i>Psalm 85:8-13</i> <i>Ephesians 1:3-14</i> <i>Mark 6:14-29</i>	<i>II Samuel 7:1-14a</i> <i>Psalm 23</i> <i>Ephesians 2:11-22</i> <i>Mark 6:30-34, 53-56</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, Spirit of Gentleness'    #375 VU  
*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness  
Blow thro' the wilderness  
Calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
Stir me from placidness,  
Wind, Wind on the sea.*

### Welcoming:

The twenty-four elders worship  
the one who lives forever and ever;  
they cast their crowns before the throne, singing,  
"You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honour and power,  
for you created all things, and by your will they existed  
and were created."

*Revelation 4:10*

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### Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:

#### Announcements:

#### Lighting the Christ Candle:

- One: As we light the Christ Candle  
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)

**Loving God,**  
**you have kept me through the night that is past,**  
**and your love holds me this morning.**  
**Help me to find,**  
**in the midst of the day's**  
**responsibilities and challenges,**  
**a place within for quiet and calm.**

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**Give me eyes to see the beauty  
of the Earth in field and flower.  
Give me ears to hear the music  
of birds and other living things in nature.  
Even as I consider my needs,  
I celebrate and give thanks  
for your abundant provisions.  
In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn: 'I Danced in the Morning' # 352 VU

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

### Prayer for Understanding:

Your word, O God, is too great and marvelous for us, yet it occupies us, and in it we find hope. By the gift of your Spirit, calm and quiet our souls that we may hear your word today and be lifted up to walk with you. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

**Scripture Readings:** Anne Brooks

**New Testament Lesson:** Ephesians 1:3-14

**Responsive lesson:** Psalm 24, Page 751 VU

**Gospel Lesson:** Mark 6:14-29

\*Hymn: 'Draw the Circle Wide' 145MV

#### Refrain:

Draw the circle wide.  
Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song,  
No one stands alone,  
Standing side by side  
Draw the circle wide

God the still-point of the circle,  
'round whom all creation turns;  
nothing lost, but held forever,  
in God's gracious arms.

#### Refrain:

Let our hearts touch far horizons,  
so encompass great and small;  
let our loving know no borders,  
faithful to God's call.

#### Refrain:

Let the dreams we dream be larger,  
than we've ever dreamed before;  
let the dream of Christ be in us,  
open every door.

#### Refrain:

Draw the circle wide.  
Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song,  
No one stands alone,  
Standing side by side  
Draw the circle wide

**Message: "The Truth will Set you Free"**

### Anthem:

## 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)

**Almighty and merciful God,**  
**of whose generosity we have received**  
**all that we have and all that we are:**  
**grant that we may so use the things**  
**which you have entrusted to our care,**  
**that we ourselves may become**  
**more and more your children in spirit and in truth,**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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,  
Norfork, 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:**

According to the riches of his grace,  
Friends, the God who judges us  
has been made known in Jesus Christ,  
who died for our sake.  
The good news of the gospel is this:  
in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made new.  
We are held with love in God's hands. Thanks be to God!

**Silent Prayer /Reflective Music:**

**Pastoral Prayer:**

As you love us, so you call us to love one another.  
In love then, we pray for people in need.  
For those who are sick and carrying heavy burdens...  
For those who are bent low by anguish and grief...  
For the one who feels  
that they are a stranger in our community...  
For the one filled with worry over a job,  
a relationship, or a decision to be made...  
Meet each one in their need, we pray,  
with healing, comfort, communion and hope.

In love, we pray with those whose hearts are filled with joy.  
For those who enjoy the glad company of family and friends...  
For those celebrating an accomplishment or new beginning...  
For the one who marks a birthday or an anniversary....  
We pray for the one who has found healing and hope...  
Meet us in our happiness and hallow it by your presence.  
O Lord give us strength and wisdom  
to be faithful servants of your love.  
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ who,  
among the lilies of the field and the birds of the air,  
told us not to be anxious. Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer:**

**THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH**

**\*Closing Hymn: 'Blest Be the Tie That Binds'** #602 VU

**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.**

**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:**      '*Take Up His Song'*      #213 MV

*Take up his song of hope  
And go into the world  
Take up his song of hope  
in every moment.  
In every moment of the journey,  
We're laying down our lives;  
Lay them down in peace,  
Lay them down,  
And take up his song.*

**Organ Postlude:**

*Seek truth  
and you will find a path.  
~Frank Slaughter~*

# Church News

## This Week at First United –July 16 – July 21

Friday	Closed	Summer Hours
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### **Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre**

Commitment December 31, 2018      **900**  
 Total to Date                            **358**

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.

**Counters needed for August.** Sundays offering is usually counted on Monday mornings and takes about 45 min. Experienced or First Time counters welcome. Training provided. Call the office, 546-3532, if interested.

*Vacation:  
a period of travel and relaxation  
when you take twice the clothes  
and half the money you need.  
~Author Unknown~*

## Community Events

### **Hospitality Days Breakfast**

Saturday, July 21, 2018 8:00 – 10:30 am  
 Saint George's Church Hall 432 King Avenue  
 Tickets available in advance or at the door: \$ 7.50 for Adults, \$ 4.00 for children (12 and under) or \$ 20.00 for Family of 4  
 Contact Church Office at 546-3225

**Summer Sizzle:** Free family fun day!!! BBQ, Cotton Candy, Games, Face Painting. Presentation by Guest Team "King's Castle" July 28, 2018 2-4pm. Coronation Park, Bathurst. (in case of rain, moved to 150 Basin St.) Adults bring lawn chairs.

**Annual vacation Bible School** at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, July 16 - 20. "Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus". The fun begins at 9:am and children experience bible stories, music, games, sciencey gizmos, movies and more. Phone 506-546-4645 to register or for more information.

**Evangel Mission Team** have a fundraiser Spaghetti Supper and Concert to be held at the Knights of Columbus Building (355 Douglas Ave, Bathurst) on July 21. Every dollar we raise is going directly to Servant's Heart Ministries to our "House Project" – we plan on building a home for a deserving family in Dominican Republic when we are there in March 2019. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 before end of 2018.

Tickets are \$12/adult or \$5.00/child under 5. Supper is served from 4:00pm-6:00pm.

The concert is Smooth Jazz by Cameron Bauer  
 Tickets are available from Pauline (545-8182) or Pam (350-1483)

**Strawberry Social & Bake Sale:** Christ Church Hall 6992 Rt.11 Clifton Wednesday July 18, 2018. 6:00pm- 7:30pm \$6.00 strawberry shortcake and tea or coffee. Come enjoy a delicious dessert and wide variety of baked goods.

*The rainy days a man saves for  
usually seem to arrive during his vacation.  
~Author Unknown~*

## **Ephesians 1:3-14 New International Version (NIV)**

### **Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ**

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

<sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love

<sup>5</sup> he<sup>[a]</sup> predestined us for adoption to sonship<sup>[b]</sup> through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

<sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

<sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding,

<sup>9</sup> he<sup>[c]</sup> made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,

<sup>10</sup> to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

<sup>11</sup> In him we were also chosen,<sup>[d]</sup> having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,

<sup>12</sup> in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

<sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

<sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

## **Mark 6:14-29 New International Version (NIV)**

### **John the Baptist Beheaded**

<sup>14</sup> King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying,<sup>[a]</sup> "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

<sup>15</sup> Others said, "He is Elijah."

And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago."

<sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!"

<sup>17</sup> For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married.

<sup>18</sup> For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

<sup>19</sup> So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to,

<sup>20</sup> because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled<sup>[b]</sup>; yet he liked to listen to him.

<sup>21</sup> Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee.

<sup>22</sup> When the daughter of [c] Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you."

<sup>23</sup> And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

<sup>24</sup> She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?"

"The head of John the Baptist," she answered.

<sup>25</sup> At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

<sup>26</sup> The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her.

<sup>27</sup> So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison,

<sup>28</sup> and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother.

<sup>29</sup> On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.