

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

Aug. 5, 2018

Minister Rev. Blair Lewis **Organist** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Isabel Clouston **Greeters** Chesley Eddy
Custodian Alan Wilcox

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>II Samuel 11:26-12:13a</i> <i>Psalm 78</i> <i>Ephesians 4:1-16</i> <i>John 6:24-35</i>	<i>II Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33</i> <i>Psalm 34</i> <i>Ephesians 4:25-5:2</i> <i>John 6:35,41-51</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:

One: Behold, God is doing a new thing.

All: Here. Now.
In the midst of daily life.

One: The Holy One who created heaven and earth
forms us afresh today.

All: Let our spirits rise to greet our Maker. Amen.

Isaiah 43:19

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:

Announcements:

Lighting the Christ Candle:

One: We have been called the salt of the earth.

All: Let us remain distinctive and salty.

One: We have been called the light of the world.

All: Let us shine brightly
in the midst of pain or confusion.
As we light the Christ candle
we are reminded of the life giving power
of the Light of God's love.

One: We have been called a city set on a hill.

All: Let us, like Jerusalem,
lift our gates, lift our hearts,
lift our voices in the worship of God.

Call to Worship:

We do not live by bread alone,
but by the word who became flesh and dwelt among us.
Christ is the true bread of heaven, the manna of freedom.
Come, let us worship and give thanks.

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

O God,
where hearts are fearful and confined,
grant freedom and daring;
where anxiety is infectious and widening,
grant peace and reassurance;
where impossibilities
close every door and window,
grant imagination and resistance;
where distrust reshapes every understanding,
grant healing and transformation;
where spirits are daunted and dimmed,
grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** 'God of the Bible' #28 MV

God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,
Hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
You are our centre, daylight or darkness,
Freedom or prison, you are our home.

Refrain:

***Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, You do not change,
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.***

God in our struggles, God in our hunger,
Suffering with us, taking our part,
Still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit
Feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

Refrain:

Hope we must carry, shining and certain
Through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
Bonding us gladly one to the other,
Till our world changes facing the Cross.

Refrain:

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding:

God, the words you speak have power:
power to create, power to disturb, power to heal.
Help us to hear your Word for us today. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Wayne Lord

New Testament Lesson: Ephesians 4:1-16

Responsive lesson: Psalm 50 Page 775 VU

Gospel Lesson: John 6:24-35

***Hymn:** 'Deep in Our Hearts' #154 MV

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Message: "What sign are you going to give us?"

Anthem: 'Bring Many Names'

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)

**Through these gifts, O God,
may all heed the voice of justice,
hear the call to compassion,
embrace the way of sharing,
and know solidarity with the loving Christ. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

**Holy God,
in your gracious presence
we confess our sin
and the sin of this world.
Although Christ is among 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. 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:

No matter where we are, God is there.
No matter what we have done, God forgives.
No matter our reluctance to accept God,
God has accepted us.
With that assurance, receive forgiveness,
and live in fullness and in hope.

Silent Prayer:

Reflective Music:

Pastoral Prayer:

One: Lord of all being and source of every blessing,
we thank you for all good things:
for life and love,
for health and food,
for work and home,
for nature's beauty and comfort,
for human skills and laughter,
for memory and hope,
for everything which gives us
pleasure, nourishment, and strength.

**All: We pray for the peace of the world, O God,
and for the peace that only you can give,
not only the absence of conflict and battle,
but also the fullness of life that is prosperity for all,
goodwill among neighbours,
and welcome for every outsider.**

One: Hear us now as we name the situations and nations
for which we seek your Shalom:
our own country, Canada . . .
families buffeted by the storm of economic despair . . .
We remember in prayer all who are in hospital,
their loved ones, and all who are long-term care.
As we say our prayer we pray for peace of mind
and a peaceful spirit:
war-torn countries . . .
refugees and family members
who are facing an uncertain future.
All who are seeking a new and peace filled chapter of life:

**All: our families, our friends, ourselves
We gather these and all our prayers,
those spoken aloud and those too deep for words,
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer:

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

*Closing Hymn:

'Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah' #651 VU

Commissioning:

Be open to the Holy Spirit's leadings
and grow as a member of Christ's body.
Love with God's love, be at peace within yourself,
make peace with others,
prepare for the coming of God
worship God and God alone,
Holy Three, holy one,
forever and always.

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: *'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:

Church News

This Week at First United –Aug. 6 – Aug. 11

Monday	Closed	New Brunswick Day
Friday	Closed	Summer Hours

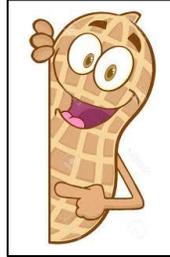
Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**

Total to Date **396**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect 23-24 jars of peanut butter per week.

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



The Upper Room for Sept. and Oct. are in the Narthex. Please 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.

Thank you to Pat Thibideau, Bev Murphy, Beth & Bob Sullivan and Debrah & Rick Watling for being our greeters and to Edie Gammon and Gary Branch for being the counters for the month of July.

*When you get to your wits' end,
you will find that God lives there.*

~Author unknown~

Community Events

St. Lukes Presbyterian Church:

Summer used book sales and yard sales.

Following our VBS, our used book sales and yard sales will resume each Saturday morning at 9:00 am - 1:00 pm at St. Lukes Presbyterian Church, 395 Murray Avenue Bathurst. New books and items arrive each week. Rain or Shine. All proceeds to support the mission work of St. Lukes

*Rest is not idleness,
and to lie sometimes on the grass
under the trees
on a summer's day,
listening to the murmur of water,
or watching the clouds
float across the blue sky,
is by no means waste of time.*

~John Lubbock~

Ephesians 4:1-16 New International Version (NIV)

Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ

4 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called;

⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

⁸ This is why it^[a] says:

“When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people.”^[b]

⁹ (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions^[c]?)

¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,

¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

John 6:24-35 New International Version (NIV)

²⁴ Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.

Jesus the Bread of Life

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

²⁶ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.

²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

²⁸ Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

²⁹ Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

³⁰ So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?"

³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'^[a]"

³² Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

³⁴ "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread."

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.