

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

August 19, 2018
Communion

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

All musical selections reprinted under licence #A-606499, One License for Churches

<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>I Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14</i> <i>Psalm 34</i> <i>Ephesians 5:15-20</i> <i>John 6:51-58</i>	<i>I Kings 8:22-30, 41-43</i> <i>Psalm 34</i> <i>Ephesians 6:10-20</i> <i>John 6:56-69</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:

Sing a new song,
rejoice in our days,
and in dancing we praise.
For the timeless is present in every moment,
and takes pleasure in our joy. *Psalm 149*

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 look back over the past years
and plan for tomorrow.

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 you for friends and neighbours.

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

Call to Worship:

One: We have gathered to worship God.

**All: We have come seeking comfort,
inspiration, community, and insight.**

One: We have come to open ourselves
to the power of God's presence in our midst.

**All: We have come to offer up the seasons
and the turnings in our lives,
and to ask God's help
in our learning and in our growing.**

Prayer of Approach:

One: Our God, how great you are!

**All: On the first day of the week
we commemorate your creation of the world
and all that is in it.**

**Thank you for the light
which wakes us morning by morning,
and for the greater light
which shines in Jesus Christ.**

One: Our God, how great you are!

**All: On the first day of the week
you raised Jesus from the dead.
Raise us with him to a new quality of faith and life.**

One: Our God how great you are!

**All: Again on the first day of the week
you sent your spirit on your disciples.
We pray that we will live in unity with your spirit;
through the power of your Holy Spirit
may we be renewed in life day by day. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn: 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' #291 VU**

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding:

O God we pray that the gospel of your Son will come to us,
not in words alone, but in power.
Let your Holy Spirit teach us,
so that we may receive with understanding
what you have revealed to us.
May we eagerly follow your direction
as we live our lives through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Sherry Mitton

New Testament Lesson:

Ephesians 5:15-20

Responsive lesson:

Psalm 111 Page 833 VU

Gospel Lesson:

John 6:51-58

***Hymn: 'We Are One' #402 VU vs 1&2**

Message: "The Bread of Life, Food that Lasts"

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)

**God of all peoples and God of all places,
we present these offerings,
that they may be used to extend your liberating reign.
With them, we offer our varied ministries,
that each of us may be part of your answer
to the cries of the world. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession:

One: O God of mystery,
we confess that, more than deep questions,
we love easy answers;
explaining away miracles, disarming the Good News,
we domesticate your mysterious ways.

**All: Teach us to love our questions, O God.
Teach us to struggle with faith.
Teach us to live with your holy mysteries.
God of all creation
you love us into being,
yet we often flee our rightful place in your creation.
We confess that we exploit the gifts
you place around us,
and dominate the richness of the natural order.
Forgive our greedy grasping.
We confess our part
in the devastation of our planet home,
mirrored in the violence of cities,
and the brokenness of hearts.
Forgive and restore us, O God.
Nurturing God, remind us of other ways to live
and of a place called home,
where creation reflects your goodness
and each thing lives in balance with all others.
Come and find us, set us right again,
and take us home.**

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:

Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether;
 the past is finished and gone;
 everything has become fresh and new.
 Friends, believe the Good News of the gospel:
 in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Silent Prayer / Reflective Music:**Prayer Before Communion:**

One: The Spirit helps us in our weakness;
 for we do not know how to pray as we ought,
 but that very Spirit intercedes
 with sighs too deep for words.

Romans 8:26

One: Let us pray:

O God, we thank you for all great and simple joys:
 for the gift of wonder, the joy of discovery
 and the everlasting freshness of experience.

All: We thank you, God.

One: For all that comes to us through sorrow and sympathy,
 through joy and achievement.

All: We thank you, God.

One: For musicians, poets and craftsman;
 for all who work in form and colour
 to increase the beauty of life.

All: We thank you, God.

One: For the likeness of Christ in men and women,
 their forbearance, courage and kindness.

All: We thank you, God.

One: For faithful leaders and for all obscure
 and humble lives of service.

All: We thank you, God.

One: As we pray this morning
 we remember all who bear the cross of suffering,
 the sick in body or in mind.

All: We pray that you will hear us, O God.

One: For all those who are troubled
 by the sin or suffering of those they love.

All: We pray that you will hear us, O God.

One: For all who were absorbed in their own grief,
 that they may be raised to share sorrows
 of their brothers and sisters,
 and know the secret and blessed fellowship of the cross.

All: We pray that you will hear us, O God.

One: For all perplexed by the deeper questions of life,
 and overshadowed with doubt,
 that light may arise in their darkness.

All: We pray that you will hear us, O God.

One: For all who are lonely and sad
 in the midst of others joy's,
 that they may come to know you
 as their friend and comforter.

All: We pray that you will hear us, O God.

One: For those who were approaching the end of life
 and for all who are passing
 through the valley of the shadow of death,
 that they may find their strength in you,
 and light at evening time.

All: We pray that you will hear us, O God.

One: For all forgotten by us but dear to you.

All: We pray that you will hear us, O God.

**O God our Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer,
 have regard for our intercessions,
 answer them according to your will,
 and make us channels
 for your justice and helpfulness,
 we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE SERVICE OF THE TABLE:**An Invitation to the Table:**

***Our Communion Hymn:** 'We Are One' #402 VU vs 3&4

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer:

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Blessed are you, gracious God, Creator of light,
Giver of all life, source of love.

We bless you for all your gifts.

We praise you for this holy day of hope
and for the wonder of this time of joy.

All: We praise you, O God.

We thank you, O God.

One: For Jesus Christ,

in whom you gather the hopes and fears of all the years,
we bless your Holy Name.

Joining now with all your people of every time and place
we share our thoughts and prayers
with God our source of hope.

On this August summer day,
we celebrate our Easter faith;

your presence is alive

through the power of the resurrection.

Choral Response: (Sanctus and Benedictus # 942VU)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;

holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heav'n and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

One: On the night before Jesus died,
he had supper with his disciples;

he took bread; thanked you,

as we have thanked you; broke the bread;

and gave the bread to his friends, saying:

take this, all of you, and eat it.

This is my body, given for you.

Each time you do this, remember me.

After supper he took the wine; thanked you for it, and

passed a cup of wine to his friends saying:

this cup is the new promise

God has made with you in my blood.

Each time you do this and drink from this cup,
remember me.

Remembering his death and celebrating his resurrection,
we await with hope his coming again
to bring peace and justice to the earth.

And so, we affirm the mystery of our faith.

All: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

One: Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us

and what we do here, that we, and these gifts,
touched by your Spirit,

may be signs of life and love to each other,
and to all the world.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours,
God most holy, now and forever.

We gather these and all our prayers,

thankful that we may now turn to you in one voice.

All: Our Father, Who art in heaven..... Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and the presentation of the Cup:

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn:** *'Sent Forth by God's Blessing'* **#481VU**

Commissioning: (in unison)

**Living God, we put our trust in you:
risking disappointment, risking failure,
working and waiting expectantly.**

**Grant us the grace to be part
of your answer in the world.**

Church News

This Week at First United –Aug. 20 – Aug. 26

Tuesday	3pm	Closed
Wednesday	7pm	Property Management - RMR
	7pm	Ministry & Personnel - RMR
Friday	Closed	Summer Hours

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:

*Jesus Said:
'I am the Bread of Life'
John 6, 35*

*Back of the loaf is the snowy flour,
And back of the flour - the Mill.
Back of the Mill are the wheat and shower;
The Sun and the Father's will.*

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**
Total to Date **427**
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.

Anniversary service: On Sunday, September 9, 2018 we will be
celebrating the 20th anniversary of the opening of our sanctuary.
The guest speaker for our anniversary service will be Rev. Faith
March-MacCuish, the Executive Secretary, who is the chief
executive officer of the United Church of Canada for:
Gaspé Québec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia,
Bermuda, Newfoundland and Labrador. She will be speaking about
the evolving changes in the church across Canada.
Please spread the word to your friends and family about this
upcoming service of celebration.
Lunch to follow service.

Community Events

RSVP Ministries invites you to our "Heart Lifting Tunes" Luncheon at House of Lee – Grand Buffet, 315 Main Street, Bathurst on Wednesday, August 29, 2018 \$17.50 from 11:30am - 1:00pm, doors open at 11:00am. Catherine Doucet will bring us heart lifting tunes, and Ruth Allison, Retired Federal employee and certified fitness instructor from Moncton, NB will tell how she moved from duty to delight. **Reservations and cancellations are necessary before Saturday, Aug. 25.** 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.

Family & Community Breakfast Saturday, September 8, 2018
8:00 – 10:00 am Saint George's Church Hall, 432 King Avenue

Meal of the Month – Roast Beef Supper
Royal Canadian Legion Sunday, September 9, 2018, 5 p.m.
Tickets - \$15.00 Take-Outs Available. Tickets can be purchased at the Legion office.

Summer used book sales and yard sales.

There will be a used book sale on Saturday morning, August 18 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.

Ephesians 5:15-20 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,

¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,

¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,

²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 6:51-58 New International Version (NIV)

⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

⁵² Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

⁵³ Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.

⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them.

⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.

⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever."