

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

September 16, 2018

Minister Rev. Blair Lewis **Organist** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Isabel Clouston **Greeters** Cheryl & Gordon Murphy
Custodian Alan Wilcox

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Proverbs 1:20-33</i> <i>Psalm 116:1-9</i> <i>James 3:1-12</i> <i>Mark 8:27-38</i>	<i>Proverbs 31:10-31</i> <i>Psalm 54</i> <i>James 3:13-43, 7-8</i> <i>Mark 9:30-37</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: 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.

Scripture Sentences:

One: O come let us sing to God;

All: let us shout with joy to the rock of our salvation.

One: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

All: let us joyously shout to God with songs of praise.

Psalm 95:1, 2

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:

Announcements:

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

One: God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit You are with us.

**All: Like light spilling through colour filled fall trees,
you are with us.**

One: Like wind rippling through curtained windows,
You are with us.

**All: Like water ever smoothing the sandy beach,
You are with us.**

One: We are embraced by your presence.

All: We open our hearts to you.

One: As we light the Christ Candle
we are encouraged by your love.

**All: We release our thoughts to you,
and we are intrigued by your mysteries,
as we search for your way for our lives.**

Call to Worship:

One: Look at the heavens!

All: They are shouting the glory of God.

One: The days and the nights declare
the magnificence of God's creative works.

**All: The marvel of God's creation
is found throughout all the earth,
and the essence of God's love
reaches the ends of the world.
Our Lord, our rock, our Redeemer!**

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

**As on a first day
you began the work of creating us;
as on a first day
you raised your Son from the dead;
so on this first day, good Lord,
freshen and remake us.
As the week is new,
let our lives begin again
because of Jesus who shows us your loving power.
Amen.**

***Opening Hymn:** *'For Beauty of Prairies'* #303 VU
(tune St. Denio VU 223)

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. Amen.

Scripture Readings: Anne Brooks

Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 31:30, 32:1-4

Responsive lesson: Psalm 19 pgs 740-741 VU

Gospel Lesson: Mark 8:27-38

***Hymn:** *'Jesus, Friend of Little Children'* #340 VU

Message: "God is the Rock"

Anthem: *'As the Wind Song Through the Trees'*

Invitation to the offering:

in the face of adversity
the prophet Isaiah calls to the people:
let us stand up together.
This is a call to us, as well,
to stand together with our offerings,
given for the well-being of the church
and of those in need.
We present our talents,
the gifts of our hands and the products of our labors.

Presentation of Gifts and Self to God:

Choral Response:

*Praise God whose joy within us flows.
Praise to the One whose blessings flow.
Lift up your voice in songs of praise.
Let grateful thanks shape all your days.*

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:

One: O God, forgive us, renew us,
send us out as useable instruments
that we might take seriously the meaning of your cross.

**All: Holy God, in the face of sin, our greatest enemy,
we called you for help.
You know our faults before we speak.
Forgive us for what we have done
in opposition to your will.
Forgive us for those things
we have not undertaken
and for our inability to trust.**

**We have not loved you
and our neighbors as we ought.
We have denied our dependence on you.
Lead us away from this grief and sorrow.
Save us so that we may fulfill
our vows to you and attend to the needs
of your people. 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 has exalted Jesus Christ with his own right hand,
as leader and Savior,
to grant repentance and forgiveness of sins.
Therefore all those,
who as servants of Jesus Christ
believe and repent,
are assured of God's pardon and forgiveness.

Silent Prayer and Reflection:

Reflective Music:

Pastoral Prayer:

In the silence following each petition,
let us offer our prayers of intercession and concern
for all those in need:

Let us remember those who suffer from illness,
from the pain of memory,
from torture, from victimization,
especially those hurt by the church or its members

Let us pray for those who are outcast,
or in prison, or oppressed
Let us pray for those who are hungry,
or homeless, or poor,
and those who are unemployed, or exploited

Let us pray for the coming of justice in the world,
offering what we have and receiving what we need
of the earth's beauty

Let us pray for peace that is a just reconciliation
Let us pray for the earth on which we walk
and on which we depend

And let us offer our own petitions,
trusting in God's wisdom and compassion

God hears the prayers of the faithful,
and in God's arms we find safe harbour and
understanding.
Amen.

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn:**

'Would You Bless Our Homes and Families' #556 VU

Commissioning:

(in unison)

**Hear our prayers, God of grace.
Help us to fulfill them
working according to your purpose,
in peace, justice and mercy in all we do;
through Jesus Christ to whom,
with you and the Holy Spirit be all power and glory
now and forever.**

Blessing:

May the teachings of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer
enable us to move forward with purpose in life.
We are in the presence of God, three in one,
our God abides with us always.
May the love of God keep us strong and gentle,
for the sake of the goodness that is God's gift to us
in Jesus name.

***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:



Beef BBQ

Sponsored by "The Hatheway Group"

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Donald Eddy Memorial Hall

309 St. Patrick Street

5:00 - 6:30 pm

Takeouts available 4:00 – 5:30 pm

\$15. Adults \$6. Children (under 12)

All tickets sold in advance.

*Tickets available at the office 546-3532
or from Ways and Means team members.*

Church News

This Week at First United –Sept. 17- – Sept. 22

Monday	6:15 pm	Beavers - Rooms 1,2,& 3
Wednesday	900 – 1200	TAB - Rooms 1,2 & 3
	3:00	Office Closed
Thursday	7 pm	Christian Development

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**

Total to Date **465**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect 29-30 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.

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.

Employment opportunity Due to the upcoming retirement of Alan Wilcox, the Property Management Committee is seeking an individual for the position of Custodian starting October 1, 2018. Your resume may be dropped off at the church office addressed to the Ministry and Personnel.

Observer

Would you like to receive the Observer, a United Church of Canada publication? For a new subscription, please contact the church office at 546-3532 before Monday, Oct 1, 2018. The annual subscription rate is \$25 (Tax included) Renewals are also payable at the office.

Community Events

“Help Lesotho” Calendars

The Anglophone School District – North has been sponsoring “Help Lesotho” since 2006 as part of its global awareness initiative. As a fund raiser where all of the money raised goes to help finance its work with orphans, vulnerable children, and grandmothers in Lesotho, Africa; “Help Lesotho” has 2019 calendars for sale at a cost of fifteen dollars. You are invited to support this initiative with your donation. Gary Branch (546-9208) (egbranch@rogers.com) will be taking orders for these calendars until October 9, 2018. Payment can be made in advance by cash or cheque or when the calendars are delivered. Cheques are to be made payable to “Help Lesotho”.

Anglican Parish of New Bandon Salmon Supper:

Christ Church Hall, Clifton Saturday, September 22, 2018
Sittings 4pm; 5pm; 6pm Adults \$20.00 Children (under 12) \$10.00
All tickets sold in advance. Kay Addison 350-0960, Elaine Good 546-2970, Mitzi Whelton 546-4969, Lorna Veneau 546-2948.

RSVP Ministries invites you to our “Life Adventures” Luncheon at House of Lee – Grand Buffet, 315 Main Street, Bathurst on Wednesday, September 26, 2018 \$17.50 from 11:15am - 1:00pm, doors open at 11:00am. Dianna Roy and Marion Kerr of “Dusty Sneakers” will bring us an adventure in Physical Fitness, Claudette & Eddie Edwards will bring us a musical adventure, and Tandy Balson, an award winning author with several published books, will speak on “Saying Goodbye to Fears”. Reservations and cancellations are necessary before Saturday, September 22.

Please contact Joanne at 542-1118 or ejgodin@rogers.com or contact Connie at 546-2127. Note: for those who have dietary restriction

“Let It Be Love” tour by the Canadian Christian band “The Color” will be hosted by The Point Church, 789 O’Neil Ave., Bathurst on September 23 at 7:00 pm. The group have won 12 GMA Covenant Awards and received a 2018 JUNO award. It will be a night of worship, fun and entertainment for all ages and we would like to invite you to join us. Tickets – Advance: \$7 groups of 5+/\$10 single/\$25 family pass/door \$15 Further info available at info@thepointchurch.ca/506-622-4540

Deuteronomy 31:30, 33:1-4 New International Version (NIV)

The Song of Moses

³⁰ And Moses recited the words of this song from beginning to end in the hearing of the whole assembly of Israel:

Moses Blesses the Tribes

33 This is the blessing that Moses the man of God pronounced on the Israelites before his death. ² He said:

"The LORD came from Sinai
and dawned over them from Seir;
he shone forth from Mount Paran.
He came with^[a] myriads of holy ones
from the south, from his mountain slopes.^[b]
³ Surely it is you who love the people;
all the holy ones are in your hand.
At your feet they all bow down,
and from you receive instruction,
⁴ the law that Moses gave us,
the possession of the assembly of Jacob.

Mark 8:27-38 New International Version (NIV)

Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

²⁸ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

²⁹ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus Predicts His Death

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

The Way of the Cross

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."