

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

March 17, 2019

Minister	Rev. Neal Palmer	Organist	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Isabel Clouston	Greeters	Gayle Ferron
Custodian	Steve White		Adrienne Hazen

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Genesis 15:1-12,17-18</i>	<i>Isaiah 55:1-9</i>
<i>Psalm 27</i>	<i>Psalm 63: 1-8</i>
<i>Philippians 3:17 -4:1</i>	<i>I Corinthians 10:1-13</i>
<i>Luke 13:31-35</i>	<i>Luke 13:1-9</i>

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

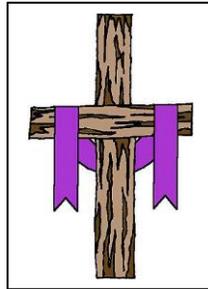
THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

MUSICAL PRELUDE

***CHORAL OPENING:**

“Spirit, Open My Heart” – MV #79

***Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.***



WELCOME (including our friends worshipping by CD)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: My Friends in Christ, listen! We are being called together.

**All: As we continue on our Lenten Journey,
a voice in the wilderness
seems to be drawing us in –
inviting us into unity and communion as one.**

One: My friends, listen.
There is a whispering presence urging us to draw near.

**All: Our loving God reaches
into our lives in this season
and seems to be spreading wings of protection
and nurturance over us.**

One: Friends, come, let us be gathered.
Let us find safety.
Let us remember the love and redeeming grace of God.

**All: Come, let us be a people gathered together
in God’s protective love.**

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN:**

“God, We Praise You for the Morning” – VU #415 vs1-5

PRAYER OF HUMILITY (responsively)

One: Holy One, we’ve been called together to worship,
just as we are.

**All: We can’t pretend to be what we are not,
for you know us through and through.**

One: In our weakness,
we’ve come with prayers for strength;

**All: in our strength,
we’ve come with prayers of humility.**

One: Open our hearts, Holy One,
that we might pray with honesty
and await answers with renewed faith.

**All: Open our hearts
that we might feel the breath of your Spirit.**

One: Unclench our hands
that we might reach out to one another and be healed.

All: All this, we ask, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE: "And When You Call for Me" – MV #96

*And when you call for me,
I have already answered.
And when you call for me,
I am already there.*

A LENTEN SPIRITUAL PRACTICE (Lent Challenge 2)
Carter Lavigne

CHORAL RESPONSE:

"Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary" – MV #18

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy tried and true;
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you.*

SHARING A STORY (with children of all ages)

***SINGING A SONG –**

"Jesus, Friend of Little Children" – VU #340

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Anne Brooks

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

***Responsive Psalm:** Psalm 27 (VU #754-755)

Gospel Lesson: Luke 13:31-35

REFLECTION: "Journey toward Trust"

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

ANTHEM: "As the Deer Pants for the Water"

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING IS GATHERED

(in support of the ministry and mission of the church)

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

*Give what you can,
Take what you need.
For the body of Christ, is enough to feed.
The hungry for Spirit and the thirsty for love.
Give thanks when you can to our God up above.*

***OFFERING PRAYER** (in unison)

**Holy One,
Abram brought animals to sacrifice on the altar.
Today, we offer something else.
Please accept these gifts of our finances,
these gifts of our time,
and these gifts of our talent,
and then, show us how to love,
purely and without bias.
Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** (responsively)

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

INSTRUCTIONS

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (responsively)

The Holy One is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give thanks and praise.

...Holy One,

thanks be to you, for you create life out of dust,
and sustain us even in the desert.

**We thank you that in the face
of every temptation and trial,
every principality and power,
you are present to direct and to guide,
to renew and to revive.
We thank you for sending Jesus
to walk before us:
to turn us to you and to one another.
We join your long procession of pilgrims, therefore,
praising you along the way:**

"Holy, Holy, Holy" – MV #203 (sung in unison)
*O holy, holy, holy God,
O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above
bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heaven,
creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One whom comes
and bears your name always!*

...Holy One, by this bread and cup, we remember Christ, and
share in the mystery of your being, your bliss, and your purpose...

"Great Amen" – MV #205 (sung in unison)
*Amen, amen,
O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen,
O Holy One, Hosanna and Amen!*

Friends, we remember Jesus:

**On Good Friday he died. On Easter he rose again.
Today—he lives forever.**

...Holy One, we pray, send your Spirit upon us and upon this
offering of the church,

**that we who eat and drink at Christ's table
may share in his life.**

Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth,

and make it your new creation.

Gather your church together from the ends of the earth
into your realm where peace and justice are revealed—

**that we, with all your people,
of every language, race, and nation,
may share the banquet you have promised.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER – VU #921 (in unison)

Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.

Jesus Christ, the True Vine.

Congregational Response – "Amen" or "Thanks be to God"

Musical Offering – "You Are My Body"

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (in unison)

**For the bread we have eaten,
for the juice we have tasted,
for the life we have received,
we thank you God.**

**Grant that what we've done and been given here,
may so put its mark on us,
that it will always remain in our hearts.**

**And grant that we may grow
in Christian love and understanding,
and that ours will be lives of faithful action.
All this, we pray, in Jesus' name.
Amen.**

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***CLOSING HYMN – "Sacred Stories"**

Sacred stories, shared with others,
Form a faith that's strong and true.
Sacred places, etched with meaning,
Bringing hope and joy anew.
Sacred memories, sacred future,
Sacred present, here and now.
Sacred knowing, sacred being,
Sacred living be our vow.

Church News

This Week at First United – March 18 – March 23

Monday	9-11am	Badminton
	6:15	Beavers – Rms. 1,2 &3
Tuesday	6:15	Cubs & Scouts – DEMH Gym
Wednesday	9-11am	Badminton
	9-12am	TAB
	3pm	Office Closed
	6:30	Choir Practice
Thursday	1:30-3:30	St. Patrick's Gathering
	7pm	Christian Dev. Team - RMR

Sacred stories, shared with strangers.
 Sacred stories, shared with friends.
 Sacred stories, bind us closely,
 Shaped by ties that will not end.
 Sacred waters of baptism.
 Sacred bread and sacred wine.
 Sacred humans, sacred living,
 With God's purpose we still shine.

*Written by Catherine MacDonald
 The Gathering, L/E 2019, page 57
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***BLESSING**

***CHORAL CLOSING:** 'An Old Irish Blessing'

***May the road rise to meet you,
 May the wind be ever at your back,
 May sun shine warm upon your face
 and the rains fall soft upon your fields.
 And until we meet again, and until we meet again,
 may you be held in the hollow of God's hand.***

ORGAN POSTLUDE

*May the strength of God pilot us,
 May the wisdom of God instruct us,
 May the hand of God protect us,
 May the word of God direct us.
 ~St. Patrick~*

The bulletin today has been placed
 in memory of
Hugh and Laura (Ronalds) Parrott
 from Brenda and Dave.

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2019 **900**

Total Collected **178**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect
 17-18 jars of peanut butter per week.
 The Volunteer Center supplies, on average,
 500 households monthly.



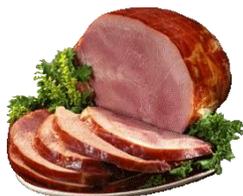
The Upper Room for March and April are in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one. A container for donations is located with the publication.

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.

Notice of 2019 Congregational Annual Meeting

Please note: The 2019 Congregational Annual Meeting will be held on today, following the church service. Annual reports are available in the Narthex.

A St Patrick's Gathering sponsored by the Pastoral Care Team of First United Church will be held on Thursday, March 21th, from 1:30-3:30pm. Music will be provided by Linda Knowles-MacPherson and "The Treble Makers". A light lunch will be provided. Donations of non-perishable goods for the Volunteer Center will be collected. Everyone welcome.



Ham & Scallop Supper

Thursday, March 28, 2019

Adults \$ 15 - Children (12 & under) \$ 6

5:00-6:30pm

Take outs available 4:00 -5:30pm

Advance Tickets Sales only

Tickets available from Ways and Means Team members
and at the church office 546-3532

Sponsored by



R.G. McGROUP LTD.

*May your day be filled with blessings
Like the sun that lights the sky,
And may you always have the courage
To spread your wings and fly!
~Irish Blessing~*

Community Events

St Patrick's Supper: Tickets for the Irish Canadian Cultural Associations St. Patrick's day supper at the Gowan Brea on Sunday, March 17th will be on sale to the general public March 4 to March 11th. The door opens at 5pm and supper is at 6pm. The supper is ham and scallop potatoes to be followed with entertainment by the "Friends of Erin". Tickets are \$30.00 each and can be obtained by calling or emailing Pat Murphy at 547-5525, email murpaw@gmail.com.

Evangel Bathurst: Presents Leland Klessan's 'More True Comedy Tour' Friday April 12, 2019 – 7pm. Tickets \$15 each . 40\$ Family rate. Available at the church office (506) 546-2172 or online at www.lelandklassen.com.

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace
Holy Family Church, St Peter Ave.
Soup Lunch. Sunday , March 24 12:00 Noon
Homemade Soups, Rolls, Desserts, Tea & Coffee
Cost: \$10 Children \$5 Family \$20 All Welcome

Celebrate St. Patrick! Get your Irish on with a fabulous trip to Ireland in the company of friends and neighbours from Miramichi region! **Explore the Best of Ireland ~ September 20 – October 5th Let this be your Year of Discovery!**
For more info: kjmcintosh28@yahoo.com or Kathryn at 622-6500

The Louisbourg Choir, under the direction of Monique Richard, accompanied by a baroque orchestra, will give a concert dedicated to Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1634-1704) at First United Church, Saturday, March 23, at 7:30 pm. Tickets on sale at the door: \$30. Free for students.

*May the holes in your net
be no larger than the fish in it.
~Irish Blessing~*

*May you always have work
for your hands to do.*

*May your pockets
hold always a coin or two.*

*May the sun shine bright
on your windowpane.
May the rainbow be certain
to follow each rain.*

*May the hand of a friend
always be near you.
And may God fill your heart
with gladness to cheer you.*

~Irish Blessing

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

God's Covenant with Abram

15 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."

² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"^[a]

³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir."

⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir."

⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD^[b] reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess."

⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?"

⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.

¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.

18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

Luke 13:31-35 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The Lament over Jerusalem

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."

³² He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me,^[a] 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.

³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'

³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when^[b] you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"